

## Mary: The Ark of a NEW Covenant!

- **God lays out His plans to Moses for the Ark and the tabernacle in Exodus 25...**
  - Made of Acacia wood - incorruptible
  - Overlaid in PURE gold inside and out
  - A golden crown or rim ran around it
  - Angels adorn the top
  - Carried only by the Priests
- **It is the “Mercy Seat” of God...**
  - **Exodus 25:22** (RSVCE) 22 *There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you of all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.*
    - Unlike the Pagans surrounding them... carrying their idols in such fashion...
      - The Ark of the Covenant was a visible sign of his invisible presence in the midst of his beloved nation
  - **Numbers 7:89** (RSVCE) 89 *And when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the mercy seat that was upon the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim; and it spoke to him.*
- **What was inside tho...?**
  - **Hebrews 9:1–5** (RSVCE) 1 *Now even the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. 2 For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. 3 Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, 4 having the golden altar of incense and the **ark of the covenant** covered on all sides with gold, which **contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;** 5 above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these*

*things we cannot now speak in detail.*

- Golden Urn holding the miracle bread come down from heaven... daily!
- The rod of authority from the High Priest Arron
- The Law of God written on stone...
- **The Holy Spirit of God overshadowed it...**
  - The Shekina Glory Cloud (the Holy Spirit) overshadows the ark...
    - In the Tabernacle in the wilderness... Exodus 40:34
    - In the Temple Solomon Built... 2 Chronicles 7:1
- **The Ark of the Covenant leads the people...**
  - Into the Promised land... Joshua 3
  - Into Battle ... Joshua 6
    - It is the Lord who fights for them!
- David Brings the Ark into Jerusalem after 400 years in the land...
  - **2 Samuel 6:1–15 (RSVCE) 2 And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale-judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD of hosts who sits enthroned on the cherubim. 3 And they carried the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, were driving the new cart 4 with the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark. 5 And David and all the house of Israel were making merry before the LORD with all their might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals. 6 And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. 7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there because he put forth his hand to the ark; and he died there beside the ark of God. 8 And David was angry because the LORD had broken forth upon Uzzah; and that place is called Perez-uzzah, to this day. 9 And David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, “How can the ark of the LORD come to me?” 10 So David was not willing to take the**

ark of the LORD into the city of David; but David took it aside to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 11 **And the ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months**; and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and all his household. 12 And it was told King David, “The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God.” So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing; 13 and when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. 14 **And David danced before the LORD with all his might**; and David was girded with a linen ephod. 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the horn.

- **The Lost Ark...**

- Before the Babylonian King could sack Jerusalem, the Prophet Jeremiah was sent to take the ark and hid it in a mountain...
  - **2 Maccabees 2:1–8** (RSVCE) 1 One finds in the records that Jeremiah the prophet ordered ... 4... having received an oracle, ordered that the tent and the ark should follow with him, and that he went out to the mountain where Moses had gone up and had seen the inheritance of God. 5 And Jeremiah came and found a cave, and he brought there the tent and the ark and the altar of incense, and he sealed up the entrance. 6 Some of those who followed him came up to mark the way, but could not find it. 7 When Jeremiah learned of it, he rebuked them and declared: **“The place shall be unknown until God gathers his people together again and shows his mercy. 8 And then the Lord will disclose these things, and the glory of the Lord and the cloud will appear, as they were shown in the case of Moses, and as Solomon asked that the place should be specially consecrated.”**

- **Mary the NEW Ark?**

- How can this be? I know not a man...

- **Luke 1:35** (RSVCE) 35 *And the angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High **will overshadow you**; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.*
  - She is overshadowed by the Holy Spirit...
- **In haste she went to Elizabeth...**
  - **Luke 1:39–46** (RSVCE) 39 *In those days **Mary arose** and went **with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah,** 40 and **she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.** 41 *And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, **the babe leaped in her womb;** and **Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit** 42 and she **exclaimed with a loud cry,** “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 **And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?** 44 *For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, **the babe in my womb leaped for joy.** 45 *And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” 46 *And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ...* **56 And Mary remained with her about three months,** and returned to her home.****
    - Like 2 Sam. 6
      - Mary AROSE with haste to a city of Judah in the Hill Country
      - She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth - BLESSING them... just like the Ark of God did for Obed-edom
      - The Babe in the womb of Elizabeth LEAPT for joy....
        - Like David dancing before the Ark... acting like a Priest, offering sacrifice
        - So does John the Baptist, a Levite, leap for Joy before the NEW Ark of the Lord!
      - Elizabeth exclaims

- And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
  - Like David's... "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?"
    - Mary remained in the house for 3 months... just at the Ark of God remained for 3 months in the house of Obed-edom
- **Vs. 42 - Exclaimed...**
  - This Greek verb Ana-pho-nea-oo is used just this once in the New Testament...
  - BUT... its used 5 times in the OT... all of which refer to Exclamations before the Ark of the Covenant...
    - 1 Chronicles 15:28
    - 1 Chronicles 16:4
    - 1 Chronicles 16:5
    - 1 Chronicles 16:42
    - 2 Chronicles 5:13
- **The Lost Ark Found...**
  - **Revelation 11:19–12:1 (RSVCE)** *19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and **the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple**; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail. **Chapter 12***  
*1 And a great portent appeared in heaven, a **woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars**;*
    - **Mary carried within her...**
      - Not the Word of God in stone... rather in flesh
      - The TRUE bread come down from heaven... the bread that gives LIFE to the world!
      - The TRUE High Priest, whose authority far surpasses that of Aaron...
  - **Mary is the NEW Eve**
    - Saving the world through HER yes... bearing the Christ to the world

- **Mary is the Handmaid of the Lord**
  - Standing in the gap of the son's at war with one another...
    - Interceding for the lost and working towards the unity of all believers through reconciliation with God.
- **Mary is the Ark of the New Covenant**
  - Conceived immaculate like the incorruptible wood
  - Living a pure life... free of the stain of all sin... like the box overlaid in PURE gold inside and out...
  - Adorned by the trinity with a crown of 12 stars like the golden crown or rim ran around the Ark...
  - Wrapped in the Glory of God's radiance, surrounded by the Angels and Saints like the Seraphim atop the "Mercy Seat"
  - Carried by the Bishop's, Priest's, Deacon's, to the faithful of Her son the King of Kings....
    - Leading us into the Promised Land...
    - Fighting our battles
    - Mary Truly is the Army of God!
  - **Lavishly giving to us her precious cargo...**
    - The Word of God written on our hearts!
    - The High Priest who offers HIMSELF as a sacrifice for our sins
    - The Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Eucharist!
- **Let us pray...**
  - Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.
  - Amen.