

## The Ark of the Covenant

Approximately one year after the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, the Ark was created according to the pattern given to Moses by God when the Israelites were encamped at the foot of Mount Sinai. Thereafter, the gold-plated acacia wood chest was carried by its staves (poles) while en route by the Levites approximately 2,000 cubits (approximately 2,600 feet) in advance of the people when on the march before the Israelite army. When carried, the Ark was always hidden under a large veil made of skins and blue cloth, always carefully concealed, even from the eyes of the priests and the Levites who carried it. God was said to have spoken with Moses "from between the two cherubim" on the Ark's cover. When at rest the tabernacle was set up and the holy Ark was placed in it under the veil of the covering with the middle side bars to hold it up off the ground.

God said, the Ark is to be constructed. **"Have them make an ark of acacia wood — two and a half cubits [3.75 feet or 1.1 meters] long, a cubit and a half [2.25 feet or 0.7 meters] wide, and a cubit and a half [2.25 feet] high. Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold molding around it."** Exodus 25:10-11. Hebrews 9:4 states that the Ark contained "the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant." The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church claims to possess the Ark of the Covenant, in Axum, Ethiopia. They are not the only ones. Many locations say that they have the Ark, but no one has seen it since the time of Solomon.

Many are convinced that it is well hidden somewhere either in Africa or the Middle East in a cave or underground so that the enemies of Israel will not take it again like the Philistines did.

When Jesus died on the cross at Calvary and rose up from the dead, he established the new covenant for all people. The old covenant was no longer needed. Jesus died for our sins and although the Ten Commandments are still important, Jesus gave us a greater hope for heaven in his blood.

### Question Time:

1. What is the Ark of the Covenant?
2. What is said to be in the Ark?
3. Do we know for certain where the Ark is today?
4. Do we need the Ark to know what God wants for us?

### Scripture:

#### [Exodus 37:1-9](#)

Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half was its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. And he overlaid it with pure gold inside and outside, and made a molding of gold around it. And he cast for it four rings of gold for its four feet, two rings on its one side and two rings on its other side. And he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold and put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark. ...

#### [Hebrews 9:4](#)

Having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's staff that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.

#### [Revelation 11:19](#)

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

**Next Steps:** Visit the internet and read about the Ark of the Covenant. You might learn that many people talk about its power, its location and its importance to the Israelites. Is it important to you?