

JOURNEY OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

1. The **specifications** for and the **construction** of the Ark of the Covenant. (Ex. 25:10-22; Ex. 37 1-9) The contents of the Ark are described. (Heb. 9:4)
 - a. The **two tablets of the testimony** (covenant). (Ex. 25:16; 31:18; 32:15; 34:1, 28, 29)
 - b. The **golden jar of manna**. (Ex. 16:31-34)
 - c. **Aaron's rod that budded**. (Ex. 17:6-10)
2. The Ark is present at the **crossing of the Jordan River**. (Joshua 3:1-4:24)
3. The Ark is present at the **Jericho Campaign**. (Josh. 6)
4. The Ark was part of the **celebration** after Israel's **victory over Ai**. (Josh. 8:26-35)
5. The Ark of the Covenant is mentioned once in the **time of the Judges** at Bethel when most of the Israelites fought with the sons of Benjamin. (Judges 20:18, 23, 27)
 - a. The conflict was a result of sinfulness, atrocities and deceitfulness:
 - (1) Homosexuality (Judges 19:22, 23)
 - (2) Lack of compassion and sanity. (Judges 19:24-30)
 - (3) Deceit. (Judges 20:3-7)
 - (4) Failure of justice. (Judges 20:12-14)
 - (5) Praying in error. (Judges 20:18, 23)
 - b. Finally, Israel fasted and made burnt offerings and peace offerings, and Phinehas the priest stood before the Ark of the Lord and asked His will. (Judges 20:26-28)
 - c. However, Israel lost 40,030 men and Benjamin lost 26,100 men because of their disobedience to the Lord.
6. The Ark of God was **at Shiloh** when Samuel was ministering to the Lord. Samuel was appointed by God to be a prophet and a judge for Israel. (1 Samuel 1:3; 3:1-3, 20, 21)
7. The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord is **taken into battle** against the Philistines. (1 Sam. 4:1-10)
8. The Ark of God was **captured by the Philistines** at the battle of Ebenezer; and it was held for 7 months. (1 Sam. 4:11-6:12)
9. The Ark of the Lord is **returned to Bethshemesh** and is disrespected by the men of Bethshemesh. (1 Sam. 6:13-21; cf. Num. 4:5, 15, 20)
10. The Ark of the Lord was then **taken to the house of Abinadab** by the men of Kiriath-jearim, where it remained for about 100 years (20 years plus another 80 years while Samuel judged Israel. (1 Sam. 7:1-2, 3-17)

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11. Saul summoned Ahijah the priest to **bring the Ark of God to the battle** against the Philistines because the ark was with the sons of Israel at Kiriath-jearim. Saul seems to have canceled his own request. (1 Sam. 14:18, 19)
12. David attempted to bring the Ark of God to Jerusalem without proper procedural care. (2 Samuel. 6:1-11 and 1 Chron. 13:1-14; 15:2) It was then **taken to the house of Obed-Edom** for three months.
13. David finally had the **Ark brought to Jerusalem**. (2 Sam. 6:12-18 and 1 Chron. 15; 16; 1 Chron. 17:1; cf. Ex. 25:14; cf. David's prayer for the Ark: Psa. 132:1-5)
NOTE: Davidic Covenant – 2 Sam. 7:8-16; 1 Chron. 17:7-14
David's Psalm - written at the return of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. (1 Chron. 16:8-36)
14. Solomon had the priests bring the Ark of the Covenant **into the house he had built** for the Lord. (2 Chron. 2:1; 3:1; 5:1-10; 6:11; 1 Kings 8:1-21; cf. 1 Chron. 22; 2 Chron. 1:4)
NOTE: Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the Temple and the placement of the Ark of the Covenant. (1 Kings 8:23-53; 2 Chron. 6:14-42)
15. In the days of Josiah, king of Judah (641-610 BC), **the word of the Lord was found**, the book of the covenant (the law – the 5 books of Moses). (2 Kings 22:8; 2 Chron. 34:15)
- a. Josiah read it to the congregation. (2 Kings 23:2, 21-23; 2 Chron. 34:30)
 - b. Then he held a Passover in 623 BC, the greatest Passover since the days of Samuel. The period of the Judges. (1401-1101 BC - approximately 300 years), (Judges 11:26)

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| (1) Samuel judged Israel 20 years. - | (1121-1101 BC), | part of Philistine domination |
| (2) The Philistine domination - | (1141-1101 BC) | = 40 years |
| (3) The time of the Kings - | (1101-623 BC) | = <u>478 years</u> |
| | (2 Kings 23:21-23; 2 Chron. 35:1-3; 17-19) | 518 years total |
 - c. The Ark apparently had been in storage! It was possibly hidden during the reign of Manasseh (698-643 BC) to protect it from being profaned. (2 Chron. 35:3)
NOTE: Possibly the Ark of the Covenant was carried off to Babylon in 586 BC. (2 Kings 24:13; 2 Chron. 36:18) The Ark is not mentioned among the articles returned to Jerusalem after the captivity. (Ezra 1:5-11)
16. The last mention of the Ark of the Covenant is found in Jeremiah 3:16-18, probably a reference to the future millennial reign of Jesus Christ. There will be **no Ark** of the Covenant found **in the millennial temple**. The only articles mentioned as being in that temple are the brazen altar (Ezekiel 43:13-17), the altar of incense (Ezekiel 41:22), and a throne (Ezek. 43:7).
17. The Ark of the Covenant or its heavenly prototype is **seen in heaven** in John's vision. (Rev. 11:19)