

## Where is the Ark of God?

Fred R. Coulter—May 16, 2015

The Ark of the Covenant is also called the Ark of the Lord or the Ark of the Testimony. Where is it?

I finished reading the book *Temple* by Robert Cornuke. It references Dr. Ernest Martin and his research, along with one of the archaeologists, Dr. Mazar in Jerusalem. Dr. Martin well established from historical documents that if you are looking straight from the south going north, up where the Mosque of Omar is, over here is the Western Wailing Wall. One of the biggest clues concerning the temple is that Jesus said, 'Not one stone will be left upon another.' What is the Western Wailing Wall? *Huge giant stones still there!* That is Fort Antonia.

The temple area was 600 yards south of that. Cornuke has all of that right and they found a lot of very interesting things going way beyond what Ernest Martin found concerning the temple.

Where is the Ark? Another man—Ron Wyatt—claims that he was down there excavating and he found it buried in the subterranean area under the temple. But then, unfortunately, no one was with him to verify it and he died shortly afterwards. No one knows whether that is true or not. Could it be there? We'll find out.

With this book, with Robert Cornuke, when he gets done with the location of the temple, and has it right south of the area of Fort Antonio, he says this. I'm reading for a purpose:

Traditions are mentioned in the New Testament fourteen times, all of which are framed in a negative and derogatory light, except on a few occasions specifying a demanded imperative for strict adherence to what Scripture presented in the past.

His words, and those of the apostles.

Manmade agenda to Scripture are strictly forbidden by Christ, which include non-Biblically based beliefs passed off as divinely prescribed.

True! After making that statement he thinks, based on traditions of men, which he said not to follow, that the Ark is in Ethiopia. Dolores recently saw a History Channel thing on where is the Ark.

So, he goes to Ethiopia, chases all of those things down and it just absolutely blew me away that he could write the first part of his book so good about the temple, adhere to the Scriptures—adhere

to true history—then go chasing to Ethiopia looking for the Ark.

- What about the Ark?
- Where is it?
- Can we determine?

If we can determine, is it fully true or a supposition that may be true. We don't know. However, there is one Scripture, as we will see, which I think settles the issue so there are no more suppositions to go through.

Let's take this step-by-step. There are a lot of lessons we can learn out of this. God gave the Ten Commandments (Exo. 20). He gave the statutes and judgments (Exo. 21-23). Then there was the ratification of the covenant with the sprinkling of blood (Exo. 24). After that God began to give the details on what He wanted. He wanted a place where He would dwell with His presence among the children of Israel and have a central place of worship and sacrificing.

Exodus 25:1: "And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 'Speak to the children of Israel that they bring Me an offering. You shall take an offering from every man that gives it willingly with his heart. And this *is* the offering which you shall take of them: gold, and silver, and brass, And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and bleached *linen*, and goats' *hair*, And rams' skins dyed red, and tanned leather skins, and acacia wood, Oil for lighting, spices for anointing oil and for sweet incense, onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate. And let them make Me a sanctuary, so that I may dwell among them. According to all that I show you, the pattern of the tabernacle, and the pattern of all the instruments of it, even so you shall make *it*'" (vs 1-9).

What does He start out with? *An ark! The place where He would put His presence!* Then He gives all the instructions of it, really not very big. We won't go through all the instructions, except to say it was made of acacia wood, overlaid with gold. On top of it was to be a cover that was to have a crown molding all around it. It was to have two cherubim, wings overshadowing that space below the wings. That space was called the Mercy Seat. That's where the priests could come in and God would reveal Himself there or speak to the priest.

However, because of the sin of Aaron, the priest could only go in once a year on the Day of Atonement.

It describes that the Ark was to have two rings on each side of it. They were to have staves on the side of it, in which was put the book of the Law, and within it there were three things that were put in there:

1. the tablets of stone that God wrote with His own finger
2. the rod of Aaron that budded to show that it was the priesthood of Aaron
3. the proof that God fed the children of Israel with manna in the wilderness: an omer of manna

There is an additional miracle of the manna. It survived all through the years and never rotted, bred worms and stank. Quite a thing! They had to build a temple. In the temple were two parts:

1. the Holy part where there was the incense altar and the candelabra with the seven candles
2. the Holy of Holies where only the Ark of the Covenant would be

I need to talk about the high priest and what is called the Urim and Thummim or the breastplate. This is how God would communicate with the priest when there was a question. There were twelve precious stones on there, one for each tribe.

In the case when Achan took something he shouldn't have taken and it caused the conquering of the land to virtually grind to a halt, then God told Moses, 'You go, and bring all the heads of the tribes of Israel. The priest will stand there and I will select who it was.' He did it by the Urim and Thummim and it came out to be the tribe of Judah, the line of Zarah, the house of Achan.

Then they were coming in to conquer the land here in Joshua 4. Here we have a very interesting thing, showing what people call in the world 'the magical power of the Ark.' It wasn't the magical power of the Ark, it was the power of God when the priests were carrying the Ark.

Here's what they did, Joshua 4:5: "And Joshua said to them... [the twelve men from each tribe] ... 'Pass over in front of the Ark of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. And every man take a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel.'"

They were to take a huge stone out of the River Jordan. What happened as they walked over, the priests stood in the middle of the Jordan and the waters backed up and quit flowing. When they got to the other side, the priests got out of the river and the waters came back.

The way that they conquered the city of Jericho is a very interesting way. This is also a lesson. God never wanted the children of Israel to go to war unless He declared the war because He would fight for them. You read in the Bible, every time God fights for the children of Israel they win. We're going to see what happens when someone gets presumptuous with the Ark of God in connection with war.

Here's what they were to do. Joshua 6:3: "You shall go around the city, all the men of war. Go around the city once. So you shall do for six days. And seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of ram's horns in front of the Ark..." (vs 3-4). The Ark was to be taken out.

When the Ark was out of the Holy of Holies, it had to be covered. It was covered with royal purple velvet. The priests would carry the Ark on their shoulders. I don't know how many priests were on the staves, but I imagine that was pretty heavy to carry that with the gold, and so forth. It was never to be transported any other way. The priests were to carry it.

"...And the seventh day you shall go around the city seven times and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall be when they make a long *blast* with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout. The wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall go up, each man straight before him" (vs 4-5). The walls just came straight down.

I don't know what happened. I don't know if God opened the earth and swallowed up the walls to the top of them. The city was surrounded. Everybody walked in to conquer the city of Jericho. The Ark was to be used when there was war.

Let's see some other things concerning the Ark. The Ark and the tabernacle were placed in Shiloh, set up there. That's where everyone would go to bring their offerings, bring their sacrifices. That's where the leaders would go to the high priest to confer with God.

A little background on Samuel: His father was a priest and had two wives. One had children and the other one, Hannah, was barren. She prayed to God and asked for children. She said, 'If you give me a man-child, I will dedicate him to You.' She was on her knees praying there at the tabernacle and Eli the priest came along and thought she was drunk.

Eli said, 'Woman, stop your drunkenness.' She said, 'No, my lord, I'm not drunk, it is bitterness of heart. I have no children and am barren and I asked God to bless me with a child.' Eli said, 'Go your way. God will bless you.' So, she had Samuel.

After he was weaned, he was brought to the temple, probably at about age three. He was to be the servant of Eli, the high priest.

We find some very interesting things that take place in 1-Sam. 3. It also shows you how God will work. What did Jesus say concerning those who were praising Him when He was coming into Jerusalem? ‘Out of the mouth of babes praise comes.’

Here is Samuel, compared to a man he was a babe. When this took place in 1-Sam. 3, he may have been a little older. God was going to begin dealing with Samuel, because God was going to use Samuel in a very powerful way later when he grew up as a priest. He was dedicated as a priest from his very birth.

1-Samuel 3:1: “And the child Samuel served the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days. *There was no open vision.... [because of the sins of the people] ...*And it came to pass at that time, when Eli *was* lying down in his place and his eyes began to become dim, *that* he could not see. And the lamp of God had not yet gone out. And Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD where the Ark of God *was*” (vs 1-3). He was lying down in the Holy Place, not inside where the Ark actually was, but right in front of it.

Verse 4: “That the LORD called Samuel. And he answered, ‘Here *am* I.’ And he ran to Eli, and said, ‘Here *am* I, for you called me.’ And he said, ‘I did not call. Go and lie down again.’ And he went to lie down” (vs 4-5). That happened two more times.

The third time Eli said, ‘If you hear your name called again, say, “Lord, here I am.”’ So that happened.

Verse 10: “And the LORD came and stood, and called as at other times, ‘Samuel, Samuel!’ Then Samuel answered, ‘Speak, for Your servant hears.’ And the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Behold, I will do a thing in Israel at which both the ears of everyone who hears it shall tingle’” (vs 10-11).

Good thing to remember. There comes a time of judgment from God directly. I think we are looking at that in many places of the world today, especially in America.

He said, v 12: “In that day I will confirm to Eli all that which I have spoken concerning his house, and when I begin I will also make an end, For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows because His sons made themselves vile and he did not restrain them” (vs 12-13).

What they would do, they would demand the meat of the sacrifice before it was offered and take it right from the people. Plus they were committing adultery, so God was getting ready to really do some very drastic things here.

Verse 14: ““And therefore, I have sworn to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering forever.’ And Samuel lay until morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to show Eli the vision. And Eli called Samuel and said, ‘Samuel, my son.’ And he answered, ‘Here *am* I.’ And he said, ‘What *is* the word which He has said to you? Please do not hide *it* from me. God do so to you, and more also, if you hide a thing from me of all the words that He said to you’” (vs 14-17).

Samuel told Eli. Samuel said, ‘He’s going to bring a judgment against all of them.’ And Eli said, v 18: “...’*It is* the LORD...”

Interesting! Look at this: Eli understood what was going on, didn’t correct his sons. He understood the judgment of God was coming and he never repented. Think of that! That shows us something that we need to avoid, like the plague. If there are things we need to change, we need to change.

Then what happened? *There was war with the Philistines!* Remember, the Ark always went out when God said to declare war. They were to take the Ark of the Covenant and God would win the battle for them.

So they went out to the battle and Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, went out to battle. They got kicked really bad by the Philistines and lost a lot of men—4,000 men.

1-Samuel 4:3: “And when the people had come to the camp, the elders of Israel said, ‘Why has the LORD beaten us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD out of Shiloh to us...’” Never take upon yourself something that only God can command.

Here’s a good lesson: ***You can’t force God to do your will unless you’re obedient and repentant!*** Then God will forgive you and you will do His will, rather than forcing your will upon God. This is important because it involves the Ark, which will also help answer the question of why the Ark cannot be in Ethiopia. That will be because how God reacts to those who handle the Ark that are not to handle the Ark.

They did that, v 4: “And the people sent to Shiloh in order to bring the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD of hosts from there, *the Ark* which dwells *between* the cherubs. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the Ark of the

Covenant of God. And it came to pass when the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD came into *the* camp, all Israel shouted with a great shout, so that the earth rang again” (vs 4-5). The Philistines said, ‘There’s the Ark. We’ve had it.’

Verse 8: “‘Woe to us! Who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty gods?... [thinking in the terms of gods] ...These *are* the gods that struck the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness. Be strong and fight like men, O, Philistines, so that you may not be servants to the Hebrews *as* they have been to you. Be men and fight!’ And the Philistines fought, and Israel was beaten, and each one of them fled into his tent. And there was a very great slaughter, for there fell thirty thousand footmen of Israel” (vs 8-10). God will use the enemy to punish His people when they presume to act arrogantly against Him.

Verse 11: “And the Ark of God was taken. And Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were slain.”

Then a messenger ran back and came to Eli who was an old man, 91-years-old, sitting on a rock and he was very heavy. So if you feel overweight, don’t feel bad about it, he was. The messenger told Eli what happened and Eli fell over backward and broke his neck and died. God did what He said He would do to the house of Eli. He would kill Eli and his two sons in one day. That was their judgment.

Verse 20: “And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said to her, ‘Do not fear, for you have borne a son.’ But she did not answer, nor set her heart *upon it*. And she named the child Ichabod, saying, ‘The glory has departed from Israel,’ because the Ark of God had been captured, and because of her father-in-law and her husband. And she said, ‘The glory has departed from Israel, for the Ark of God is taken’” (vs 20-22). The Philistines felt really great about this.

1-Samuel 5:1: “And the Philistines took the Ark of God and brought it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. And the Philistines took the Ark of God and brought it into the temple of Dagon, and set it beside Dagon” (vs 1-2). Look at what God did to Dagon. What God was doing was proving that He is God and ‘your Dagon is not god.’

Verse 3: “And when those of Ashdod arose early on the next day, behold, Dagon *had* fallen upon his face to the earth before the Ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon and set him in his place again.” *Oh, yes, we have to help our god.* How can he be god if you’ve got to pick him up and move him?

Verse 4: “And when they arose early on the next morning, behold, Dagon *had* fallen upon his

face to the earth before the Ark of the LORD. And the head of Dagon, and both the palms of his hands, *were* cut off upon the threshold. Only the stump of Dagon was left to him. And neither the priests of Dagon, nor any that come into Dagon’s house, tread on the threshold of Dagon in Ashdod to this day” (vs 4-5). If you step on that, you’re going to die.

Verse 6: “And the hand of the LORD was heavy upon the people of Ashdod...” What do you think it would be upon the Ethiopians in Ethiopia?

“...and He destroyed them... [they were dropping dead] ...and struck them with hemorrhoids, Ashdod and its borders. And the men of Ashdod saw that *it was* so. And they said, ‘The Ark of the God of Israel shall not stay with us, for His hand is heavy upon us and upon Dagon our god.’ And they sent and gathered all the lords of the Philistines to them. And they said, ‘What shall we do with the Ark of the God of Israel?’ And they answered, ‘Let the Ark of the God of Israel be carried around to Gath.’ And they carried the Ark of the God of Israel around. And it came to pass after they had carried it around, the hand of the LORD was against the city *with* a very great destruction. And He struck the men of the city, both small and great, and hemorrhoids broke forth in them” (vs 6-9). You talk about a real terrible thing. We’ve joked before, that was well before Preparation-H.

Verse 10: “And it came to pass that they sent the Ark of God *to* Ekron. And it came to pass as the Ark of God came to Ekron, the Ekronites cried out, saying, ‘They have brought around the Ark of the God of Israel to us in order to kill us and our people.’ And they sent and gathered all the lords of the Philistines, and said, ‘Send away the Ark of the God of Israel, and let it go again to its own place, so that it does not kill us and our people,’ for there was a deadly destruction throughout all the city. The hand of God was very heavy there. And the men that did not die were stricken with the hemorrhoids. And the cry of the city went up to heaven” (vs 10-12).

The Ark was there seven months. I don’t know how they survived that. They had hemorrhoids. Imagine the medicine men trying to take care of that. They had all the mice everywhere, breeding mice into everything. Can you imagine millions of mice scurrying over everything?

1-Samuel 6:2: “And the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners, saying, ‘What shall we do to the Ark of the LORD? Tell us, what shall we send with it to its place.’ And they said, ‘If you send away the Ark of the God of Israel, do not send it empty; for you shall certainly send a guilt offering to Him. Then you shall be healed, and it shall be known to you why His hand is not removed from you.’ And they said, ‘What *shall be* the guilt

offering which we shall return to Him?’ And they answered, ‘Five golden hemorrhoids, and five golden mice, for the number of the lords of the Philistines...’” (vs 2-4). They said, ‘Okay, put it in a new cart. Bring it over here and point it toward Israel.’ They did that and said:

Verse 9: “‘And watch. If it goes up by the way of its own border to Beth Shemesh, He has done us this great evil. But if not, then we shall know that *it is* not His hand that struck us. It was a chance that happened to us.’ And the men did so. And they took two milk cows and tied them to the cart, and shut up their calves at home. And they laid the Ark of the LORD upon the cart, and the box *with* the mice of gold and the images of their hemorrhoids. And the cows went the straight way...” (vs 9-12).

It came to Beth Shemesh, v 14: “...and stood there and there was a great stone. And they cut the wood of the cart and offered the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD. And the Levites took down the Ark of the LORD and the box beside it, in which the jewels of gold were, and put *them* on the great stone. And the men of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day to the LORD” (vs 14-15).

If people who are not authorized to handle the Ark touch it, they’re going to die. Then they took the Ark over to Kirjath Jearim and left it there with Eleazar, who was a Levite. It stayed there for over 20 years (1-Sam. 7).

Let’s come ahead to the time of David and the Ark. We will see something else that’s also important. Only certain Levites could carry it (Num. 3). The sons of Merieri were the only ones to carry it. Only the sons of Aaron the priest could cover it. Then those who were to carry it could carry it. That’s important in order to understand what takes place here:

1-Chronicles 13:1: “And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. And David said to all the congregation of Israel...” (vs 1-2). Notice again, you’re doing something right that you think is good for God and you have good intentions, but it’s not according to truth. That is, the way that God says to do it.

“...‘If it is good to you, and if it is from the LORD our God, let us send to our brethren those remaining in all the land of Israel, and with them to the priests and Levites in their cities and that they may gather together to us. And let us bring again the Ark of our God to us, for we did not inquire at it in the days of Saul’” (vs 2-3).

So, they went down there and they took a cart. Let’s see what happened. As they were coming

back, v 8: “...with singing... [and dancing] ...and with lyres, and with harps, and with drums, and with cymbals, and with silver trumpets. And when they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzza... [a Levite] ...put out his hand to hold the ark, for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and He struck him because he put his hand to the ark. And he died there before the LORD” (vs 8-10).

David got all upset about this and he said, ‘Well, we’re not bringing it in.’ Then later on he learned his lesson. David prepared a place for the Ark of God, a special tent in his house.

1-Chronicles 15:2: “Then David said, ‘No one ought to carry the Ark of God except the Levites, for God has chosen them to carry the Ark of God and to minister to Him forever.’ And David assembled all Israel together to Jerusalem to bring up the Ark of the LORD to its place which HE had prepared for it” (vs 2-3). Then he lists all of those that he gathered, those who could handle it.

Verse 11: “And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests... [v 12]: ...And he said to them, ‘You *are* the heads of the fathers of the Levites. Sanctify yourselves, you and your brethren, so that you may bring up the Ark of the LORD God of Israel to the place which I have prepared for it. Now because you did not do it at the first, the LORD our God broke forth upon us, since we did not seek Him according to the ordinance’” (vs 11-13). What did God say? *They didn’t consult the Word of God!* Then they brought it up; everything was there.

1-Chronicles 16:1: “And they brought the Ark of God and set it in the middle of the tent which David had pitched for it. And they... [Levites] ...offered burnt sacrifices and peace offerings before God.”

Now you have the Ark of the Covenant separated from the Holy of Holies. We will see that the tabernacle was in Gibeon. There they had burnt offerings and sacrifices on the bronze altar there. They divided and passed out all of the things, celebrating that day.

Verse 7: “Then on that day David first delivered *this psalm* into the hand of Asaph...”—the first Psalm. Let’s understand something important in canonization, too: David had to give all of his psalms to Asaph, who was the priest to administer before the sanctuary. The priests were the ones who took care of the various psalms. That’s why you read of some psalms by Asaph, some by Kohath, because they were the ones who were ministering before the Ark of the Covenant.

After David died, completing of the temple, then the Ark and everything was brought from where

the tabernacle was and consolidated at the temple. All of that was finished.

2-Chronicles 5:4<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup>: “And all the elders of Israel came. And the Levites took up the Ark. And they brought up the Ark, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and all the holy vessels that *were* in the tabernacle. The priests *and* the Levites brought these up. And King Solomon, and all the congregation of Israel that were gathered to him before the ark, sacrificed sheep and oxen which could not be counted nor numbered for multitude. And **the priests brought in the Ark of the Covenant of the LORD to its place, to the Holy of Holies in the house, into the Most Holy Place, under the wings of the cherubim**” (vs 4-7). There were cherubim also carved in the sides of walls and ceilings of the Holy of Holies.

Verse 8: “For the cherubim spread out their wings over the Ark, and the cherubim covered the Ark above its staves. And the staves were so long that the ends of the staves of the Ark were seen from the Holy Place looking toward the Holy of Holies, but they were not seen outside. And **they are there to this day**” (vs 8-9). That was an add-in probably by Hezekiah. We’re not told exactly, we don’t know, but we can gather from the facts that we have.

You can read that what Manasseh did, how he desecrated everything (2-Chron. 33). Could it be that because the desecration of the temple by Manasseh was so devastating that the Levites, knowing what happened in the history before, *made a special hiding place for the Ark under the temple proper*? That they went down and carved out a special room that in case of emergencies, you take the Ark and carry it down there and put it there *so it can’t be taken*.

That’s possible because there is no account that when the children of Israel were carried off in captivity to Babylon that the Ark was there. No account that that was taken when they took all the vessels. So, the Ark must have been removed and put someplace when the Babylonians started to invade in earnest.

The reason that I say that is because when we come to 2-Chr. 35—after the repentance, after the revival, after setting up of the temple service again—what was it that they found in the ruins of temple? *A copy of the book of the Law!* Then you know what happened. Josiah repented and he established the covenant with the children of Israel (2-Chr. 34).

Listen carefully, 2-Chronicles 35:1: “And Josiah kept a Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem. And they killed the Passover on the fourteenth *day* of the first month. And he set the priests in their

charges and encouraged them in the service of the house of the LORD. And he said to the Levites who taught all Israel, who were Holy unto the LORD, **‘Put the Holy Ark in the house which Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built.’**”

So, it was put in there until this day, probably until Hezekiah. Then things were desecrated (2-Chron. 33), reformed (2-Chron. 34), then the Ark was put into the Holy Place. **Where was the Ark?** When they were cleaning out the temple it wasn’t there. They found the book of the Law, but they never said they found the Ark. They had to carry it from someplace to put it in the temple in the Holy of Holies. Was that from a safe cavern, built below the temple? They know now in archaeology there are a lot of caverns below the temple.

“...**‘Put the Holy Ark in the house which Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built.** It shall not be a burden upon your shoulders. And serve the LORD your God and His people Israel” (v 3). So, they did.

When the Babylonians came and were conquering, getting into the city, do you suppose that the priests again to protect the Ark, put it down in the hidden cavern below the temple where the Babylonians couldn’t get it? We have to say: possible, we don’t know. Probable, since it was never carried away. What happens to those who carry it away? *You never read of what happened to the Babylonians that happened to the Philistines!* How do you think it could get all the way to Ethiopia?

There are Scriptures that are alluded to in this book that do not follow the Scriptures as they should. So we can come with two conclusions as to where is the Ark?

1. in a subterranean cavern below where the temple was  
If the Jews find it there, then they will know they are to build the temple.
2. it may not be there; it’s possible

How then do you explain this? In Rev. 4 and 5 John had the vision, carried right up to the throne room of God. He did not describe an Ark. He saw the throne where God was, twenty-four elders, the Lamb, four living creatures, six wings.

At the time of the first resurrection, Revelation 11:15: “Then the seventh angel sounded *his* trumpet... [the last trumpet] ...and *there* were great voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become *the kingdoms* of our Lord and His Christ, and He shall reign into the ages of eternity.’ And the twenty-four elders, who sit before God on their thrones, fell on their faces and

worshiped God, saying, ‘We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come; for You have taken *to Yourself* Your great power, and have reigned. For the nations were angry, and Your wrath has come, and the time for the dead to be judged, and to give reward to Your servants the prophets, and to the saints, and to *all* those who fear Your name, the small and the great; and to destroy those who destroy the earth.’ And the temple of God in heaven was opened, and **the Ark of His covenant was seen in His temple**; and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunders, and an earthquake and great hail” (vs 15-19).

Did God take it up in heaven? *I would say it is in heaven!* Just in case the Jews find something, we’ll give that a little bit of leeway. This tells us where it is. In other visions of the temple it wasn’t seen. This must be someplace *in the temple in heaven above* where it’s stored.

There are people who believe, which it’s not true, that there will be a temple in Jerusalem where they will offer sacrifices, which is not true. If all the sacrifices pictured Christ and His ministry and His sacrifice, why would you have animal sacrifices when Christ and the saints are ruling the world? Do we have sacrifices today? *No, they are not needed!* Why would they be needed then?

Talking about the repentance of Israel when they return out of captivity at the end of the age; Jeremiah 3:14: “Turn, O backsliding children,” says the LORD; ‘for I am your husband; and I will take you one from a city, and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who shall feed you *with* knowledge and understanding” (vs 14-15). That’s all the resurrected saints: kings and priests.

Verse 16: “**And it will be when you have multiplied and increased in the land, in those days,**” says the LORD, ‘**they shall say no more, ‘The Ark of the Covenant of the LORD!’ Nor shall it come to mind; nor shall they remember it; nor shall they visit it; nor shall it be made anymore.**”

I guess God is going to keep it as a museum piece, if He keeps it. Its purpose will have been fulfilled; there is no need for it. God will dwell on the earth. He will do whatever He wants on the earth and you won’t need the Ark.

I’m going to have to think about maybe sending a summary of what I just gave to the man who wrote this book. It might help him find it. I wonder how much he spent traveling to Ethiopia looking for it and listening to all these myths and lies.

### ***So, that’s what happened to the Ark of the Covenant!***

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Exodus 25:1-9
- 2) Joshua 4:5
- 3) Joshua 6:3-5
- 4) 1-Samuel 3:1-5, 10-18
- 5) 1-Samuel 4:3-5, 8-11, 20-22
- 6) 1-Samuel 5:1-12
- 7) 1-Samuel 6:2-4, 9-12, 14-15
- 8) 1-Chronicles 13:1-3, 8-10
- 9) 1-Chronicles 15:2-3, 11-13
- 10) 1-Chronicles 16:1, 7
- 11) 2-Chronicles 5:4-9
- 12) 2-Chronicles 35:1-3
- 13) Revelation 11:15-19
- 14) Jeremiah 3:14-16

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Exodus 20-24
- 1-Samuel 7
- Numbers 3
- 2-Chronicles 33-34
- Revelation 4-5

Also referenced: Book: *Temple* by Robert Cornuke

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