

The Tabernacle: The Ark of the Covenant

Use with the full teaching and a Bible. Read or watch first, complete the questions, then discuss and apply. For family study, an adult can select suitable portions and accept spoken answers.

Test the teaching's explanations against the cited passages. Keep the answer key and facilitator notes separate when distributing learner pages.

[Open the full teaching](#)

Teaching summary

The Ark stood behind the veil in the Holy of Holies. It was an acacia-wood chest overlaid with gold, covered by the mercy seat with two cherubim. YHWH spoke from above it, and the covenant testimony was placed inside.

The teaching develops the Ark as a picture of a king's throne and the tablets as covenant testimony. The Day of Atonement highlights the seriousness of approaching God. Its courtroom and stored-contract comparisons are explanatory analogies, not additional statements made explicitly by Leviticus.

The lesson moves from the tablets inside the Ark to God's law written on our hearts. Jeremiah's New Covenant promise includes both inward instruction and forgiveness. We examine our conduct in light of God's word while depending on his mercy.

Hebrews distinguishes the purification of the flesh associated with earthly offerings from the cleansing of conscience through Messiah. Yeshua secures eternal redemption and enables us to serve the living God. Animal blood was never an alternative means of salvation.

The teaching emphasizes that Israel received the covenant after deliverance from Egypt. In the same way, our obedience is a testimony of gratitude and love for the God who saves us. We love because he first loved us; obedience does not purchase that love.

The Ark analogy therefore calls us to become faithful witnesses: God's instruction belongs within us and shapes our love and conduct. Honest self-examination should lead to repentance and service, without treating one failure or incomplete growth as proof that someone is outside the covenant.

Summary points

- The Ark held the tablets of covenant testimony.
- The mercy seat and cherubim marked the place from which YHWH spoke.
- The high priest entered behind the veil under the Day of Atonement requirements.
- The teaching uses a throne-room analogy to discuss judgment.
- God's New Covenant promise includes law within and forgiveness.
- We are called to examine ourselves honestly.
- Messiah's blood cleanses the conscience for service.
- Israel's deliverance preceded the covenant instructions at Sinai.
- Love and obedience respond to God's prior love and saving work.

- The Ark picture encourages us to keep God's testimony in our hearts.

Fill in the blank

Use the teaching and the cited Bible passages. Equivalent wording is welcome when it expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. The Ark was kept in the Holy of _____.
2. The Ark was made of acacia wood overlaid with _____.
3. Two golden _____ stood on the mercy seat.
4. The Ark contained the tablets of the _____.
5. The high priest entered behind the veil on the Day of _____.
6. The tablets recorded the Ten _____.

Challenging

1. Jeremiah promises that God's law will be written on his people's _____.
2. Paul tells each person to _____ himself before eating the bread and drinking the cup.
3. Hebrews says Messiah's blood purifies our _____ from dead works.
4. Messiah's cleansing enables us to _____ the living God.
5. The first words of the commandments recall deliverance from _____.
6. We love because God _____ loved us.

Group discussion

Discuss respectfully and support answers from the passages. Use these lines for brief notes or a notebook for longer responses.

1. How do the Ark's contents and cover contribute different parts of the teaching's picture?

2. How does Jeremiah's New Covenant promise connect with the Ark analogy?

3. What distinction does Hebrews make between earthly offerings and Messiah's work?

4. What makes self-examination helpful rather than despairing or accusatory?

5. Why does the lesson place deliverance before obedience?

6. What would it mean for us to become keepers of God's testimony?

Answer key

For the leader or parent. Answers follow the teaching and the passages. Accept equivalent wording that expresses the same meaning.

Basic

1. Holies

Exodus 26:33; Ark, opening description

2. gold

Exodus 25:10-11

3. cherubim

Exodus 25:18-20

4. testimony

Exodus 25:16; 31:18

5. Atonement

Leviticus 16:1-3, 34

6. Commandments

Deuteronomy 10:4

Challenging

1. hearts

Jeremiah 31:33

2. examine

1 Corinthians 11:28

3. conscience

Hebrews 9:14

4. serve

Hebrews 9:14

5. Egypt

Exodus 20:2

6. first

1 John 4:19

Facilitator notes

These responses give direction for discussion. They are not a test of identical wording. Invite participants to explain the passages and consider a faithful practical response.

1. The tablets bear witness to the covenant, while YHWH speaks from above the mercy seat between the cherubim. The lesson joins these facts in a throne-room illustration about God's authority, mercy, and the seriousness of his covenant.

Exodus 25:16-22; Psalm 99:1-4

2. The law within the Ark becomes an analogy for God's law within his people. Jeremiah also promises forgiveness and relationship with God. Preserve all these features rather than reducing the New Covenant to external compliance or a change of terminology.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

3. Earthly offerings address ritual purification, while Messiah's blood secures eternal redemption and cleanses the conscience for service. The distinction does not imply that animal blood once earned salvation or that Messiah's work needs supplementation.

Hebrews 9:11-15

4. We measure ourselves by God's instruction, acknowledge sin, and seek cleansing through Messiah. The goal is repentance and faithful service. We should not use incomplete knowledge of someone else's life to pronounce their eternal standing.

1 Corinthians 11:28-32; Hebrews 9:14

5. The tablets begin by recalling that YHWH brought Israel out of Egypt. Their obedience testified to his saving work. Likewise, we love and obey in response to God's prior love, rather than making our performance the cause of salvation.

Exodus 20:2; 1 John 4:19

6. We receive his instruction inwardly, examine our conduct, love others, and serve faithfully. These actions bear witness to his love and salvation. The Ark language is the teaching's metaphor for a transformed life.

Psalm 119:36, 111; 1 John 4:14-19

Put it into practice

Choose one response to the passages. What will we do, and when will we revisit it? Share only what you are comfortable sharing.