

Ark of the Covenant (also known as Ark of the Testimony)

The Ark of the Covenant was also called the Ark of the Testimony (so called in the two verses below, and Exodus 26:33, Exodus 26:34, Exodus 30:6,26, Exodus 31:7, 39, Exodus 40:3,5,21, Numbers 4:5, Numbers 7:89, and Joshua 4:16). The Ark stood for the person and work of Christ. It represented the testimony of the Christ that was to come, who was to testify to all creation the glory and love of God. The Ark was the centerpiece of the Tabernacle. There, in the Holy of Holies, was the presence of God.

Exodus 25:22 There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.

Exodus 30:6 Put the altar in front of the curtain that is before the ark of the Testimony--before the atonement cover that is over the Testimony--where I will meet with you.

There, in the shadow worship of the Old Testament, before the Ark they were to meet face to face with God. So also, in the reality of the New Testament, in the person of Jesus Christ are we to meet face to face with God.

2 Corinthians 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

The Ark was also known as the Ark of the Covenant, because the Ark contained the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 34:28 Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant--the Ten Commandments.

But the Covenant depended on the work of Jesus Christ! Not only the deliverance of Israel but the Eternal Kingship of Israel depended on some son of Israel and son of David keeping the Covenant!

Psalms 132:11-12 The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath that he will not revoke: "One of your own descendants I will place on your throne-- if your sons keep my covenant and the statutes I teach them, then their sons will sit on your throne for ever and ever."

The Ark of the Covenant is spoken of as now being in Heaven in the Holy of Holies, just as Jesus Christ is seen there as the Lamb on the Throne, the Lion of Judah and the Son of Man.

Revelation 11:19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant.

It would seem apparent that Jesus Christ is the reality of the Ark of the Covenant.

The Ark of the Covenant was made of wood overlaid with gold. Gold was the most valuable and chief of all metals. It stood for the sovereignty of God. Gold never tarnished or rusted. It thus stands for the holiness and immutability of God. Thus, gold stands for the deity of Christ. Wood is impermanent, the wood stands for the humanity of Christ:

Exodus 25:10-22 "Have them make **a chest of acacia wood**--two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. **Overlay it with pure gold**, both inside and out, and make a gold molding around it. Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the chest to carry it.¹ The poles are to remain in the rings of this Ark; they are not to be removed. Then put in the Ark the Testimony, which I will give you. "Make an atonement cover of pure gold--two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the cover, at the two ends. The cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover. Place the cover on top of the Ark and put in the Ark the Testimony, which I will give you. There, above the cover between the two cherubim that are over the Ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.

The Ark of the Covenant had three articles, the gold jar of Manna, the tables of the Law, and Aaron's rod that budded.

1 According to 1 Kings 8:7-8 these poles were so long that their ends jutted out beyond the curtain of the Holy of Holies in Solomon's Temple. This makes sense considering that the Ark and the Mercy Seat were made of a lot of gold and would have been very heavy. To be carried for any distance it would have required at least ten or more men. This certainly belies all the representations I have ever seen of the Ark that have poles which could not accommodate more than two men. The dimensions of the Holy of Holies are given in 1 Kings 6:19-20 "He (Solomon) prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set the ark of the covenant of the LORD there. The inner sanctuary was twenty cubits long, twenty wide and twenty high. Twenty cubits is 30 feet, suggesting that the poles were at least a little over thirty feet long, if they stuck out beyond the curtain. The poles were evidently removed before the Ark was wrapped up for travel and then reinserted to be carried according to Exodus 25:15 and Numbers 4:8.

Hebrews 9:3-4 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered Ark of the covenant. This Ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.

They were put in the Ark in that order.

1. **Exodus 16:33-34** So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come." As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the manna in front of the Testimony,³ that it might be kept.
2. **Exodus 34:29** When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD.
3. **Numbers 17:10** The LORD said to Moses, "Put back Aaron's staff in front of the Testimony, to be kept as a sign to the rebellious. This will put an end to their grumbling against me, so that they will not die."

They stood for the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Pot of Manna

The pot of Manna in the jar of gold stands for the incarnation of Christ. He is the bread that came down from heaven. The golden jar stands for His diety. Just as the twelve loaves of shew bread stand for the fact that his body came from the twelve tribes of Israel, so also the bread of manna, spoke of His body.

John 6:31-33 Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

John 6:48-51 I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this

² The Hebrew word *hn<P*; here should be better translated "in the presence of."

³ The "Testimony" was the tables of the Law (Exodus 31:18). Since we know from Hebrews 9:4 that the staff and the pot of manna were "in" the Ark, it is clear that this instruction means the pot of manna was to be in front of the Tables of the Law inside the Ark.

⁴ The Hebrew word *hn<P*; here should be better translated "in the presence of."

bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”)

John 6:57-58 Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.”

When he broke the bread at the Last Passover, he said the bread stood for His body.

Matthew 26:26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

Mark 14:22 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”

Luke 22:19 And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

Also, remember the birth of Christ, the coming of the “bread from Heaven,” took place in Bethlehem. In Hebrew Bethlehem means “House of Bread.”

The Tablets of the Law

The Tablets of the Law stood for the life of Christ, the Law made flesh. There is also a deeper meaning presented in figure by the fact that the first set of Tablets of the Law were broken to pieces:

Exodus 32:15-19 “Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back.⁵ The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, ‘There is the sound of war in the camp.’ Moses replied: ‘It is not the sound of victory, it is not the sound of defeat; it is the sound of singing that I hear.’ When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain.”

⁵ Notice, that this is different from the standard representation of the tablets, which show only one side inscribed.

The first tablets seem to speak of Christ's first advent. Their breaking as a result of the sin of the people speaks of His being broken at His Crucifixion. The second tablets would then speak of his second coming!

The First Tablets were from a rock cut out without human hands

Exodus 31:18 When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

The Second Tablets were a rock chiseled by the hands of Moses

Exodus 34:1 The LORD said to Moses, "Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I will write on them the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.

Exodus 34:28-30 Moses was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights without eating bread or drinking water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant--the Ten Commandments. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that his face was radiant because he had spoken with the LORD. When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him.

Matthew 17:1-3 After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

The following passages make it clear that the rock cut without hands represented Jesus Christ. It was His victory during His First Advent that has crushed Satan's authority.

Daniel 2:31-33 "You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue--an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.

Daniel 2:44-45 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands--a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. "The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

Jesus life was the fulfillment of the Law and the Covenant.

Matthew 5:17-18 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.

Romans 10:4 Christ is the end (τέλος - *to which all things relate, the aim, purpose: Strong's Lexicon*) of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

Aaron's Staff that Budded⁶

Aaron's staff, manifestly stood for the death of Christ as it represented the cross. Consider the passage below.

Exodus 17:5-7 The LORD answered Moses, “Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

In this passage the rock stood for Christ as confirmed by the verse below.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and **that rock was Christ**.

By logical extension, if the rock that was struck to bring water represented Christ, the staff that struck the rock represented the cross.

In the passage below, Moses stood as one of three on a hill and lifted up the staff of God toward heaven. At the same time Joshua prevailed against the adversary in the valley below. “Joshua” and “Jesus” are actually the same name. The translation of Jesus' Hebrew name to the Greek of the New Testament, and then from Greek to

⁶ Aaron's staff was in the Ark of the covenant which was 2 ½ cubits by 1 ½ cubits by 1 ½ cubits. Since one cubit is roughly 18 inches this corresponds with 45” by 27” by 27.” The longest staff that could fit in such a box according geometric calculations is 59 inches long or just under 5 feet.

English in our English translations has managed to make “Joshua” and “Jesus” look like two different names. The two men who helped Moses hold the staff, were the direct ancestors of the father and mother of the humanity of Jesus. In this shadow of the cross, the staff was clearly the cross.

Exodus 17:7-16 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, “Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands.” So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses’ hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up--one on one side, one on the other--so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. Then the LORD said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven.” Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. He said, “For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD. The LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation.”

If the staff as used by Moses stood for the cross, the budding of the staff manifestly stood for the resurrection.

Numbers 17:1-10 The LORD said to Moses, “Speak to the Israelites and get twelve staffs from them, one from the leader of each of their ancestral tribes. Write the name of each man on his staff. On the staff of Levi write Aaron’s name, for there must be one staff for the head of each ancestral tribe. Place them in the Tent of Meeting in front of the Testimony, where I meet with you. The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you by the Israelites.” So Moses spoke to the Israelites, and their leaders gave him twelve staffs, one for the leader of each of their ancestral tribes, and Aaron’s staff was among them. Moses placed the staffs before the LORD in the Tent of the Testimony. The next day Moses entered the Tent of the Testimony and saw that Aaron’s staff, which represented the house of Levi, had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds. Then Moses brought out all the staffs from the LORD’s presence to all the Israelites. They looked at them, and each man took his own staff. The LORD said to Moses, “Put back Aaron’s staff in front of the Testimony, to be kept as a sign to the rebellious. This will put an end to their grumbling against me, so that they will not die.”

Why was the Ark also known as the Ark of the Testimony?

To the Israelites who did not know the full meaning of the shadows, the items in the ark still had great meaning. The manna stood for God’s faithful provision, the Tables of the Law stood for God’s word given to them, and the Staff stood for God’s deliverance

under His appointed authority. For us, we know that the manna stands for God's eternal bread, which if we eat, we will never hunger again. We know that the Law stands for the Living Word Jesus Christ who came to us as a man. And we know that the staff stands for God's final deliverance which has defeated death and Satan for all time! This is the Testimony of the Ark, so it is the Ark of the Testimony!

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

1 Timothy 2:5-6 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.

Hebrews 5:9-11 We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Revelation 15:5 After this I looked and in heaven the temple, that is, the tabernacle of the Testimony, was opened.

Revelation 19:10 At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Note:

The Staff of Moses and the Staff of Aaron were One Staff, the Staff of God

1. The miracle of turning into a snake which was the property of Moses' staff was performed by Aaron's staff.
2. Aaron was the Prophet of Moses so he spoke for Moses and used Moses staff at Moses' command.
3. The shepherds staff was the tool of a sheherd. Moses was a shepherd at that time.
4. There were never two staffs mentioned at any one time.
5. The staff was symbolic of the Cross of Christ in all it's uses. There is only one Cross.
6. The staff of Moses was to perform miracles in Egypt, yet it was the staff of Aaron that performed all the spectacular miracles.
7. Aaron's staff is called Moses' staff in Numbers 20:11

Staff of God

Exodus 4:20 So **Moses** took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the **staff of God** in his hand.

Isaiah 10:26 The LORD Almighty will lash them with a whip, as when he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb; and he will raise **his staff** over the waters, as he did in Egypt.

Exodus 17:8-12 The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. **Moses** said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the **staff of God** in my hands." So Joshua fought the Amalekites as **Moses** had ordered, and **Moses**, **Aaron** and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as **Moses** held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When **Moses'** hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. **Aaron** and Hur held his hands up--one on one side, one on the other--so that his hands remained steady till sunset.

Moses' Staff

Exodus 4:1-5 **Moses** answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you'?" Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?" "A **staff**," he replied. The LORD said, "Throw it on the ground." **Moses** threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. Then the LORD said to him, "Reach out your hand and take it by the tail." So **Moses** reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a **staff** in his hand. "This," said the LORD, "is so that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers--the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob--has appeared to you."

Exodus 4:14 -17 Then the LORD's anger burned against **Moses** and he said, "What about your brother, **Aaron** the Levite? I know he can speak well. He is already on his way to meet you, and his heart will be glad when he sees you. You shall speak to him and put words in his mouth; I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to do. He will speak to the people for you, and it will be as if he were your mouth and as if you were God to him. But take this **staff** in your hand so you can perform miraculous signs with it."

Exodus 9:22-24 Then the LORD said to **Moses**, "Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that hail will fall all over Egypt--on men and animals and on everything growing in the fields of Egypt." When **Moses** stretched out his **staff** toward the sky, the LORD sent thunder and hail, and lightning flashed down to the ground. So the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt; hail fell and lightning flashed back and forth. It was the worst storm in all the land of Egypt since it had become a nation.

Exodus 10:12-13 And the LORD said to **Moses**, "Stretch out your hand over Egypt so that locusts will swarm over the land and devour everything growing in the fields, everything left by the hail." So **Moses** stretched out his **staff** over Egypt, and the LORD made an east wind blow across the land all that day and all that night. By morning the wind had brought the locusts; they invaded all Egypt and settled down in every area of the country

in great numbers. Never before had there been such a plague of locusts, nor will there ever be again.

Exodus 14:15-22 Then the LORD said to **Moses**, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your **staff** and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. And I will gain glory through Pharaoh and all his army, through his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen.” Then the angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel’s army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long. Then **Moses** stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

Aaron’s Staff

Exodus 7:8-20 The LORD said to **Moses** and **Aaron**, “When Pharaoh says to you, ‘Perform a miracle,’ then say to **Aaron**, ‘Take your **staff** and throw it down before Pharaoh,’ and it will become a snake.” So **Moses** and **Aaron** went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. **Aaron** threw his **staff** down in front of Pharaoh and his officials, and it became a snake. Pharaoh then summoned wise men and sorcerers, and the Egyptian magicians also did the same things by their secret arts: Each one threw down his **staff** and it became a snake. But **Aaron’s staff** swallowed up their **staves**. Yet Pharaoh’s heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said. Then the LORD said to **Moses**, “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go. Go to Pharaoh in the morning as he goes out to the water. Wait on the bank of the Nile to meet him, and take in your hand the **staff** that was changed into a snake. Then say to him, ‘The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has sent me to say to you: Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the desert. But until now you have not listened. This is what the LORD says: By this you will know that I am the LORD: With the **staff** that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. The fish in the Nile will die, and the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink its water.’” The LORD said to **Moses**, “Tell **Aaron**, ‘Take your **staff** and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt--over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs’--and they will turn to blood. Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in the wooden buckets and stone jars.” **Moses** and **Aaron** did just as the LORD had commanded. He raised his **staff** in the presence of Pharaoh and his officials and struck the water of the Nile, and all the water was changed into blood.

Exodus 8:5-6 Then the LORD said to **Moses**, “Tell **Aaron**, ‘Stretch out your hand with your **staff** over the streams and canals and ponds, and make frogs come up on the land of Egypt.’” So **Aaron** stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land.

Exodus 8:16-17 Then the LORD said to **Moses**, “Tell **Aaron**, ‘Stretch out your **staff** and strike the dust of the ground,’ and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats.” They did this, and when **Aaron** stretched out his hand with the **staff** and struck the dust of the ground, gnats came upon men and animals. All the dust throughout the land of Egypt became gnats.

Exodus 17:4-6 Then **Moses** cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The LORD answered **Moses**, “Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the **staff** with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.”

Numbers 17:1-10 The LORD said to **Moses**, “Speak to the Israelites and get twelve staffs from them, one from the leader of each of their ancestral tribes. Write the name of each man on his staff. On the **staff** of Levi write **Aaron’s** name, for there must be one **staff** for the head of each ancestral tribe. Place them in the Tent of Meeting in front of the Testimony, where I meet with you. The **staff** belonging to the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you by the Israelites.” So **Moses** spoke to the Israelites, and their leaders gave him twelve **staffs**, one for the leader of each of their ancestral tribes, and **Aaron’s staff** was among them. **Moses** placed the **staffs** before the LORD in the Tent of the Testimony. The next day **Moses** entered the Tent of the Testimony and saw that **Aaron’s staff**, which represented the house of Levi, had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds. Then **Moses** brought out all the **staffs** from the LORD’s presence to all the Israelites. They looked at them, and each man took his own **staff**. The LORD said to **Moses**, “Put back **Aaron’s staff** in front of the Testimony, to be kept as a sign to the rebellious. This will put an end to their grumbling against me, so that they will not die.”

Numbers 20:6-11 **Moses** and **Aaron** went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. The LORD said to **Moses**, “Take the **staff**, and you and your brother **Aaron** gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.” So **Moses** took the **staff** from the LORD’s presence, just as he commanded him. He and **Aaron** gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and **Moses** said to them, “Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?” Then **Moses** raised his arm and struck the rock twice with **his staff**. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

Hebrews 9:3-4 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, **Aaron's staff** that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.

Size of the Staff

Aaron's staff was in the Ark of the covenant which was 2 ½ cubits by 1 ½ cubits by 1 ½ cubits. Since one cubit is roughly 18 inches this corresponds with 45" by 27" by 27." The longest staff that could fit in such a box according geometric calculations is 59 inches long or just under 5 feet.

Note: The Rod of Aaron was changed to a living almond branch with buds and almonds. Consider the following verses related to almonds.

Exodus 25:31-37 "Make a lampstand of pure gold and hammer it out, base and shaft; its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms shall be of one piece with it. Six branches are to extend from the sides of the lampstand--three on one side and three on the other. Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms are to be on one branch, three on the next branch, and the same for all six branches extending from the lampstand. And on the lampstand there are to be four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms. One bud shall be under the first pair of branches extending from the lampstand, a second bud under the second pair, and a third bud under the third pair--six branches in all. The buds and branches shall all be of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold. "Then make its seven lamps and set them up on it so that they light the space in front of it.

Jeremiah 1:11-12 The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you see, Jeremiah?" "I see the branch of an almond tree," I replied. The LORD said to me, "You have seen correctly, for I am watching to see that my word is fulfilled."

Luz means almonds. Luz was the name of the city later called Bethel which figured prominently in the history of Israel.

The Darkness of the Holy of Holies prefigured the Darkness on the Cross

According to Easton Illustrated Dictionary the Holy of holies was the second or interior portion of the tabernacle. It was left in total darkness. No one was permitted to enter it except [the high priest, and that only once a year. It contained the ark of the covenant only (Ex. 25:10-16). It was in the form of a perfect cube of 20 cubits.

Isaiah 50:3 | clothe the sky with darkness and make sackcloth its covering.

Isaiah 60:1 “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
60:2 See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

Matthew 27:45 From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land.

Mark 15:33 At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour.

Luke 23:44-45 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Note: At the time of the Second Temple the Ark was no longer in the Temple. The foundation stone in the Holy of Holies substituted for the mercy seat of the Ark during the day of Atonement. We know the Ark was present during the time of Josiah:

2 Chronicles 35:1-3 Josiah celebrated the Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem, and the Passover lamb was slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the first month. He appointed the priests to their duties and encouraged them in the service of the LORD's temple. He said to the Levites, who instructed all Israel and who had been consecrated to the LORD: “Put the sacred *Ark* in the temple that Solomon son of David king of Israel built. It is not to be carried about on your shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and his people Israel.

It seems apparent that by the time of Jeremiah that the Ark had been taken or destroyed:

Jeremiah 3:14-16 “Return, faithless people,” declares the LORD, “for I am your husband. I will choose you—one from a town and two from a clan--and bring you to Zion. Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land,” declares the LORD, “men will no longer say, ‘The *Ark* of the covenant of the LORD.’ It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made.

In the Holy Place were, to the south, the golden candlestick; to the north, the table of shewbread; and beyond them the altar of incense, near the entrance to the Most Holy. The latter was now quite empty, a large stone, on which the high-priest sprinkled the blood on the Day of Atonement, occupying the place where the ark with the mercy-seat had stood. — **Edersheim's The Temple -- Its Ministry and Services.**

In the first Temple the ark of God had stood there with the ‘mercy-seat’ over-shadowing it; above it, the visible presence of Jehovah in the cloud of the *Shechinah*, and on either side the outspread wings of the cherubim; and the high-priest had placed the censer between the staves of

the ark. But in the Temple of Herod there was neither *Shechinah* nor ark--all was empty; and the high-priest rested his censer on a large stone, called the 'foundation-stone.' He now most carefully emptied the incense into his hand, and threw it on the coals of the censer, as far from himself as possible, and so waited till the smoke had filled the Most Holy Place. - **Edersheim's The Temple -- Its Ministry and Services**

Wars of the Jews, Book V, Chapter 5, Verse 5. When any persons entered into the temple, its floor received them. This part of the temple therefore was in height sixty cubits, and its length the same; whereas its breadth was but twenty cubits: but still that sixty cubits in length was divided again, and the first part of it was cut off at forty cubits, and had in it three things that were very wonderful and famous among all mankind, the candlestick, the table [of shew-bread], and the altar of incense. Now the seven lamps signified the seven planets; for so many there were springing out of the candlestick. Now the twelve loaves that were upon the table signified the circle of the zodiac and the year; but the altar of incense, by its thirteen kinds of sweet-smelling spices with which the sea replenished it, signified that God is the possessor of all things that are both in the uninhabitable and habitable parts of the earth, and that they are all to be dedicated to his use. ***But the inmost part of the temple of all was of twenty cubits. This was also separated from the outer part by a veil. In this there was nothing at all.*** It was inaccessible and inviolable, and not to be seen by any; and was called the Holy of Holies. Now, about the sides of the lower part of the temple, there were little houses, with passages out of one into another; there were a great many of them, and they were of three stories high; there were also entrances on each side into them from the gate of the temple. But the superior part of the temple had no such little houses any further, because the temple was there narrower, and forty cubits higher, and of a smaller body than the lower parts of it. Thus we collect that the whole height, including the sixty cubits from the floor, amounted to a hundred cubits.

Note:

The Rod of Aaron belonged to the priests. The Rod of Aaron stood for the cross. It was the priests who had Jesus crucified.

The following photograph of the loot from the Temple demonstrates that there was no Ark of the Covenant in the Temple. The most significant item is the seven headed candlestick and the trumpets used to call people to worship.



Other Verses related to the Ark

Exodus 26:34 Put the atonement cover on the *Ark* of the *Testimony* in the Most Holy Place.

Exodus 37:1-9 Bezalel made the *Ark* of acacia wood--two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. He overlaid it with pure gold, both inside and out, and made a gold molding around it. He cast four gold rings for it and fastened them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. Then he made poles of acacia wood and overlaid them with gold. And he inserted the poles into the rings on the sides of the *Ark* to carry it. He made the atonement cover of pure gold--two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. Then he made two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the cover. He made one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; at the two ends he made them of one piece with the cover. The cherubim had their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The cherubim faced each other, looking toward the cover.

Exodus 40:20-21 He took the *Testimony* and placed it in the *Ark*, attached the poles to the *Ark* and put the atonement cover over it. Then he brought the *Ark* into the tabernacle and hung the shielding curtain and shielded the *Ark* of the *Testimony*, as the LORD commanded him.

Leviticus 16:2-34 The LORD said to Moses: "Tell your brother Aaron not to come whenever he chooses into the Most Holy Place behind the curtain in front of the atonement cover on the *Ark*, or else he will die, because I appear in the cloud over the atonement cover. "This is how Aaron is to enter the sanctuary area: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. He is to put on the sacred linen tunic, with linen undergarments next to his body; he is to tie the linen sash around him and put on the linen turban. These are sacred garments; so he must bathe himself with water before he puts them on. From the Israelite community he is to take two male goats for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. "Aaron is to offer the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household. Then he is to take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. He is to cast lots for the two goats--one lot for the LORD and the other for the scapegoat. Aaron shall bring the goat whose lot falls to the LORD and sacrifice it for a sin offering. But the goat chosen by lot as the scapegoat shall be presented alive before the LORD to be used for making atonement by sending it into the desert as a scapegoat. "Aaron shall bring the bull for his own sin offering to make atonement for himself and his household, and he is to slaughter the bull for his own sin offering. He is to take a censer full of burning coals from the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground fragrant incense and take them behind the curtain. He is to put the incense on the fire before the LORD, and the smoke of the incense will conceal the atonement cover above the *Testimony*, so that he will not die. He is to take some of the bull's blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the atonement cover. "He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the

people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it. In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been. He is to do the same for the Tent of Meeting, which is among them in the midst of their uncleanness. No one is to be in the Tent of Meeting from the time Aaron goes in to make atonement in the Most Holy Place until he comes out, having made atonement for himself, his household and the whole community of Israel. "Then he shall come out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it. He shall take some of the bull's blood and some of the goat's blood and put it on all the horns of the altar. He shall sprinkle some of the blood on it with his finger seven times to cleanse it and to consecrate it from the uncleanness of the Israelites. "When Aaron has finished making atonement for the Most Holy Place, the Tent of Meeting and the altar, he shall bring forward the live goat. He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites--all their sins--and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task. The goat will carry on itself all their sins to a solitary place; and the man shall release it in the desert. "Then Aaron is to go into the Tent of Meeting and take off the linen garments he put on before he entered the Most Holy Place, and he is to leave them there. He shall bathe himself with water in a holy place and put on his regular garments. Then he shall come out and sacrifice the burnt offering for himself and the burnt offering for the people, to make atonement for himself and for the people. He shall also burn the fat of the sin offering on the altar. "The man who releases the goat as a scapegoat must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may come into the camp. The bull and the goat for the sin offerings, whose blood was brought into the Most Holy Place to make atonement, must be taken outside the camp; their hides, flesh and offal are to be burned up. The man who burns them must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water; afterward he may come into the camp. "This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: On the tenth day of the seventh month you must deny yourselves and not do any work--whether native-born or an alien living among you-- because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins. It is a sabbath of rest, and you must deny yourselves; it is a lasting ordinance. The priest who is anointed and ordained to succeed his father as high priest is to make atonement. He is to put on the sacred linen garments and make atonement for the Most Holy Place, for the Tent of Meeting and the altar, and for the priests and all the people of the community. "This is to be a lasting ordinance for you: Atonement is to be made once a year for all the sins of the Israelites." And it was done, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Numbers 4:5-6 When the camp is to move, Aaron and his sons are to go in and take down the shielding curtain and cover the *ark of the Testimony* with it. Then they are to cover this with hides of sea cows, spread a cloth of solid blue over that and put the poles in place.

Numbers 7:89 When Moses entered the Tent of Meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from between the two cherubim above the atonement cover on the *Ark of the Testimony*. And he spoke with him.

Numbers 10:33-36 So they set out from the mountain of the LORD and traveled for three days. The *Ark of the covenant of the LORD* went before them during those three days to find them a place to rest. The cloud of the LORD was over them by day when they set out from the camp. Whenever the *Ark* set out, Moses said, "Rise up, O LORD! May your enemies be scattered; may your foes flee before you." Whenever it came to rest, he said, "Return, O LORD, to the countless thousands of Israel."

Leviticus 14:44-45 Nevertheless, in their presumption they went up toward the high hill country, though neither Moses nor the *Ark of the LORD's covenant* moved from the camp. Then the Amalekites and Canaanites who lived in that hill country came down and attacked them and beat them down all the way to Hormah.

Exodus 31:18 When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the *Testimony*, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

Deuteronomy 10:1-5 At that time the LORD said to me, "Chisel out two stone tablets like the first ones and come up to me on the mountain. Also make a wooden chest. I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. Then you are to put them in the chest." So I made the *Ark* out of acacia wood and chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones, and I went up on the mountain with the two tablets in my hands. The LORD wrote on these tablets what he had written before, the Ten Commandments he had proclaimed to you on the mountain, out of the fire, on the day of the assembly. And the LORD gave them to me. Then I came back down the mountain and put the tablets in the *Ark* I had made, as the LORD commanded me, and they are there now.

Deuteronomy 31:24-26 After Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end, he gave this command to the Levites who carried the *Ark of the covenant of the LORD*: "Take this Book of the Law and place it beside the *Ark of the covenant of the LORD your God*. There it will remain as a witness against you.

Joshua 3:2-17 After three days the officers went throughout the camp, giving orders to the people: "When you see the *Ark of the covenant of the LORD your God*, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between you and the *Ark*; do not go near it." Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you." Joshua said to the priests, "Take up the *Ark of the covenant* and pass on ahead of the people." So they took it up and went ahead of them. And the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I

am with you as I was with Moses. Tell the priests who carry the *Ark* of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’” Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. See, the *Ark* of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. And as soon as the priests who carry the *Ark* of the LORD--the Lord of all the earth--set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.” So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the *Ark* of the covenant went ahead of them. Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the *Ark* reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. The priests who carried the *Ark* of the covenant of the LORD stood firm on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

Joshua 4:1-18 When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua, “Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan from right where the priests stood and to carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight.” So Joshua called together the twelve men he had appointed from the Israelites, one from each tribe, and said to them, “Go over before the *Ark* of the LORD your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the *Ark* of the covenant of the LORD. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever.” So the Israelites did as Joshua commanded them. They took twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, as the LORD had told Joshua; and they carried them over with them to their camp, where they put them down. Joshua set up the twelve stones that had been in the middle of the Jordan at the spot where the priests who carried the *Ark* of the covenant had stood. And they are there to this day. Now the priests who carried the *Ark* remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the LORD had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over, and as soon as all of them had crossed, the *Ark* of the LORD and the priests came to the other side while the people watched. The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, armed, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them. About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the LORD to the plains of Jericho for war. That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they revered him all the days of his life, just as they had revered Moses.

Then the LORD said to Joshua, “Command the priests carrying the *Ark of the Testimony* to come up out of the Jordan.” So Joshua commanded the priests, “Come up out of the Jordan.” And the priests came up out of the river carrying the *Ark of the covenant of the LORD*. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

Joshua 6:2-20 Then the LORD said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the *Ark*. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in.” So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the *Ark of the covenant of the LORD* and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” And he ordered the people, “Advance! March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the *Ark of the LORD*.” When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the *Ark of the LORD’s covenant* followed them. The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the *Ark*. All this time the trumpets were sounding. But Joshua had commanded the people, “Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!” So he had the *Ark of the LORD* carried around the city, circling it once. Then the people returned to camp and spent the night there. Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the *Ark of the LORD*. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the *Ark of the LORD* and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the *Ark of the LORD*, while the trumpets kept sounding. So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury.” When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city.

1 Samuel 3:2-9 One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. 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. Then the LORD

called Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am." And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel a third time, and Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy. So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'"

¹ Samuel 4:2-7:2 The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield. When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the LORD bring defeat upon us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the *Ark* of the LORD's covenant from Shiloh, so that it may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies." So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the *Ark* of the covenant of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the *Ark* of the covenant of God. When the *Ark* of the LORD's covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook. Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, "What's all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?" When they learned that the *Ark* of the LORD had come into the camp, the Philistines were afraid. "A god has come into the camp," they said. "We're in trouble! Nothing like this has happened before. Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the desert. Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!" So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers. The *Ark* of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died. That same day a Benjamite ran from the battle line and went to Shiloh, his clothes torn and dust on his head. When he arrived, there was Eli sitting on his chair by the side of the road, watching, because his heart feared for the *Ark* of God. When the man entered the town and told what had happened, the whole town sent up a cry. Eli heard the outcry and asked, "What is the meaning of this uproar?" The man hurried over to Eli, who was ninety-eight years old and whose eyes were set so that he could not see. He told Eli, "I have just come from the battle line; I fled from it this very day." Eli asked, "What happened, my son?" The man who brought the news replied, "Israel fled before the Philistines, and the army has suffered heavy losses. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the *Ark* of God has been captured." When he mentioned the *Ark* of God, Eli fell backward off his chair by the side of the gate. His neck was broken and he died, for he was an old man and heavy. He had led Israel forty years. His daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and near the time of delivery. When she heard the news that the *Ark* of God had been captured and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she went into labor and gave birth, but was overcome by her labor pains. As she was dying, the

women attending her said, "Don't despair; you have given birth to a son." But she did not respond or pay any attention. She named the boy Ichabod, saying, "The glory has departed from Israel"--because of the capture of the *Ark* of God and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband. She said, "The glory has departed from Israel, for the *Ark* of God has been captured." After the Philistines had captured the *Ark* of God, they took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. Then they carried the *Ark* into Dagon's temple and set it beside Dagon. When the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the *Ark* of the LORD! They took Dagon and put him back in his place. But the following morning when they rose, there was Dagon, fallen on his face on the ground before the *Ark* of the LORD! His head and hands had been broken off and were lying on the threshold; only his body remained. That is why to this day neither the priests of Dagon nor any others who enter Dagon's temple at Ashdod step on the threshold. The LORD's hand was heavy upon the people of Ashdod and its vicinity; he brought devastation upon them and afflicted them with tumors. When the men of Ashdod saw what was happening, they said, "The *Ark* of the god of Israel must not stay here with us, because his hand is heavy upon us and upon Dagon our god." So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and asked them, "What shall we do with the *Ark* of the god of Israel?" They answered, "Have the *Ark* of the god of Israel moved to Gath." So they moved the *Ark* of the God of Israel. But after they had moved it, the LORD's hand was against that city, throwing it into a great panic. He afflicted the people of the city, both young and old, with an outbreak of tumors. So they sent the *Ark* of God to Ekron. As the *Ark* of God was entering Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, "They have brought the *Ark* of the god of Israel around to us to kill us and our people." So they called together all the rulers of the Philistines and said, "Send the *Ark* of the god of Israel away; let it go back to its own place, or it will kill us and our people." For death had filled the city with panic; God's hand was very heavy upon it. Those who did not die were afflicted with tumors, and the outcry of the city went up to heaven. When the *Ark* of the LORD had been in Philistine territory seven months, the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, "What shall we do with the *Ark* of the LORD? Tell us how we should send it back to its place." They answered, "If you return the *Ark* of the god of Israel, do not send it away empty, but by all means send a guilt offering to him. Then you will be healed, and you will know why his hand has not been lifted from you." The Philistines asked, "What guilt offering should we send to him?" They replied, "Five gold tumors and five gold rats, according to the number of the Philistine rulers, because the same plague has struck both you and your rulers. Make models of the tumors and of the rats that are destroying the country, and pay honor to Israel's god. Perhaps he will lift his hand from you and your gods and your land. Why do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh did? When he treated them harshly, did they not send the Israelites out so they could go on their way? "Now then, get a new cart ready, with two cows that have calved and have never been yoked. Hitch the cows to the cart, but take their calves away and pen them up. Take the *Ark* of the LORD and put it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending back to him as a guilt offering. Send it on its way, but keep watching it. If it goes up to its own territory, toward Beth Shemesh, then the LORD has brought this great

disaster on us. But if it does not, then we will know that it was not his hand that struck us and that it happened to us by chance.” So they did this. They took two such cows and hitched them to the cart and penned up their calves. They placed the *Ark* of the LORD on the cart and along with it the chest containing the gold rats and the models of the tumors. Then the cows went straight up toward Beth Shemesh, keeping on the road and lowing all the way; they did not turn to the right or to the left. The rulers of the Philistines followed them as far as the border of Beth Shemesh. Now the people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting their wheat in the valley, and when they looked up and saw the *Ark*, they rejoiced at the sight. The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and there it stopped beside a large rock. The people chopped up the wood of the cart and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD. The Levites took down the *Ark* of the LORD, together with the chest containing the gold objects, and placed them on the large rock. On that day the people of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices to the LORD. The five rulers of the Philistines saw all this and then returned that same day to Ekron. These are the gold tumors the Philistines sent as a guilt offering to the LORD—one each for Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron. And the number of the gold rats was according to the number of Philistine towns belonging to the five rulers--the fortified towns with their country villages. The large rock, on which they set the *Ark* of the LORD, is a witness to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh. But God struck down some of the men of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they had looked into the *Ark* of the LORD. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them, and the men of Beth Shemesh asked, “Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God? To whom will the *Ark* go up from here?” Then they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath Jearim, saying, “The Philistines have returned the *Ark* of the LORD. Come down and take it up to your place.” So the men of Kiriath Jearim came and took up the *Ark* of the LORD. They took it to Abinadab’s house on the hill and consecrated Eleazar his son to guard the *Ark* of the LORD. It was a long time, twenty years in all, that the *Ark* remained at Kiriath Jearim, and all the people of Israel mourned and sought after the LORD.

¹ Samuel 14:16-17 Saul’s lookouts at Gibeah in Benjamin saw the army melting away in all directions. Then Saul said to the men who were with him, “Mustering the forces and see who has left us.” When they did, it was Jonathan and his armor-bearer who were not there. ^{14:18} Saul said to Ahijah, “Bring the *Ark* of God.” (At that time it was with the Israelites.)

² Samuel 6:2-18 He and all his men set out from Baalah of Judah to bring up from there the *Ark* of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim that are on the *Ark*. They set the *Ark* of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart with the *Ark* of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals. When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of

the *Ark* of God, because the oxen stumbled. The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the *Ark* of God. Then David was angry because the LORD's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah. David was afraid of the LORD that day and said, "How can the *Ark* of the LORD ever come to me?" He was not willing to take the *Ark* of the LORD to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. The *Ark* of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the LORD blessed him and his entire household. Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the *Ark* of God." So David went down and brought up the *Ark* of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. When those who were carrying the *Ark* of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the *Ark* of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets. As the *Ark* of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart. They brought the *Ark* of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD. After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty.

¹ Chronicles 13:2-14 He then said to the whole assembly of Israel, "If it seems good to you and if it is the will of the LORD our God, let us send word far and wide to the rest of our brothers throughout the territories of Israel, and also to the priests and Levites who are with them in their towns and pasturelands, to come and join us. ^{13:3} Let us bring the *Ark* of our God back to us, for we did not inquire of it during the reign of Saul." ^{13:4} The whole assembly agreed to do this, because it seemed right to all the people. ^{13:5} So David assembled all the Israelites, from the Shihor River in Egypt to Lebo Hamath, to bring the *Ark* of God from Kiriath Jearim. ^{13:6} David and all the Israelites with him went to Baalah of Judah (Kiriath Jearim) to bring up from there the *Ark* of God the LORD, who is enthroned between the cherubim--the *Ark* that is called by the Name. ^{13:7} They moved the *Ark* of God from Abinadab's house on a new cart, with Uzzah and Ahio guiding it. ^{13:8} David and all the Israelites were celebrating with all their might before God, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, cymbals and trumpets. ^{13:9} When they came to the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the *Ark*, because the oxen stumbled. ^{13:10} The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he had put his hand on the *Ark*. So he died there before God. ^{13:11} Then David was angry because the LORD's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah. ^{13:12} David was afraid of God that day and asked, "How can I ever bring the *Ark* of God to me?" ^{13:13} He did not take the *Ark* to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. ^{13:14} The *Ark* of God remained with the family of Obed-Edom in his house for three months, and the LORD blessed his household and everything he had.

¹ Chronicles 15:1-16:2 After David had constructed buildings for himself in the City of David, he prepared a place for the *Ark* of God and pitched a tent for it. Then David said, "No one but the Levites may carry the *Ark* of God, because the LORD chose them to carry the *Ark* of the LORD and to minister before him forever." David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem to bring up the *Ark* of the LORD to the place he had prepared for it. He called together the descendants of Aaron and the Levites: From the descendants of Kohath, Uriel the leader and 120 relatives; from the descendants of Merari, Asaiah the leader and 220 relatives; from the descendants of Gershon, Joel the leader and 130 relatives; from the descendants of Elizaphan, Shemaiah the leader and 200 relatives; from the descendants of Hebron, Eliel the leader and 80 relatives; from the descendants of Uzziel, Amminadab the leader and 112 relatives. Then David summoned Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and Uriel, Asaiah, Joel, Shemaiah, Eliel and Amminadab the Levites. He said to them, "You are the heads of the Levitical families; you and your fellow Levites are to consecrate yourselves and bring up the *Ark* of the LORD, the God of Israel, to the place I have prepared for it. It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the LORD our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way." So the priests and Levites consecrated themselves in order to bring up the *Ark* of the LORD, the God of Israel. And the Levites carried the *Ark* of God with the poles on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the word of the LORD. David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brothers as singers to sing joyful songs, accompanied by musical instruments: lyres, harps and cymbals. So the Levites appointed Heman son of Joel; from his brothers, Asaph son of Berekiah; and from their brothers the Merarites, Ethan son of Kushaiah; and with them their brothers next in rank: Zechariah, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom and Jeiel, the gatekeepers. The musicians Heman, Asaph and Ethan were to sound the bronze cymbals; Zechariah, Aziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Maaseiah and Benaiah were to play the lyres according to alamoth, and Mattithiah, Eliphelehu, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, Jeiel and Azaziah were to play the harps, directing according to sheminith. Kenaniah the head Levite was in charge of the singing; that was his responsibility because he was skillful at it. Berehiah and Elkanah were to be doorkeepers for the *Ark*. Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah and Eliezer the priests were to blow trumpets before the *Ark* of God. Obed-Edom and Jehiah were also to be doorkeepers for the *Ark*. So David and the elders of Israel and the commanders of units of a thousand went to bring up the *Ark* of the covenant of the LORD from the house of Obed-Edom, with rejoicing. Because God had helped the Levites who were carrying the *Ark* of the covenant of the LORD, seven bulls and seven rams were sacrificed. Now David was clothed in a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who were carrying the *Ark*, and as were the singers, and Kenaniah, who was in charge of the singing of the choirs. David also wore a linen ephod. So all Israel brought up the *Ark* of the covenant of the LORD with shouts, with the sounding of rams' horns and trumpets, and of cymbals, and the playing of lyres and harps. As the *Ark* of the covenant of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched

from a window. And when she saw King David dancing and celebrating, she despised him in her heart. They brought the *Ark* of God and set it inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and they presented burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before God. After David had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD. Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each Israelite man and woman. He appointed some of the Levites to minister before the *Ark* of the LORD, to make petition, to give thanks, and to praise the LORD, the God of Israel: Asaph was the chief, Zechariah second, then Jeiel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Mattithiah, Eliab, Benaiah, Obed-Edom and Jeiel. They were to play the lyres and harps, Asaph was to sound the cymbals, and Benaiah and Jahaziel the priests were to blow the trumpets regularly before the *Ark* of the covenant of God.

^{2 Samuel 15:24-29} Zadok was there, too, and all the Levites who were with him were carrying the *Ark* of the covenant of God. They set down the *Ark* of God, and Abiathar offered sacrifices until all the people had finished leaving the city. Then the king said to Zadok, "Take the *Ark* of God back into the city. If I find favor in the LORD's eyes, he will bring me back and let me see it and his dwelling place again. But if he says, 'I am not pleased with you,' then I am ready; let him do to me whatever seems good to him." The king also said to Zadok the priest, "Aren't you a seer? Go back to the city in peace, with your son Ahimaaz and Jonathan son of Abiathar. You and Abiathar take your two sons with you. I will wait at the fords in the desert until word comes from you to inform me." So Zadok and Abiathar took the *Ark* of God back to Jerusalem and stayed there.

^{1 Kings 3:15} Then Solomon awoke--and he realized it had been a dream. He returned to Jerusalem, stood before the *Ark* of the Lord's covenant and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. Then he gave a feast for all his court.

^{1 Kings 6:14-19} So Solomon built the temple and completed it. He lined its interior walls with cedar boards, paneling them from the floor of the temple to the ceiling, and covered the floor of the temple with planks of pine. He partitioned off twenty cubits at the rear of the temple with cedar boards from floor to ceiling to form within the temple an inner sanctuary, the Most Holy Place. The main hall in front of this room was forty cubits long. The inside of the temple was cedar, carved with gourds and open flowers. Everything was cedar; no stone was to be seen. He prepared the inner sanctuary within the temple to set the *Ark* of the covenant of the LORD there.

^{1 Kings 8:1-9} Then King Solomon summoned into his presence at Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the *Ark* of the LORD's covenant from Zion, the City of David. All the men of Israel came together to King Solomon at the time of the festival in the month of Ethanim, the seventh month. When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the priests took up the *Ark*, and they brought up the *Ark* of the LORD and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests and Levites carried them up, and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the *Ark*, sacrificing so many

sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted. The priests then brought the *Ark* of the LORD's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the *Ark* and overshadowed the *Ark* and its carrying poles. These poles were so long that their ends could be seen from the Holy Place in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today. There was nothing in the *Ark* except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

² Chronicles 5:2-10 Then Solomon summoned to Jerusalem the elders of Israel, all the heads of the tribes and the chiefs of the Israelite families, to bring up the *Ark* of the LORD's covenant from Zion, the City of David. And all the men of Israel came together to the king at the time of the festival in the seventh month. When all the elders of Israel had arrived, the Levites took up the *Ark*, and they brought up the *Ark* and the Tent of Meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The priests, who were Levites, carried them up; and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the *Ark*, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted. The priests then brought the *Ark* of the LORD's covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the *Ark* and covered the *Ark* and its carrying poles. These poles were so long that their ends, extending from the *Ark*, could be seen from in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today. There was nothing in the *Ark* except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

¹ Kings 8:20b-21 I have built the temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel. I have provided a place there for the *Ark*, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with our fathers when he brought them out of Egypt."

¹ Chronicles 6:31 These are the men David put in charge of the music in the house of the LORD after the *Ark* came to rest there. ^{6:32} They ministered with music before the tabernacle, the Tent of Meeting, until Solomon built the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem. They performed their duties according to the regulations laid down for them.

² Chronicles 1:2-6 Then Solomon spoke to all Israel--to the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, to the judges and to all the leaders in Israel, the heads of families-- and Solomon and the whole assembly went to the high place at Gibeon, for God's Tent of Meeting was there, which Moses the LORD's servant had made in the desert. Now David had brought up the *Ark* of God from Kiriath Jearim to the place he had prepared for it, because he had pitched a tent for it in Jerusalem. But the bronze altar that Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, had made was in Gibeon in front of the tabernacle of the LORD; so Solomon and the assembly inquired of him there. Solomon

went up to the bronze altar before the LORD in the Tent of Meeting and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

2 Chronicles 8:11 Solomon brought Pharaoh's daughter up from the City of David to the palace he had built for her, for he said, "My wife must not live in the palace of David king of Israel, because the places the *Ark* of the LORD has entered are holy."

2 Chronicles 35:1-3 Josiah celebrated the Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem, and the Passover lamb was slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the first month. He appointed the priests to their duties and encouraged them in the service of the LORD's temple. He said to the Levites, who instructed all Israel and who had been consecrated to the LORD: "Put the sacred *Ark* in the temple that Solomon son of David king of Israel built. It is not to be carried about on your shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and his people Israel.

Psalms 78:60-61 He abandoned the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent he had set up among men. He sent [the *Ark* of] his might into captivity, his splendor into the hands of the enemy.

Psalms 132:1-18 O LORD, remember David and all the hardships he endured. He swore an oath to the LORD and made a vow to the Mighty One of Jacob: "I will not enter my house or go to my bed-- I will allow no sleep to my eyes, no slumber to my eyelids, till I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob." We heard it in Ephrathah, we came upon it in the fields of Jaar : "Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool-- arise, O LORD, and come to your resting place, you and the *Ark* of your might. May your priests be clothed with righteousness; may your saints sing for joy." For the sake of David your servant, do not reject your anointed one. The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath that he will not revoke: "One of your own descendants I will place on your throne-- if your sons keep my covenant and the statutes I teach them, then their sons will sit on your throne for ever and ever." For the LORD has chosen Zion , he has desired it for his dwelling: "This is my resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it-- I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor will I satisfy with food. I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her saints will ever sing for joy. "Here I will make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for my anointed one. I will clothe his enemies with shame, but the crown on his head will be resplendent."

Isaiah 8:13-9:2 The LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, he is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread, and he will be a sanctuary; but for both houses of Israel he will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare. Many of them will stumble; they will fall and be broken, they will be snared and captured." Bind up the *testimony* and seal up the law among my disciples. I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob. I will put my trust in him. Here am I, and the children the LORD has given me. We are signs and symbols in Israel from the LORD Almighty, who dwells on Mount Zion. When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why

consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the *testimony*! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and dArkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter dArkness. Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan-- The people walking in dArkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Jeremiah 3:14-16 "Return, faithless people," declares the LORD, "for I am your husband. I will choose you--one from a town and two from a clan--and bring you to Zion. Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding. In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land," declares the LORD, "men will no longer say, 'The *Ark* of the covenant of the LORD.' It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made.

Hebrews 9:3-5 Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered *Ark* of the covenant. This *Ark* contained the *gold jar of manna*, *Aaron's staff that had budded*, and the *stone tablets* of the covenant. Above the *Ark* were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss these things in detail now.

Revelation 11:15-19 The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever." And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: "We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great-- and for destroying those who destroy the earth." Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the *Ark* of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a great hailstorm.

Numbers 17:1-10 The LORD said to Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and get twelve staffs from them, one from the leader of each of their ancestral tribes. Write the name of each man on his staff. On the staff of Levi write Aaron's name, for there must be one staff for the head of each ancestral tribe. Place them in the Tent of Meeting in front of the *Testimony*, where I meet with you. The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you by the Israelites." So Moses

spoke to the Israelites, and their leaders gave him twelve staffs, one for the leader of each of their ancestral tribes, and Aaron's staff was among them. Moses placed the staffs before the LORD in the Tent of the *Testimony*. The next day Moses entered the Tent of the *Testimony* and saw that Aaron's staff, which represented the house of Levi, had not only sprouted but had budded, blossomed and produced almonds. Then Moses brought out all the staffs from the LORD's presence to all the Israelites. They looked at them, and each man took his own staff. The LORD said to Moses, "Put back Aaron's staff in front of the *Testimony*, to be kept as a sign to the rebellious. This will put an end to their grumbling against me, so that they will not die."

Numbers 20:6-11 Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. The LORD said to Moses, "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink." So Moses took the staff from the LORD's presence, just as he commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank.

Exodus 16:32-36 Moses said, "This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Take an omer of *manna* and keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread I gave you to eat in the desert when I brought you out of Egypt.'" So Moses said to Aaron, "Take a jar and put an omer of *manna* in it. Then place it before the LORD to be kept for the generations to come." As the LORD commanded Moses, Aaron put the *manna* in front of the *Testimony*, that it might be kept. The Israelites ate *manna* forty years, until they came to a land that was settled; they ate *manna* until they reached the border of Canaan. (An omer is one tenth of an ephah.)

John 6:31-35 Our forefathers ate the *manna* in the desert; as it is written: 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus said to them, "*I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*" "Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "*I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.*"

Revelation 2:17 *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.*