

**Tabernacle Treasures – The Ark of the Covenant – Presence – Exo. 25:8-16**

As we have been studying, the Tabernacle had 3 basic divisions: The Outer Court (94%), the Inner Court (The Holy Place, 4%), and the Holiest Place (The Holy of Holies, 2%). The veil has been rent and we have access into the Holiest! Tonight, we will look at the Ark of the Covenant, which represents the Presence of God! The Ark and the Mercy Seat were the first things given to Moses for them to build, as they were the first in importance. Without these, the entire service of the Tabernacle would be meaningless. **All begins with the Ark, which was placed in the Holiest, because in revelation, God begins from Himself, moving toward man; as in approach, the believer begins from himself, moving toward God. In the Outer Court was the light of nature; in the Holy Place was the light of the Candlestick; and in the Holiest was the unveiled presence of God!**

1. **The Faith it will Carry – Joshua 3:1-17** – The children of Israel were at the end of the wilderness wanderings and were encamped on the east side of the Jordan River. Joshua commanded the people to let the ark go before them by a space of 2,000 cubits (Josh. 3:4), which is 3,000 feet. This was so they knew the path to walk in! Joshua commanded the priests to go and stand still in Jordan, and when the priests, carrying the Ark, dipped their feet in *the brim of the water*, the waters were divided for all to cross over (Josh. 3:15-17). They were only required to get their feet wet before God would perform the miracle! Too many today are unwilling to step out by faith, but if you do, God will do the rest. How did they have such faith? They were bearing the presence of God on their shoulders! They knew that if God was with them, they weren't going to drown! Mat. 14:29; Heb. 11:6. God wants us to step out by faith! **If we don't have the presence of God in our daily lives, our faith will become weak; but if we have the presence of God, everything else will fall into place!** Josh. 1:1-3. *Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you.* The whole land was theirs by gift divine, but what God gave, they had to claim as rightfully theirs. It is one thing to hold the title-deed to an estate, but it is another thing to take up residence there and to feast on the fruits which it produces! Eph. 1:3. Into that goodly land our divine Joshua, the Lord Jesus Christ, has taken us by faith in Him. But, just as Israel after entering the land had to conquer it, step by step – today, Jericho, tomorrow Ai, and so on – so must it be with us (Col. 2:9-10; Eph. 3:8). **Faith must claim what grace so freely provides!** It is possible for a man to have a valuable library, and yet be the most ignorant man there is – if he doesn't take advantage of the books he has!
2. **The Fight it will Conquer – Joshua 6:1-21** – When the children of Israel crossed Jordan, they faced the Battle at Jericho. As they marched by faith 6 times in 6 days, and 7 times on the 7th day around the walls, the Ark compassed the City. The presence of God was with them, and they obeyed God's commandment to shout, so the walls fell flat! **There is victory in the presence of God!** Exo. 33:14-15. Many people have tried to go places where God's presence didn't lead them to go. There will be no victory this way. 1 Sam. 17:45. You can conquer giants when you face them with the Presence of God on your side! Where God leads, God protects!
3. **The Fame it will Cause – 1 Sam. 5:1-4** – In God's presence, false gods are inferior! Rom. 14:11. No other god can do what my God can do! He's more than just a story, He is the King of Glory, I'm glad I know who Jesus is! Psa. 114:7. The whole earth will tremble at His presence one day! Every unbeliever will stand in His presence, then bow at His presence, and then be cast into the Lake of Fire, eternally separated from His presence!
4. **The Fear it will Create – 2 Sam. 6:1-11** – When the Ark was on the return after 70 years of not being where it belonged (1 Chr. 13:3), the children of Israel carried it on a new cart and did not bear it on staves as God had commanded (Num. 4:1-15). They got this idea from the enemy (1 Samuel Chapters 4-6). **We must never try to do something for God using a "new and improved" way** (Scofield note, page 361). It led to the death of Uzzah, as he tried to steady the ark when the oxen shook it. This made David afraid of God, so instead of continuing to bring it to the holy City, he carried it aside in the house of Obededom the Gittite. It remained there 3 months and God blessed all his household! Psa. 16:11. The *fulness of joy* will be in your home when God's presence is there! God's presence is worth having, as it will bring the blessings of God upon you, and even your unsaved family, neighbors, and co-workers will take notice of it! Mat. 28:18-20. They'll want to get a hold of what you've got! **Moses led God's people out, but could not lead them in; Joshua led them in, but could not give them rest; JESUS leads out, leads in, and gives settled and eternal rest!** Obededom is found after these 3 months as a doorkeeper for the ark (1 Chr. 15:24). Psa. 84:10. He left his house and everything he had known because he had an encounter with the presence of God! He feared not having the presence and blessings of God anymore!