

# The Ark of the Covenant

## (Hebrews 9:1-5)

Long before the Indiana Jones movie “Raiders of the Lost Ark” was released, the Bible spoke of the Ark of the Covenant. It spoke of it not as some artifact of fantasy, but as something real.

### I. Fast facts about the Ark of the Covenant:

- A. It is mentioned as early as Exodus 25:8-10.
- B. It was part of the tabernacles furnishings.
- C. It was the most sacred item among the people of Israel.
- D. It was a box designed by God (Exodus 25:11-22).
- E. It was made of acacia wood and completely covered in gold (Exodus 25:23-24).
- F. Above it were two cherubim and a covering called the mercy seat (Exodus 25:22).
- G. It had golden rings and poles going through them (Exodus 25:26-30).
- H. Only the sons of Kohath could move it (Numbers 4:15). But not touch it!
- I. God killed Uzzah for touching the ark (2 Samuel 6:6-11).
- J. God wanted it to be a symbol of His presence and power.
- K. It was placed in the most holy place in the tabernacle and temple.
- L. In the days of Eli and Samuel it was housed in Shiloh (1 Samuel 1:3).
- M. The Philistines took it from Israel in battle (1 Samuel 4:1-21).
- N. The Philistines suffered when they possessed it (1 Samuel 5:1-12).
- O. The Philistines returned it to Bethshemush (1 Samuel 6:11-12).
- P. Many in Bethshemesh were killed because they tried to look into it (1 Samuel 6:19).

### II. What was in the Ark of the Covenant (Hebrews 9:4)?

- A. Manna from heaven
  1. This was the manna that fell from heaven when Israel wandered in the wilderness.
  2. This manna was designed to remind them of God’s care .
- B. Aaron’s rod that budded
  1. After putting down Korah’s rebellion, God miraculously caused the rod of Aaron to bud to prove Moses and Aaron were the leaders He had chosen for Israel (Numbers 16-17).
  2. This rod was a reminder of God’s choices .
- C. Tablets of stone – the 10 commandments
  1. These were given to Israel at Mount Sinai (Exodus 20:1-17).
  2. These tablets were a reminder of God’s commandments .

### III. What do we have to remind us of these things?

- A. Jesus is the bread of life (John 6:30-35, 47-51).
- B. Jesus is the ultimate leader (Hebrews 5:5-10; John 10:11; 14:6).
- C. Jesus is the word (John 1:1-3, 14, 17; 6:66-68; 12:48).

**Conclusion:** Christians have something better to remind them of God’s care, choices, and commandments. We have Jesus! Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of everything in the ark.