

Message Notes

The Story of the Ark of the Covenant

Part 8 – Where is the Ark of the Covenant

Where is the Ark of the Covenant today?

Hebrews 9:19-28

- a. 14 kings of Judah after Solomon (340 years) - 7 good (232 years) & 7 bad (102 years) & 1 bad woman (Athaliah- 6 yrs.) II Chron. 22:10-12
- b. 623 B. C. King Josiah (640 – 609 B.C.) – renovated the temple and returned the Ark
 - Why was the Ark out of the Temple? II Kings 23:23-27, II Chron. 34:1-2, 8-11
 - Maybe removed by evil King Manasseh
 - Maybe removed by evil King Amon
 - Maybe only removed for renovations by Josiah
 - Last mention of the Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament II Chron. 35:1-5
- c. 586 B.C. 1st Temple destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar & items moved to Babylon
 - Ark was not listed among the items II Kings 24:13
 - People of Judah in captivity from 586 – 516 B.C.
- d. 539 – 516 B.C. 2nd Temple built by Zerubbabel Ezra 1:5-11; 5:14-16; 6:3-5, 16-18
 - historic writings reveal 5 items missing in 2nd temple - Ark of the Covenant, Holy Spirit of Prophecy, Urim & Thummin, Sacred Fire, Shekinah Glory
 - the Ark was replaced by a ‘Stone of Foundation’ – Shetiyah - raised stone - 3 fingers above ground
 - 20 B.C. - Herod restored and expanded this temple
- e. 70 A.D. - 2nd Temple destroyed by Rome and temple items carried to Rome
 - Flavius Josephus – eye witness quote – no Ark in the list.
- f. Some theories on where the Ark is today:
 - i. Stored away during captivity and returned to second temple?
 - ii. Confiscated in 70 A.D. when temple was destroyed by Rome? - Not listed
 - worship transitioned to synagogues during 2nd temple
 - synagogues have an ‘Ark of Torah’ – symbolic Holy of Holies
 - iii. Taken by foreign invaders?
 - not kept by invaders prior to King Josiah as He returned it to the temple
 - Babylonians – not likely, not mentioned Daniel 1:1-2
 - iv. Destroyed by Babylonians - not taken to Babylon II Kings 24:11-13
 - v. Hidden: - by Jeremiah on Mt. Nebo – Moses’ Burial place
 - By Menelik I (Solomon’s son with Queen of Sheba?) in Ethiopia I Kings 10:13
 - By the priests in Jerusalem during Babylonian siege
 - vi. Moved to heaven by God– believers are God’s temple Heb. 9: 23-26, Rev. 11:19
- g. The Ark and the third temple - Jews pray 3 times/day for a new temple
 - prophecy says that temple will be built prior to Christ’s return II Thess. 2:3-4
 - Rabbis say the Ark is in a secret location - will be revealed prior to 3rd temple
 - Jesus will rule the earth during the 3rd temple Jer. 3:17-18, Rev. 11:14-19