

## **“The Lost Ark” (and its current location)**

**(6<sup>th</sup> in our series, Jesus Everywhere)**

Exodus 25:10-22; Revelation 11:19

Pastor Peter Hiett

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012

*\*All scriptures are ESV unless otherwise noted.*

### **Opening Prayer**

### **Sermon**

Movie clip from *The Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Indiana Jones:

*You see? Tanis is one of the possible resting places of the Lost Ark.?*

Board member:

*The Lost Ark?*

Indiana Jones:

*Yeah, the Ark of the Covenant. The chest the Hebrews used to carry around the Ten Commandments.*

Board member:

*What do you mean the Commandments? Are you talking about the Ten Commandments?*

Indiana Jones:

*Yes the actual Ten Commandments. The original stone tablets that Moses brought down out of Mount Hereby and smashed if you believe in that sort of thing. Didn't you guys ever go to Sunday school?*

Board member:

*Well, uh...*

Indiana Jones:

*Oh look. The Hebrews took the broken pieces and put them in the ark. When they settled in Canaan they put the ark in a place called the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem where it stayed for many years until all of a sudden – whoosh it was gone.*

Board member:

*Where'd it go?*

Indiana Jones:

*Well nobody knows where or when.*

Board member:

*What does this ark look like?*

Indiana Jones:

*There's a picture of it right here. That's it.*

Board members:

*Good God.*

*Yes it's just what the Hebrews thought.*

*Now what's that supposed to be coming out of there?*

Indiana Jones:

*Lightning. Fire. The Power of God or something.*

Board members:

*Beginning to understand Hitler's interest in this.*

*Oh yes, the Bible speaks of the Ark leveling mountains and laying waste to entire regions.*

*An army which carries the Ark before it is invincible.*

*“The army that carries the Ark is invincible.”*

That's *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*. The Nazis want the lost Ark for they believe that within the Ark there is an “invincible power” – the Power of God.

I think we're all looking for the Power of God. And that's a bit ironic for what else is there, but the Power of God. According to Scripture everything is created and constantly sustained by the all-powerful Word of God. Everything except nothing, which is the essence of evil, which is the void. So technically everything is a miracle.

Webster's describes miracle as a “*scientifically unexplained event.*” The *Big Bang* is an “*unexplained event.*” Quantum particles are an “*unexplained event.*” Science really can't explain events...it predicts events by describing what normally happens. It predicts what a power or force will normally do but it can't tell you what the power actually is.

In the original language of the Bible we never find the equivalent of our word “miracle,” but instead words like “a power,” “a wonder,” “a sign” – an unusual working of power is a sign. The Ark was an unusual power and it must have been a sign. It's important to read signs. Perhaps the Ark was the Revelation of the power behind all power – what it is or who it is. Well Marcus says “*The army that carries the Ark is invincible.*” The Ark was power.

Remember how the pillar of fire and smoke would appear above the Ark and lead the Israelites through the wilderness and into battle?

When the feet of the priests who carried the Ark touched the Jordan River, the river parted, like the Red Sea parted under the breath of God.

When the Israelites came to the fortress city of Jericho, they marched around the city carrying the Ark. On the 7<sup>th</sup> day, the 7<sup>th</sup> time around, when the priests blew the 7 trumpets and the people shouted, the walls just fell down.

*“The army that carries the Ark before it is invincible.”* The only problem is what army can carry the Ark? You see the ark isn't a magic power. Magic power is a power that you can control. In that sense, Science and Technology is all about magic power. A power you can control. But the Ark is a power that can control you.

So you don't judge the Ark – the Ark judges you.

When the Ark was new, 2 sons of Aaron got too close and died. Leviticus 16, God says “*Oh yeah, Moses, tell Aaron he shouldn't approach the Ark behind the curtain until he's made all these sacrifices and sprinkled the blood 7 times on the 'Kapporeth'.*” (That's what they called the cover of the Ark – “Kapporeth’.”) “Yom Kippur” was the day the priest would do this once a year – “the Day of Atonement.”

Well you don't simply use the Ark – the Ark uses you.

You don't simply work the Ark – the Ark works you.

In 1 Samuel 5, sinful Israel tries to use it against the Philistines and the Philistines capture the Ark and try to use the Ark themselves. But the Ark destroys their idol and wherever it goes

Philistines get sick and die. So the Philistines send it back to Israel on a cart. Seventy Israelite peasants find it; look inside it and die. They all freak out and put it in the House of Abinadab. Twenty years later King David tries to bring the Ark into the new capital of Jerusalem. They carry it on a cart pulled by oxen. When the oxen stumble, a fellow named Uzzah puts out his hand to steady the Ark. Uzzah tries to save the Ark. The wrath of God breaks out and kills him on the spot.

You don't judge the Ark – the Ark judges you.

You don't mess with the Ark – the Ark messes with you.

You don't save the Ark...Indiana Jones tries to save the Ark from Nazis

Movie clip from *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*

[Scene in Indiana Jones' home]

Marcus:

*Nearly 3,000 years man has been searching for the Lost Ark. That's not to be taken lightly. No one knows its secrets. It's like nothing you've ever gone after before.*

Indiana Jones:

*Oh Marcus...what are you trying to do, scare me? You sound like my mother. We've known each other for a long time. I don't believe in magic – a lot of superstitious hocus pocus. I'm going after a find of incredible historical significance. You're talking about the Boogie Man. Besides you know what a cautious fellow I am. (Jones pulls out a pistol.)*

[Scene in Egypt talking to a friend]

Sallah:

*Indie, there's something that troubles me.*

Indiana Jones:

*What is it?*

Sallah:

*The Ark. If it is there at Tanis, then it was something that man was not meant to disturb. Death has always surrounded it. It is not of this earth.*

[Scene in Egypt talking to another archeologist]

Gentleman:

*Jones do you realize what the Ark is? It's a transmitter. It's a radio for speaking to God.*

The Ark is Power.

The Ark is Judgment.

The Ark is Presence.

The Ark is like the Word of God, which is the very Presence and Glory of God. Moses would stand before the Ark and talk with God and afterwards his face would glow with Glory.

Well that's what the Ark does, that's what the Power *does*...

But let's take a look at what the Ark *is*.

'Cause this is the weird part:

The ARK is a CONTAINER for the LAW.

In Exodus 20 on the mountain, to Moses, God recites the Ten Commandments – the Law. Then in Exodus 25 for 6 chapters God goes into great detail describing the container in which the Law is to be placed.

And then He describes the container for the container – the Sanctuary.

And then the priests who maintain the container with blood sacrifice.

And then in chapter 31 God tells Moses that He has called a guy named “Bezalel” (meaning, “in the shadow of God”) and filled this guy with the Holy Spirit in order to build the container and container of the container with “great artistry.”

So the first guy to be filled with the Holy Spirit in all the Bible is not Noah, Abraham, or Moses. It is “Bezalel” who builds the container for the Law.

Then at the end of chapter 31 God writes the Law on two stone tablets with His finger.

Before Moses can get them in the container, Israel breaks the Law; Moses breaks the tablets; and God breaks Israel.

In chapter 34 God inscribes a second set of tablets and Moses gets them in the Ark straight away.

And except for the 70 ignorant Israelites peasants who look inside and die, it appears that the Ark is never opened again...and that’s the weird part.

I was a lifeguard and we always posted the rules (the Law) so that everyone could see them. #1 No running; #2 No diving; #3 No glass bottles; and “please don’t pee in the pool. Notice we left out the P and ask you to do the same.”

When Susan and I started leaving the kids alone, we’d put rules everywhere – feed the dog; turn off the lights; lock the doors; take out the trash. We’d post the Commandments written with the finger of Dad. We’d post the “knowledge of Good and Evil” so they could chose the Good and do the Good.

Well it’s like God says, “*You want the Knowledge of Good and Evil? OK! Here’s the knowledge of Good and Evil. I’ll write it on a stone with my finger.*”

*“Now you have the Knowledge of Good and Evil. First thing I want you to do with this knowledge is put it in a box – this special box and never open it again. In fact, don’t even approach the Box without the sprinkled blood. ‘The Life is in the Blood.’”*

You know there’s something really fishy about Jews and Christians getting so worked up about posting the Ten Commandments in courtrooms and in front of state capitals and stuff.

According to God, we’re supposed to keep the Law in a special box called an Ark:

*“The Ark of the Testimony.”*

*“The Ark of the Covenant.”*

*The Covenant – One Covenant.*

**Exodus 25** – this is God’s descripton of the Ark.

<sup>10</sup>*They [all Israel, through their offerings and the skill of Bezalel] shall make an ark of acacia wood. [Deut. 10:1 simply states, “Ark of wood”. Wood is the Hebrew word “ates.” Its like the Greek word “xulon.” One word which means tree, wood, or timber. So if a Hebrew guy were to say “Cursed is the man that hangs on a tree or gallows or cross,” he’d say “Cursed is the man that hangs on an ‘ates.” Likewise “tree of Life” would be “ates of Life.” “Tree in the middle of the garden” would be “ates in the middle of the garden.”]*

*Two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. <sup>11</sup>You shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and outside shall you overlay it, and you shall make on it a molding of gold around it. <sup>12</sup>You shall cast four rings of gold for it and put them on its four feet, two rings on the one side of it, and two rings on the other side of it. <sup>13</sup>You shall make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. <sup>14</sup>And you shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark to carry the ark by them. <sup>15</sup>The poles shall remain in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. <sup>16</sup>And you shall put into the ark the testimony that I shall give you. <sup>17</sup>You shall make a mercy seat...*

[A "kapporeth" translated "mercy seat" or "atonement cover." It was on the Mercy Seat that the High Priest was to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice for "The Blood is Life."- Deut. 12:27]

*You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be its length, and a cubit and a half its breadth. <sup>18</sup>And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work shall you make them, on the two ends of the mercy seat. <sup>19</sup>Make one cherub on the one end, and one cherub on the other end. Of one piece with the mercy seat shall you make the cherubim on its two ends. <sup>20</sup>The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be.*

[Now the last place we read about cherubim was at the entrance to the Garden of Eden. They were guarding the way to the Atonement of Life. In Ezekiel, Ezekiel sees the cherubim holding the very throne of God. Cherubs are not flying babies. If you see a cherub, you just might wet yourself.]

*<sup>21</sup>And you shall put the mercy seat on the top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony that I shall give you. <sup>22</sup>There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are on the ark of the testimony, [or Covenant] I will speak with you about all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel.*

Exodus 25:10-22

*"Don't look at the commandment in the box; listen to my Word on top of the box."*

Weird, huh?

Well, this is what the box must've looked like

[Scene from *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*  
Indiana Jones and Sallah lifting the Ark.]

So what is the Ark of the Testimony? Ark of the Covenant? Ark of God?

- Well...its atones, its tree, that holds "the Knowledge of Good and Evil," but tree that's covered with a place for Mercy; that is Blood; that is "Life."
- Tree of Knowledge and Tree of Life guarded by cherubim and a High Priest with a sword turning every which way.
- It's there that Moses will meet "the Word of God" and "Glory of God."

So check it out:

The Glory isn't in the box – but on the box.

The Glory is not the Law – but the thing covering the Law:

The Mercy; the Atonement; the Blood; the Life; God.

Scripture says that God is "enthroned above the cherubim" and this is wild...but you'll remember that John the Apostle pictures Jesus as enthroned upon His Cross. And in Revelation sees Jesus standing on God's throne:

the Lamb standing as if He'd been slain

He bleeds a river that covers all the Earth.

Well anyway the Ark was like God's throne on Earth or the footstool of His throne in Heaven on Earth.

It's from the throne that a king issues Judgement (in accordance with the Law) so the kapporeth is the Judgement Seat...

that means the Mercy Seat is the Judgement Seat  
and the Judgement Seat is the Mercy Seat

And that's HUGE because most modern evangelical Christians think that God's Judgement is the opposite of God's Mercy.

But on the Ark, that is, on the tree – the Judgement is Mercy.

So God's not schizophrenic, not two but one. His Judgement is Mercy and Mercy is Judgment.

Now Mercy can burn the Hell out of you; kill you and reduce you to your constituent parts (dust and breath of God).

The Judgement is Mercy, but Mercy really is Judgement.

James 2:13 does read "*Mercy triumphs over Judgement*" but they aren't enemies. It literally means "*Mercy glories over Judgement*" or "*Mercy rejoices on top of Judgement.*" "*Mercy covers Judgement.*" Mercy covers the Law. You could even say "*the Law exhibits Mercy.*"

Think about it: You can't know Mercy unless you know what Mercy covers.

So in the words of Paul in Romans 11:32

*"God consigned all to disobedience that He may have Mercy on all."*

*"God consigned all to sin that He may have Grace on all."*

*"God consigned all to taking the fruit from the Tree of Life that all might forever taste the fruit of the Tree of Life - which is Mercy – which is blood shed – which is the very life of God."*

Mercy covers the Law...but even more accurately Mercy actually contains the Law. The Law is contained in Mercy. So Judgement is contained in Mercy as a necessary ingredient of Mercy. And God is Mercy. God is Love. God is Grace.

So Karl Barth writes

*the tables of the Law with their annihilating commands and threats, were hidden in the ark of the covenant, and so placed under the throne of grace, besprinkled with the blood of the atoning sacrifices...*

*In Scripture we do not find the law alongside the Gospel, but in the Gospel and therefore the holiness of God is not side by side with [Grace] but in His grace, and His wrath is not separate from [His love], but in His love.*

In other words, it really is the Ark of the "Covenant." The "One Covenant." The Covenant of Law is contained in the Covenant of Grace. The Old Covenant is contained in the New Covenant which we discover is the Eternal Covenant - the "One Covenant" which means Jesus is the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Which means from the foundation of the World, God said

*"I'm gonna make you – Peter, Susan, Justin....I'm gonna make you in My image and you will see just who I am – I am Love."*

And so He said *“Put the Law in the wood.”* And then He hung on the wood bleeding for all the world to see – *“Every eye will see Him.”* Every eye will see the Glory of LOVE.

The Law is a description of Love...

But God is Love.

When we see Him we see that we’re empty of Love, so that we can be filled with Love.

Love poured out is Mercy – “God with us” is Mercy.

The *Glory* is not the Law but what covers the Law.

The *Judgement* is not simply the Law, but the one who covers the Law with His life.

The *Power* is not the Law, its Mercy.

The Principalities and Powers of the Present and Darkness will tell you the “Power is in the Law” for when you put faith in the Law, you really put faith in your flesh, your arrogance, your pride, your self, your sin – that is your ability to make yourself in God’s image which is not your ability but your disability – your flesh. But when you put faith in Mercy, you rely on the Power of God.

Human religion loves law, sells law and thrives on law.

In 1934, a US delegate to the Baptist World Alliance Congress in Berlin sent back the following report regarding Hitler’s Nazi regime:

*“It was a great relief to be in a country where salacious sex literature cannot be sold; where putrid motion pictures and gangster films cannot be shown. The new Germany has burned great masses of corrupting books and magazines along with its bonfires of Jewish and communistic libraries.”* The same delegate defended Hitler as a leader who did not smoke or drink, who wanted women to dress modestly, and who opposed pornography.

Hitler loved Law and Religion loves Law. Religion loves to take it out of the box and use it to control the crowd. But real power isn’t in the Law, but what covers the Law.

Historians say that there was only one institution that didn’t cave, and wasn’t controlled by, Hitler’s laws. Not the Universities, not the Press...but the Church. Not all the Church – only those called the “Confessing Church.” Those that did not confess to religion – rules, policies, and procedures – but those that confessed to “Christ and Him crucified” ...by religion. Men like Karl Barth, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Bishop Martin Niemöller – who would stand before Hitler and argue for justice and mercy.

And even so, after WWII, toward the end of his life, Niemöller told of a recurring dream with which he had been plagued for years. In the dream he would see Hitler...on Judgement Day, standing before Jesus, seated upon the Throne. Jesus would get up, come down off his throne, put His arm around Hitler and ask *“Adolph, why did you do the ugly, evil things you did? Why were you so cruel?”* Hitler, with his head bent low, would simply answer *“Because nobody ever told me how much You loved me.”* At that point Niemöller would always wake up in a cold sweat, remembering that in all his meetings with Hitler, he never once said *“By the way Fuhrer, Jesus loves you. He loves you more than you can know. He loves you so much, He gave His life for you on the Tree – did you know?”*

His Life given on the tree--That's Glory, Judgement, and Power.

- The Power isn't in the Ark, but the one who stands on the Ark.
- The Power isn't in the Cross, but the one displayed on the Cross.
- The Power isn't your Judgement, the Power is God's Judgement – His Word, His Decision, His Will

The Power is God and God is Love and Jesus is Love given to us – Mercy.

"It's His kindness that leads us to repentance." – That's Power. That's God's Word of Mercy which creates All Things including us and our good choice: the decision called Love.

The Law describes Love – but God is Love.

Well just like every "principality and power of this world," the Nazis want the Law. So when they get the Ark, they don't worship before Life enthroned on the Ark; they break the Ark and try to take the "Knowledge of Good and Evil" from the Ark.

Scene from *Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*

Ark is being opened with the Nazis standing around watching. One Nazi reaches into the box and lifts up what appears to be sand.

He says, "*It's beautiful! It's beautiful!*"

The group of soldiers standing below start to back away from the Ark. Light and cloud begin to come up from the box. Light begins to spiral around the men. Lightning and fire shoot out killing soldiers.

The face of the soldier who cried, "*It's beautiful!*" turns to horror and melts. A pillar of fire shoots up into the heavens above the box.

Well it's just a movie, but just think:

Indiana Jones tried to save the Ark and the Ark saved Indiana Jones.

All those archeologists, politicians, and Nazis tried to judge the Ark and the Ark judged them.

"*It's beautiful,*" exclaims the Nazi. "*It is beautiful.*" Problem is, he's not ...so much.

"*It's love.*" Love burns what rejects Love and fills what longs for Love.

"*Mercy*" destroys what is evil and purifies the good. Love is a consuming fire that destroys Evil.

Now there are some who say "the Judgment of God" won't actually destroy what's evil; but instead endlessly preserve Evil in a place they call "Hell" where evil people are tortured forever without end and thus Evil is never destroyed and Justice is never satisfied and Jesus is not the "End of All Things." But according to Scripture,

Jesus is the End of All Things.

Jesus satisfied God's Justice. And...

Jesus destroys the work of the Devil – doesn't preserve it; destroys it.

Well I suspect that on Judgment Day some folks may just be destroyed; reduced to their constituent parts – reduced to dust like those Nazis,

but that doesn't mean that God can't breathe His breath into that dust once again;

it doesn't mean He can't breathe on the Valley of Dry Bones like He did in Ezekiel;

it doesn't mean He can't make all things new, just like He said –

from the Throne.

Now make no mistake – it totally sucks to be a Nazi on Judgment Day. But the Power on that Ark not only is the power to destroy

It is the Power that creates and sustains all things  
It is the Power of God – the Power of Love.

You know when we come to the Tree and take His body and blood:

- We die with Him and rise with Him.
- Our flesh is destroyed and we are born from above.
- We lose our lives and find them.
- We are judged by Love, filled with Love, and empowered with Love and God is Love.

John 12:31, Jesus cries out:

*Now is the Judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.*

That's the Presence of God, Judgment of God, and Power of God.

And He was speaking of the moment He was lifted on the Tree.

In Matthew 26:64, as He's beaten by the High Priests' guards, Jesus says

*I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.*

That means they saw the Power then – when all they saw was Jesus nailed to the Tree of Law bleeding Life in a garden – strange Power – is that Power?...

Let me ask:

*“Why are you here, 2,000 years later on a winter day?”*

*“What Power brought you here?”*

Well anyway, we were talking about the Lost Ark. We've talked about *what it does* and *what it is*, but *not where it is*.

I hope you know the movie is fiction; Indiana Jones didn't really find the lost Ark. Several hundred years before Christ, Israel lost the Ark. And no one seems to know how or where...

We only know that by the time of Christ, the Jews were all about the Law and had totally lost its container. And...

It was then that they took Jesus and nailed him to the Tree.

It was then, that they took “the knowledge of good and evil” and discovered that Jesus was the good and they were evil.

It was then, that they took His life and yet He gave His life – that's called Mercy.

It flows like a river from the Throne.

It's “the blood of the Covenant.”

From that cross, at the edge of the 7<sup>th</sup> day, Jesus cried, “*It is finished!*” and “*delivered up His Spirit*” and the curtain in the Temple ripped from top to bottom, exposing the Sanctuary, and the Ark was not there. The book of Hebrews says that Jesus entered “the heavenly Sanctuary” as our High Priest and made atonement by means of His own Blood. So we can now enter through the torn curtain that is His flesh, body broken and blood shed – the Covenant.

Well the curtain in the old Temple ripped and the Ark was not there. Did you know that “ark” is also translated “coffin” (as in Genesis 50)? I don’t know if that’s significant, but I find it fascinating that on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, in the garden, where Jesus was crucified and laid in a grave, Mary saw 2 angels (perhaps cherubim) – one at the head (where His body had lain) and one at His feet. But the body was gone – the Ark is no longer there.

Well no one sees the lost Ark until an old man, named John, exiled to the prison colony on Patmos, has a revelation--The Revelation.

*Revelation 11:19. Then God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.*

You know Jesus taught that His body was a temple, actually the Temple, and St. Paul wrote that we are His Body and His Temple. Revelation 12:17, we “*hold the testimony of Jesus;*” “*the covenant of Jesus.*”

The Ark is in the Temple and the Temple is us.

You know Jeremiah had prophesied long before that one day the Ark would no longer be mentioned (Jeremiah 3:16), for Jeremiah 31:33, “*This is the Covenant I will make with (them)...declares the Lord: I will put my law within them (law in them) and I will write it on their hearts.*” Not stone – their hearts.

In that day you will no longer post the law on courthouse walls nor say unto your neighbor ‘you should obey the law.’ No, it will course through your veins and if they cut you – you’ll bleed Mercy.

That Mercy is the Presence of God – His life in your veins.

That Mercy is the Judgment of God – on His throne he says “*Whatever you do to the least of these, my brother, you do to me.*”

That Mercy is the Power of God.

Ephesians 1:19, “*An immeasurable greatness of power in you who believe.*”

Hey, maybe every person is like a lost Ark? Ever since the Fall, we all contain “the Knowledge of Good and Evil.” Maybe each of us is like a lost Ark...lost as Hell until we encounter the Blood, put our faith in the Blood; receive the Blood of the Covenant and are transformed from a vessel of wrath into a vessel of Mercy.

The vessel of Mercy;

The Body of Christ;

The Ark of the Covenant.

*Where is it? What is it? And, what does it do?* Well it defeats “the Principalities and powers of this world” and destroys the work of the Evil One.

Richard Wurmbrand, who suffered under the Nazis and the Communists in Romania, used to tell about a woman named Mary:

*"...seven, eight, nine – you! Step out!"* the Nazi guard yelled at the woman. The commandant had ordered every tenth prisoner executed as punishment for two women's escape the previous night.

*"Please have mercy on me! I have a child,"* the tenth woman pleaded.

Mary Skotsobaugh stood next in line. In her heart Mary heard, *"Step forward and say you wish to die in her place."*

Mary replied to the inner voice, *"Why? She is not a Christian. She is a Jewish Communist. When the Nazis are overthrown and the Communists come to power they will be as bad as the Nazis."*

Mary judged her with her "knowledge of good and evil."

The voice said, *"On a day like this I died, not for the good ones, but for the bad ones, the sinners."*

Mary then stepped forward saying, *"I wish to die in her place."*

As Mary went to the ovens, she told her executioners, *"When God took his people out of slavery in Egypt, it is written that he walked before them in a column of fire (above the Ark). I pray when my body burns it would be a column of fire that will show you the way to God."*

### **Communion**

At the beginning of the day on which Jesus was nailed to a tree in the Garden, He took bread and He broke it saying *"This is my body torn, given, to you. Take it and eat it."* And in the same manner after supper, and having given thanks He took the cup saying, *"This cup is the Covenant."* In some places He says *"the New Covenant."* In two of the Gospels, He just says *"the Covenant."* In Hebrews we find *"the Eternal Covenant."* *"This is the Covenant in My blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins. Drink of it all of you."*

Well now each one of you already contains something. You already contain the knowledge of Good and Evil. We kind of, like stole it, in a garden long ago. And that's why you get nervous about coming to church. That's why you sometimes feel ashamed to pray. That's why you feel driven to soothe your sorrows in sin.

We each contain the knowledge of Good and Evil and so come to the Table and be covered with Life. The Blood is Life – its Mercy.

So where is the Ark of God? In The Sanctuary. Duh! Right?

Well, the army that carries the Ark before it is invincible. But what army can carry the Ark?

Well, watch, it's the people that come to this Table and drink fire. Strange Fire...strange Glory...strange Presence...but I'm telling you what...it's invincible.

In Jesus' name, believe the Gospel and worship.

### **Benediction and Prayer**

So pray with me. *"Lord God, I surrender this old box of flesh to You. Thank you for writing Your Word, Your Law, upon my heart. And thank you for covering me with Mercy."* Amen.

The army which carries the Ark before it is invincible. And I just saw you 'all come up here and carry the Ark. Actually you're carrying it right now in your gut. That means you have a power that is invincible. I know it's a strange power. You are the very judgment of God walking around in this world. You are the demonstration of His Mercy and His Grace. You proclaim the Eternal Covenant and you even His Glory--The New Jerusalem coming down, that bears the very Glory of God.

So cheer up, okay? You need to believe that. Why do you need to believe that? Because if you don't believe that you'll start utilizing all sorts of powers; powers that will kill you; powers that destroy and not powers that create.

And so not only believe the Gospel, trust the Gospel, and be the Gospel.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

*Disclaimer: This document is a draft and has not been edited by the author. Therefore, there may be discrepancies. Some discrepancies may be minor; some may have to do with theology. When in doubt, please refer to the audio version of the sermon on this website and don't be shy about informing us of errors.*