

The Contents Of The Ark

(Hebrews 9:4-5)

- A. Paul briefly summarized the ark of the covenant. **HEB 9:4-5.**
- B. There was a golden pot that had manna in it. c/w **EXO 16:32-36.**
1. The manna was a miraculous provision from God for their life. **EXO 16:15.**
 2. The word “manna” means “what is this?”
 3. It was angels' food. **PSA 78:24-25.**
 4. It normally putrefied when stored but did not so on the sabbath. **EXO 16:19-26.**
 5. The manna represented the faith of God to provide for needs.
 6. The manna ceased upon Israel's entrance into the promised land. **EXO 16:35.**
 7. The manna in the pot was a witness that was hidden.
 8. From all this we may be reminded that:
 - a. Christ is our miracle manna from God for eternal life. **JOH 6:48-51.**
 - b. Christ was/is a strange “what is this?” to men. **MAT 8:27; MAR 1:27; 6:2; LUK 4:36; JOH 16:17-18; ACT 17:18-19.**
 - c. Christ is the life of angels: their existence derives from Him. **COL 1:16-17.**
 - d. our works putrefy outside of Christ our Sabbath. **ISA 64:6 c/w ROM 4:5; GAL 5:4; HEB 4:10.**
 - e. Christ is able to provide for every need. **JOH 1:16; PHIL 4:19.**
 - f. Christ is as *hidden manna* for overcomers. **REV 2:17.**
 - (1) We overcome now by faith. **1JO 5:4 c/w 1PE 1:8-9; ROM 5:1-5.**
 - (2) Our faith in the unseen Witness shall cease upon entrance into the heavenly Canaan. **HEB 11:1 c/w 1JO 3:2 c/w 1CO 13:12-13.**
- C. There was Aaron's rod that budded in it. c/w **NUM 17:1-13.**
1. Aaron's budded rod demonstrated life in spite of being cut off to die.
 2. It confirmed God's chosen high priest and so spoke of particular choice.
 3. It was a token against rebels who rejected God's ordained minister and rule.
 4. From these things we may be reminded that:
 - a. the Levitical priesthood would endure only until Christ.
 - (1) There was a succession of buds, blossoms and almonds on the rod.
 - (2) The flourishing of the almond tree is associated with waxing old and dying. **ECC 12:5.**
 - (3) The Law (which empowered the Levitical priesthood) waxed old and died with the coming of Christ with a superior priesthood. **GAL 3:19; HEB 8:13; 7:11-17.**
 - b. Christ is our *Branch* (**ZEC 6:12**) and the *rod of God's strength* (**PSA 110:2**) Who was “...cut off out of the land of the living” (**ISA 53:8**) Who was “...approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs...” (**ACT 2:22**).
 - c. Christ was declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection. **ROM 1:4.**
 - d. Christ's resurrection confirms Him as High Priest. **HEB 7:15-24.**
 - e. Christ's resurrection confirms Him as King and Ruler. **PSA 2:1-7 c/w ACT 2:29-32; 13:32-34; REV 2:26-27.**
 - f. Christ's resurrection is not just A sign to rebels; it is THE sign that should “...take away their murmurings from me, that they die not” (**NUM 17:10**). **MAT 12:39-40; ACT 2:36-40; 3:23-26.**
 - g. Christ's resurrection was a fruit-bearing one. **JOH 12:23-24; 1CO 15:20.**
- D. There were the tables of the covenant in it. c/w **DEU 10:4-5.**
1. The Law was Israel's wisdom. **DEU 4:6.**

2. The Law spoke of human inadequacy, cursing and death. **GAL 3:10-12.**
 3. The Law was under the mercy seat.
 4. God dwelt where His rule was.
 5. From these we may be reminded that:
 - a. in Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **COL 2:3.**
 - b. Christ is our mercy seat, our propitiation Who stands between God and His Law which condemns us. **ROM 3:25; 1JO 2:1-2; ROM 10:4.**
 - c. the Old Covenant of “do and live” had shortcomings but the New Covenant of “Christ did, you live” or “live and do” is of a different nature. **HEB 8:7-9.**
 - d. Christ dwells where His rule is.
HEB 8:10-11; JOH 14:23; EPH 3:16-17; 1TI 3:15.
- E. Consider that each of the articles in the ark of the covenant spoke against God's people.
1. The Law condemned us in general. **ROM 7:10-14; GAL 3:10.**
 2. The golden pot of manna was a witness of God's provision over against their murmurings to the contrary. **EXO 16:12.**
 3. Aaron's budded rod was a witness against murmuring rebels who contested God's ordained ministry and rule over them. **NUM 16:11.**
 4. The mercy seat covered all.
 5. Christ covers all of our inadequacy, murmuring, doubt and rebellion.
GAL 3:13; HEB 8:12; COL 2:13.