

## **The Ark Is in the Temple**

Revelation 11:15-19

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[This sermon began with a movie clip from Raiders of the Lost Ark. Indiana Jones and Marcus, the museum curator, explain to government officials what the Ark is and why the Nazis want it. At the close of this scene Marcus states, “The Bible speaks of the Ark leveling mountains and laying waste to entire regions. An army, which carries the Ark before it, is invincible.”]

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Isn't that cool? The power of God. “An army, which carries the Ark before it, is invincible.”

Wouldn't you like to get your hands on the Ark and take it with you to your in-laws house or to school or to work? “Hey, boss . . . about that raise . . . I want to show you something here behind my desk. It's the *Ark of God!*” In one way or another we'd all love to get our hands on it, I suppose. You can understand why the Nazis wanted it in the movie.

The word “ark” very simply means “container.” But this ark, the Ark of the Covenant, was special. In Exodus 25 God gives to Moses all the specifications for the Ark. You can read about it.

Beginning in verse 16 He says, “You shall put in the ark the testimony that I shall give you.” So the Israelites placed within the Ark the stone tablets—the ten commandments—the Word of God to them. On top of the Ark the Israelites made two golden cherubim, according to what God had told them, with wings outstretched over what was called the Mercy Seat, which was like God's throne on earth. “There I will meet with you,” says God to Moses.

God also gave very elaborate instructions for the tabernacle (which means “tent”) where they were to keep the Ark of the Covenant, and elaborate instructions for the veil which was to separate the Ark of the Covenant from the people.

At the end of the book of Exodus, the cloud that led the Israelites (the glory and presence of God, the Angel-Messenger of the Lord, and the fire that spoke from the bush) . . . well, He descends and fills the tabernacle.

They would carry the Ark into battle. They carried the Ark across the River Jordan, and when the priest's feet touched the water, suddenly the Jordan parted like the Red Sea. Perhaps the most famous story about the Ark is when the Israelites carried it, as they were commanded to do, around Jericho.

Marching around Jericho,  
The throne of God's presence,  
Holding His Covenant Word,  
Surrounded by the cherubim,  
Seven times on the seventh day,  
As the priests sounded the seven trumpets.

(All of that should sound rather familiar to you students of The Revelation . . . the throne, the Covenant Word, the cherubim, the sevens, and the trumpets.)

And on the seventh day, on the seventh time around, when the priests had blown the seventh trumpet, the walls of Jericho came tumbling down. And the Israelites began to occupy the Promised Land.

An army that carries the Ark is invincible.

The only problem is, what army *can* carry the Ark? If you paid attention in Sunday School, or if you simply watched the movie The Raiders of the Lost Ark, you would know that's the real problem.

At the end of the movie the Nazis finally get a hold of the Ark, and they open it . . .

[Movie Clip #2—Nazis remove the lid from the Ark, and lightning, wind, and Spirit comes from inside, killing all but Indiana Jones and Marian, who did not look at the swirling images. A Nazi exclaims through the noise, "It's beautiful!" before he meets his doom. Finally, the visible power returns to the Ark, and the lid slams shut.]

I love what that Nazi guard said: "It's beautiful!" And it was. The problem was, he *wasn't* beautiful.

And then the beauty,  
And the glory,  
And the power,  
And the presence of God for him,

Was death.

"The Lord, whom you seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight . . . But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth?" (Malachi 3:1-2)

In Leviticus 15, when the Ark is brand new, two sons of Aaron go behind the veil in front of the Ark, and they die. God speaks to Moses and says, "Oh yeah, Moses, one important thing: tell Aaron that before he goes behind the veil before the Ark of my presence, he must make these blood sacrifices and cleanse himself for the atonement of sins, or else he'll die."

The Ark is an incredible power, but it's not a *magic* power. It doesn't simply respond to our conditions. Lots of people don't believe in the power of God because it's not magic; that is, it doesn't simply respond to their conditions.

- Abracadabra and there it is!
- You do this and the Ark does that.
- I pray for a cadillac, and I get a cadillac.

Science can only prove magic powers. "Every time I release the rock it falls to the floor at thirty-two feet per second squared. Wow! That's predictable! I'll call it gravity! I don't know what it is, but I can count on it." *Magic power.*

My wife is a power, but she's not a magic power . . . I've found that out. She's a *personal* power. And the Ark was a personal power. It mattered what person used it and how they used it. People didn't really *use* the Ark; the Ark used *them*. People didn't really *judge* the Ark; the Ark judged them. What happened to you in the presence of the Ark was your judgment.

So the Israelites would carry the Ark into battle, and it would judge, rewarding the people of God with victory, and destroying the destroyers of Israel with the wrath of God. With the Ark the kingdoms of Palestine became the kingdom of Israel. But it wasn't a magic power.

And it wasn't simply an automatic power, as if you didn't have to *do* anything. Sometimes we think all we have to do is *wait on the Lord*, and He takes care of everything . . . while we watch TV.

The Israelites had to march.  
They had to fight.  
And it required faith.

In fact, it seemed that God almost got a charge out of putting the Israelites in these ridiculous circumstances that required a whole lot of faith, and it was *there* that He revealed His power.

"Oh, you bunch of wandering slaves, poor and weak from wandering in the desert for forty years, this is what I want you to do: Take my box and go march around the mightiest city in all of Palestine, blow some trumpets, make some noise, and all the walls will fall down."

And if they don't? Well, then I guess the Israelites get slaughtered. And if they don't march? I guess they starve to death in the desert. God has a way of putting you in those situations.

Not a magic power;  
Not an automatic power;  
But an absolutely awesome and horrific power.

This is the problem: Powers like that can be very hard to live with. In I Samuel 5 the Philistines capture the Ark from sinful Israel and try to use it for their purposes. But it destroys the idol in their temple and brings misery to the Philistines. In terror they send it back to Israel on a cart.

Some Israelites look in it, and they die. They leave it on Abinadab's farm. Finally, years later, King David came and got it. But one of David's friends, Uzzah, reached out his hand to steady the Ark, and the Lord "broke forth on Uzzah," killing him on the spot. David was so freaked out he wouldn't bring the Ark into Jerusalem but left it on Obededom's farm.

An army that carries the Ark is invincible.  
But what army can carry it?

David finally goes to get it and brings it properly into the city of Jerusalem. But in the very next chapter he says this: "Hey, I should build a temple for this thing."

I think I understand his reasoning. I think he's thinking, "We need more than just a *tent* to contain this thing; we need a big, stone temple." You don't put uranium and plutonium in a pup tent. You put it in a cement vault, right?

Jesus is wonderful  
as long as you keep Him  
in one of those big, stone churches.

That very night God speaks to the prophet Nathan. "Say to David, Would you build me a house to dwell in? Ever since I brought Israel from Egypt I've had a tent for my dwelling." Then He explains He moved with His people Israel. "In all that time did I ever say to any of the leaders of Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house?' Say to David, The Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house, and I will raise up your seed [offspring] after you, and he will establish his kingdom, and he shall build a house for my name. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. And I will be his father, and he shall be my son" (II Samuel 7).

"*He* will build my house." The Jews thought that was Solomon, but we know better. The promised seed is Jesus. Do you remember what Jesus said about that stone temple? "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." He *did* build a temple. And it *does* contain the presence of Almighty God.

What ever happened to the Ark? Well, after King Josiah in the 7th century B.C., the Ark drops out of history. Some people think the Ark is still buried on the temple mount under

the old spot for the Holy of Holies, which is now occupied by the dome of the Rock Mosque, which produces a lot of problems for people like George Bush . . . politicians.

Some people believe it was carried off by the Babylonians in the Exile. Indiana Jones thinks it's buried in Tanis, Egypt. Some people believe it's guarded to this day in Ethiopia by Ethiopian Orthodox priests. In Jesus' day they didn't know where it was, but there were hopes and rumors that it would reappear in the temple in the Messianic age. The veil would open, and there it would be.

In 70 A.D. the Romans came along and utterly obliterated the Temple.

No Temple,  
No Ark,  
No manifest presence of God,  
No power,  
And how they longed to find that Ark!

In Scripture, after King Josiah, the Ark is not seen again until a short time after 70 A.D. when it is seen by a little, old, political prisoner exiled on the island of Patmos by Rome (the new Babylon). He hears a trumpet — it's the seventh trumpet — and he sees the Ark in the temple.

By Revelation 11:15 six of the seven trumpets have sounded. John has been told to measure the temple, and that's when we saw the two witnesses, which I believe are a picture of us looking like Jesus. They ascend into heaven.

The seven trumpets comprise the seventh seal. At the seventh trumpet that great scroll from the throne of God is now entirely open . . .

*Revelation 11:15-19: Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever."*

*And the twenty-four elders who sit on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped God saying, "We give thanks to thee, Lord God Almighty, who art and who wast, that thou hast taken thy great power and begun to reign."*

*"The nations raged, but thy wrath came, and the time for the dead to be judged, for rewarding thy servants, the prophets and saints, and those who fear thy name, both small and great, and for destroying the destroyers of the earth."*

*Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.*

The temple in heaven is opened; the veil is ripped from the top to the bottom; the great scroll is unwrapped. And behold, in chapter 12 verse 1, what do we see? A pregnant woman about to give birth. She gives birth to a baby that we know.

He is the Word of God;  
He is the Word of our testimony.  
He is the testator and mediator  
of the new and eternal Covenant.

He is the presence of God;  
He is the Angel of the Lord;  
He is the King of glory,  
and they wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and placed Him in a manger.  
(Those Hebrews might have even used the word “ark.”)

I believe that great scroll is the new, eternal Covenant, the Word of God. The earthly body of Jesus is like the Ark. And now the Ark *is* in His temple.

Think with me a moment about the things we have just read. In Revelation 11:15 the seventh and last trumpet is sounded. The apostle Paul said, “At the last trumpet the dead will be raised imperishable” (I Corinthians 15:52). For *me*, that’s in the future. Yet Paul and John talked in several places as if it were in the *past*.

In Colossians and Ephesians (Paul’s letters to these seven churches in Asia Minor to which The Revelation is *also* addressed) Paul writes as if they’ve already been raised. In Colossians 3:1 he writes, “If you’ve been raised with Christ . . .” He tells them in Ephesians, “You are seated with Him in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 2:6), like it’s a done deal! You *are* the temple of the Lord, seated in the heavenlies.

At the seventh trumpet voices cry out, “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ.” We don’t see that yet, but Jesus said in Revelation 1 that He is the “ruler of the kings of the earth.”

In Matthew, after Jesus rose He said, “All authority has been given unto me in heaven and on earth. So go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:18-19).

Paul writes in Ephesians 1:22, “God has put all things under Christ and made Him head over all things for the church.” It’s like Jesus has already won, and now He’s just unwrapping, unfolding, His victory in space and time through *us*. He has “taken His great power and begun to reign.”

The kingdom came with Jesus;  
It’s growing in space and time,  
Coming through us—the Church.

And through us—the Church  
The destroyers of the earth are destroyed,  
Satan and all His evil works.

In Ephesians Paul writes, “This is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages [the Gospel] that through the church [us] the manifold wisdom of God would be made known to the principalities and powers” (Ephesians 3:9). You see, *our job* is to deliver a message to Satan. The message is this: YOU LOST!

The Church reveals the New Covenant—  
the Word—  
the Gospel—  
in the days of the seventh trumpet call.

At the seventh trumpet is judgment. We know that the judgment day is in our future. Yet John records Jesus saying, “Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.’ He said this to show by what death he was to die” (John 12:31-33).

Judgment is *now*, as if we’re standing before the Ark of the Covenant *now*. How can that be?

In Matthew Jesus describes the judgment. He says, “When the Son of Man comes in all his glory . . . he will sit on his glorious throne and divide the nations. . . . And the king will say to those on his right, ‘Enter into the kingdom prepared for you. For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was naked, and you clothed me. I was sick and in prison, and you came and visited me.’ And those on his right will say to him, ‘But Lord, when did we see you hungry, sick . . . ?’ And he will say, ‘Whatever you did to even the least of these, my brethren, you did to me’” (Matthew 25).

We’ve focused a whole lot on “the least of these” part. But Jesus said “even the least of these, *my brethren*.” Who are His brethren? *Us*. That is, “What you do to my people you do to me.” Why? Because He is present in His people and known in His people. They are His temple. And this is the judgment: He is saying, “Do you love me? Do you want me? The lowly, weak people in this room are my tabernacle, my moving temple. My glory is hidden in their weakness. And what *will* you do in my presence?”  
*Judgment.*

There *is* a judgment day to come. Yet *now* is this world judged. There *will* be a consummated kingdom, but all kingdoms belong to Jesus the Christ *now*, and He uses them for His purposes. Through the church He unfolds His victory in space and time.

It was when Jesus the Christ hung upon that Roman cross that He cried, “IT IS FINISHED!” It *is*. And it was at that moment that the veil in the temple ripped from the top to the bottom. And behold! The Ark wasn’t there.

Now John looks and sees the temple. I think that's the temple he measured at the start of the chapter. (Suddenly we saw the witnesses, who I think represent us, then they died like Jesus—martyred, and then they ascended into heaven.) So now the temple is in heaven, and he looks, and it's open. Behold, within it—within *them*—is the lost Ark of the testimony! The church carried the testimony.

So this is my message: The Ark of the Covenant is in the temple. And if Indiana Jones would have paid attention in Sunday School he would have known. The Word of God, “. . . the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now made manifest to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you . . .” (Colossians 1:26-27).

The Ark is in the temple.

I've told you about the four-year-old girl who went to the doctor for an examination. He looked in her ear and said, “Hey, is the Cookie Monster in there?” She said nothing. “He took his tongue depressor, looked in her mouth, and said, “Hey, is Big Bird in there?” She said nothing.

He took a stethoscope, put it over her heart, and said, “Is Barney in there?” This little girl became animated and said, “Oh, no! *Jesus* is in my heart. Barney's on my underpants.”

I don't know if Barney was on her underpants, but that's the Gospel. The Ark is in the temple. Jesus is in her heart.

I've told you — When my son Coleman was little he used to put his fingers in his ears (because we had told him Jesus was inside him) and yell at Jesus, “Jesus, I can't hear you! Are you in there? I can't hear you!” I don't know if he ever heard an audible voice or not, but he *did* hear Jesus. Because Coleman will tell you — Jesus is in there.

That's not just a sentiment. It's not just a manner of speaking. It is a basic doctrine of our orthodox faith. And how can it be that little Coleman Hiatt is not utterly destroyed by the presence of God, like those Nazis in Raiders of the Lost Ark, Uzzah, and the sons of Aaron? How is it that Coleman doesn't just *blow up*?! What army *can* carry the Ark of the Covenant? — Coleman. Us. The church.

How can that be? Hebrews 10:19 says, because of the “. . . blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh) . . .” — His sacrifice. Jesus, the very presence, glory, love of God, messenger of the Lord, died that we may enter and that He may enter us and live in us—His temple, His people. The Ark *is* in His temple—His church, and the army that carries the Ark *is invincible!*

In fact, it's already finished in all eternity.

Do you hear what the Lord is saying to these seven, little churches in Asia Minor up against the Roman empire in the height of its glory? He's saying, “I am in your midst. I

walk among the lampstands. And I am in my temple, which is my people, and my seven, little churches. We will topple the Roman Empire and the Great Dragon and the Beast and the Whore of Babylon. For the gates of hell cannot stand against my church.”

(Now two thousand years later, if you press any secular historian they are going to have to admit sooner or later that the greatest power unleashed in the sons of Adam on the face of our planet earth was contained in those seven, little churches in Asia Minor.)

“Laodicea, you are rich, fat, and lazy. But I’m still in you. Let’s get up and march. Philadelphia, I know that you are weak. But I’m in you, and I’m strong. Smyrna, I know you suffer, I know you die, but I am in you, and I *do not* stay dead. So have faith, Smyrna, and walk into your promised land.”

Do you hear what the Lord is saying to us, Lookout Mountain Community Church? “My Ark is in my temple. And my temple is a tabernacle, and it moves. I travel with you to your in-laws house and to school and to work, and I will travel with you when you leave this place and go across the highway. I travel with you, and don’t you *dare* think that you can leave me in some stone building somewhere. I move with my people.”

And I think He may say this to us:

Stop waiting for my presence, as if I’m not already there. I *am* there. And stop waiting for my power, as if you don’t have it. My power is in you.

And stop waiting for the next program or the next class or the next professional to come along. I am with you and in you, and nothing is impossible for me. I told you, “Greater works than these shall you do.”

So pray for the sick. Pray that you might prophecy. Cast out Satan. Move mountains. Walk on water. Occupy your promised land.

Your only hindrance really is your own fear and faithlessness. But don’t you ever say that I can’t use you! Don’t you ever say that someone can’t change! Don’t you ever say that it can’t be done! For I am in my temple.

“There is an immeasurable greatness of power in us that believe.” But, you see, it’s not magic. And it’s not automatic. It’s the person of Jesus. And I think He is limited by our faith, because He wants us to surrender to His life lived in us out of love.

I think He’s also limited by our faith because He doesn’t want to show up and scare us to death. He doesn’t take us by force. *Satan* will, if he gets the opportunity, but not Jesus. He romances our hearts. He suffered and died for us that we would surrender in love. And *we do!*

Listen very closely. *That* is the greatest power of all:

The slaughtered Lamb  
    is on the throne.  
The eternal covenant  
    is on the Mercy Seat.  
The King of glory  
    is pinned to a wooden cross.

It is the power of God unto salvation. It is the power that draws all men unto Himself. My friends, that power dwells in you as well. Christ lives His life in you when you walk by faith in Him.

So take a shot at it. Pray for the sick. Cast out demons. (He has given you that authority.) March into your promised land. And . . . HANG ON CROSSES.

The seven churches toppled the Roman Empire. I got to meet some of the believers who toppled the government of Romania. It happened like this (a lot of little encounters like this that aren't little):

Richard Wurmbrand was one of the prisoners in those Romania prison cells, and he tells about the years when he was tortured and beaten and left to starve . . . what the world would consider certainly one of the least of the brethren . . . one of those to be discounted.

He tells about a young atheist who was thrown in his prison cell one day, screaming, "I *hate* God, and leave me alone!" But Wurmbrand shared his faith with him anyway . . . told him about Jesus . . . argued about the Gospel . . . presented evidence . . . quoted Scripture . . . read Scripture . . . still young Joseph would not believe.

During that time Wurmbrand loved the other prisoners in the cell. He would give his food when they were hungry and he was hungry. He even tore out the lining of his jacket and risked freezing to death one winter in order to give it to Joseph.

One day Joseph said to him, "We've read nearly everything that Jesus said, but still I wonder what he was like. I mean, what was he like to know as a man?"

Wurmbrand thought for a moment and then said, "Joseph, years ago when I was in Room 4 there was a pastor there who lived like Jesus. He gave himself away. He loved everyone there. One day a committed Communist asked him a very similar question. He said to the pastor, 'What was Jesus like?' In a moment of great courage and great humility, this pastor said, 'Jesus was like me.' The committed communist man said, 'If he was like you, then I love him.'"

Joseph looked at Wurmbrand and said, "If Jesus is like *you*, then I love him too."

I really believe that at that moment a kingdom of this world became the kingdom of our God and of His Christ. And the destroyer was cast out. And Joseph walked through

judgment and into eternal life. It was the same moment that a man lifted His head from a cross and cried, “It is finished.”

Eternity invading time.  
The Ark is in the temple.  
And the army that carries the Ark *is* invincible.

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“So, Lord God, we pray that You would open the eyes of our hearts. We pray that You would help us believe, and You are. Lord, with our minds I think we would all confess pretty easily, ‘Oh yeah, God’s inside me,’ and then I wake up in the middle of the night scared to death that I won’t be able to handle it, I won’t be able to make it. I do that because I don’t believe, deep in my heart.

“Lord God, help us believe. Yet I know that that’s a problem for You. You went all the way to the cross to solve that problem. There are moments when you have pulled back the curtain of the temple, and I think I have begun to see that the Ark is really in the temple.

“And, God, I have to confess, those few moments pretty much scared the hell out of me. But, Jesus, I think we *want* the hell scared out of us. I know You want us to surrender to You in love, I know You want to reveal to us all Your glory, and we thank You for that. We surrender ourselves to you.

“We pray a very dangerous prayer: that You would help us believe. For one day we may find ourselves at the feet of the walls of Jericho, or standing in front of a cross. Yet even in the valley of the shadow of death, You are there, in us and with us. *You*, Lord God, are invincible. In Jesus’ name, help us believe. Amen.”

### Further Reading

“An army, which carries the Ark before it, is invincible.”

-Marcus, the museum curator, Raiders of the Lost Ark

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, voices, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail.

-Revelation 11:19

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“They shall make an ark of acacia wood; two cubits and a half shall be its length, a cubit and a half its breadth, and a cubit and a half its height. . . . 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. There I will meet with you, and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim that are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak with you of all that I will give you in commandment for the people of Israel. . . . And you shall make a veil of blue and purple and scarlet stuff and fine twined linen; in skilled work shall it be made, with cherubim; and you shall hang it upon four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, with hooks of gold, upon four bases of silver. And you shall hang the veil from the clasps, and bring the ark of the testimony in thither within the veil; and the veil shall separate for you the holy place from the most holy. . . .”

-Exodus 25:10, 21-22; 26:31-33

The LORD spoke to Moses, after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they drew near before the LORD and died; and the LORD said to Moses, “Tell Aaron your brother not to come at all times into the holy place within the veil, before the mercy seat which is upon the ark, lest he die; for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat. But thus shall Aaron come into the holy place: with a young bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. . . .”

-Leviticus 16:1-3

So they set out from the mount of the LORD three days' journey; and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them three days' journey, to seek out a resting place for them. And the cloud of the LORD was over them by day, whenever they set out from the camp. And whenever the ark set out, Moses said, "Arise, O LORD, and let thy enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee." And when it rested, he said, "Return, O LORD, to the ten thousand thousands of Israel."

-Numbers 10:33-36

So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." And he said to the people, "Go forward; march around the city, and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the LORD." . . . On the seventh day they rose early at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times: it was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout; for the LORD has given you the city. . . ." So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people raised a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

-Joshua 6:6-7, 15-16, 20

When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they carried it from Ebene'zer to Ashdod; then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. And when the people of Ashdod rose early the next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the LORD. . . . And when the men of Ashdod saw how things were, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us; for his hand is heavy upon us and upon Dagon our god." . . . They sent therefore and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it return to its own place, that it may not slay us and our people." For there was a deathly panic throughout the whole city. The hand of God was very heavy there . . . .

-I Samuel 5:1-3a, 7, 11

And when they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there because he put forth his hand to the ark; and he died there beside the ark of God. And David was angry because the LORD had broken forth upon Uzzah; and that place is called Pe'rez-uz'zah, to this day. And David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?" So David was not willing to take the ark of the LORD into the city of David; but David took it aside to the house of O'bed-e'dom the Gittite. And the ark of the LORD remained in the house of O'bed-e'dom the Gittite three months; and the LORD blessed O'bed-e'dom and all his household. And it was told King David, "The LORD has blessed the household of O'bed-e'dom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of O'bed-e'dom to the city of David with rejoicing . . . .

-II Samuel 6:6-12

Now when the king dwelt in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies round about, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart; for the LORD is with you." But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" . . . When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son . . . .'"

-II Samuel 7:1-7, 12-14a

Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

-John 2:19

"Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show by what death he was to die.

-John 12:31-33

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. . . . I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. . . ."

-John 14:12, 18-20

When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

-John 19:30

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

-Matthew 27:51-53

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

-Matthew 28:18-20

Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

-Hebrews 10:19-22

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

-I Corinthians 3:16-17

. . . that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might which he accomplished in Christ when he raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come; and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fulness of him who fills all in all. . . . Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think . . . .

-Ephesians 1:17-23, 3:20

Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues, and spoke to me, saying, "Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." And in the Spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God . . . . And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

-Revelation 21:9-10, 22

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