

THE JOURNEY OF THE TABERNACLE AND ARK FROM THE WILDERNESS TO JERUSALEM

THE TABERNACLE IN THE WILDERNESS (1490 BC – 1450)

- The Tabernacle was constructed after the receiving of The Law at the beginning of the second year, 14 days before the Passover (**Exodus 40:17**). The Tabernacle was at Kadesh for many days (**Deut. 1:46**).

THE TABERNACLE AT GILGAL

- Immediately after entering the Promised Land under Joshua, The Tabernacle was located at Gilgal (**Joshua 4:19**).

THE ARK AND TABERNACLE SEPARATED (~1300 BC)

- At some later time the Ark was moved from Gilgal to Bethel (**Judges 19:18; 21:2, 19, 26-27**).
- During the war **between Israel and the tribe of Benjamin the Ark and the Tabernacle** parted company for many months, perhaps permanently.
- **The Ark** was next located at Shiloh for many years presumably in a house, tent, or temple constructed for it there (**Judges 18:31, I Sam. 1:39, 3:3; Judges 21:19**) and **the tabernacle** was located at Gibeon for some time, and it was there when David began making preparations for the building the Temple (**1 Chron. 16:39; 21:28; 1 Kings 3:5-15**) and it remained at Gibeon until Solomon built the temple (**1 Kings 3:3-5**).
- Because of their sinful behavior, God allowed the Israelites to be defeated at Shiloh, at which time **The Ark** was captured by the Philistines (**1 Samuel 4:3, 11**).
- When **The Ark** was recovered from the Philistines 7 months later (**1 Samuel 6:1**), it was taken to Abinadab's *house* in Kiriath Jearim (**1 Samuel 7:1**).
- King David attempted to move **the Ark** to Jerusalem but did not enquire of the Lord and did not follow God's way to transport the Ark (**2 Sam. 6:3-9; Num. 3:27-32; 4:1-4; 7:1-9**).
- **The Ark** was carried to the house of Obed-edom the Gittite for 3 months until the Ark was properly transported to Jerusalem (**2 Sam. 6:12-19**) but it was just placed "*inside the tent that David had pitched for it*" (**2 Sam. 6:17**).

THE TABERNACLE AT GIBEON AND THE ARK IN JERUSALEM (~1200 BC – 1005 BC)

At the time that the Israelites entered the land Gibeon was inhabited by Hivites (**Joshua 11:19**). When the people of Gibeon heard of what the advancing Israelites did to other Canaanite cities, they misrepresented themselves to Joshua, who got deceived because he "*asked not counsel at the mouth of The Lord,*" and entered into a treaty with him - a treaty that Joshua honored because he had sworn an oath to The Lord, even after he discovered that it was based on fraud, and despite The Lord having told the Israelites not to enter into any treaty with the inhabitants of the land (**Josh. 9:3-21**). The treaty that Joshua made with the Gibeonites, who held territory in the land of Israel including Jerusalem was honored after the Gibeonites were attacked by the Amorites and the Israelites fought for the Gibeonites. "*The Lord cast down great stones from heaven upon them.*"

Gibeon was also the scene of Joshua's "long day" in which the "sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day" (**Joshua 10: 11-12**). Gibeon was assigned to be within the tribal lands of Benjamin and later was made one of the Levitical cities (**Joshua 18:2, 25; 21:3, 17**).

- Gibeon was the setting for some battles between Israel, under the declining house of King Saul, and Judah, under King David (**2 Samuel 2:12-13**). The Tabernacle was located at Gibeon for some time, and it was there when David began making preparations for the building the Temple.
- King Saul generally neglected **the Ark** (**I Chron. 13:3**) but David brought it to Jerusalem about 1003 BC (**2 Sam. 6; I Chron. 13:15**).

FIRST TEMPLE (1005 BC – 586 BC)

- **The Ark** was given temporary shelter in Jerusalem before being installed in the first temple built by Solomon. Despite a temporary removal by apostate king Manasseh (**II Chronicles 33:7; 35:3**).
- **The Ark** is thought by many to have remained in the holy of holies of the first temple until the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B. C. by Nebuchadnezzar.
- The fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC was accompanied by terrible destruction and much loss of life. "And all **the vessels of the house of God**, great and small, and **the treasures of the house of the Lord**, and the treasures of the king and of his friends, all these Nebuchadnezzar brought to Babylon. And they burned the house of God, and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious vessels," (**II Chronicles 36:18, 19**). A parallel account in **II Kings 25** describes the seized vessels of the house of the Lord as including pots, snuffers, dishes for incense, fire pans, bowls, etc. It is possible that some of the wealth of the temple and some of the treasures of the king's house was hidden under the temple mount though this is mostly speculation.

SECOND TEMPLE (**first temple rebuilt**) – EZRA (515 BC – 170 BC)

- Historically, the next records come to us from the time of the Maccabees. An account of the plundering of the temple by Antiochus IV Epiphanes in 170 BC is given in **1 Maccabees 1:20ff** and also was described by Josephus. At that time the temple contained at least an altar of incense made of gold, the table of shewbread, the lampstands, many cups, bowls, and incense holders, crowns and gold plating at the wall where the cherubim had been in days of old. Antiochus also took the "hidden treasures" of the temple site. In three days' time he murdered 40,000 Jews and led an equal number as captives. He then desecrated the temple by sacrificing a pig on the altar.

THIRD TEMPLE (**Ezra's temple rebuilt**) – HEROD (20 BC to 70 AD)

- The Roman ruler Herod decided to completely rebuild and enlarge the Second Temple beginning in his 18th year of reign (c20 BC). The pillaging of the temple, its total destruction and the burning of Jerusalem with terrible suffering and loss of life occurred in 70 AD under the Roman General Titus. Tradition has it that the intense flames of the temple fire melted the gold and silver of the temple so that it ran between the cracks of the rocks. Roman soldiers then totally dismantled the temple stone by stone to extract the gold, (**Matt. 24:1-2**). Most everything of value was most likely carried off to Rome.

FOURTH TEMPLE – THE ANTICHRIST (Tribulation – Indignation) (possibly ~2015 AD)

- During or just before the first 3½ yrs. of the tribulation the returning Jews will be allowed to worship in their temple but this ends when the temple is desecrated by the Antichrist at mid-week. (**Matt. 24:15; 2 Thess. 2:4; Ps. 42:4; Is. 1:10-15; 66:3-4; Dan. 9:27; 12:11**)

FIFTH TEMPLE – EZEKIEL (Millennium - possibly 2029 AD)

- A future restoration of the temple in Jerusalem occurs a few years after the Messiah comes (**Ezekiel 40-48; Micah 4:1-4; Zechariah 8; Zephaniah 3:14-20**).