

“CONTENDING FOR HIS PRESENCE” (Ex. 25; Josh. 3-6)

Pastor Mark Johnson

October 6, 2024

INTRO: The O.T. ark of the covenant represented the presence of God and Israel had to contend for it.

I. BACKGROUND (Ex. 25-26)

- A. Worship must be according to God’s pattern (25:1, 8-10).
- B. The ark of the covenant (25:13-15; Deut. 10:8; Josh. 3:3).
- C. Inside were the tablets with the 10 commandments covered with a lid called the mercy seat (25:16-17).
 - 1. Here is where God met with His people (25:22).
 - 2. Don’t separate God’s presence from The Big 10!
- D. The ark was put in the holy of holies (26:33-34).

II. THE ARK REPRESENTED GOD’S PRESENCE WITH HIS PEOPLE (Ex. 30:6; Lev. 16:2; Num. 7:89)

III. GET THE PATTERN RIGHT AND GOD’S GLORY COMES (Ex. 40:34-38)!

- A. The anointing empowers the flesh.
- B. The glory disables the flesh.
- C. The church today needs a manifestation of God’s glory!

IV. FOLLOW THE ARK – Part I (Num. 10:33-36)!

- A. The people of God followed after the ark of God.
- B. The presence of God brings refreshing (Acts 3:19).

V. DON’T FALL INTO PRESUMPTION (Num. 14:40-45)!

- A. Far better to hear from God than to presume.

VI. FOLLOW THE ARK – Part II (Josh. 3-6)!

- A. The people of God prepared to cross the Jordan and enter The Promised Land (Josh. 3).
- B. They were instructed to follow the ark (Josh. 3:2-6).
 - 1. The ark would lead them to where they’d never been.
 - 2. In preparation, they were to sanctify themselves.
- C. When the priests carrying the ark stepped into the Jordan, it dried up so they could cross (Josh. 3:8, 11-18).
- D. The people of God followed the ark to take possession of Jericho (Josh. 6:6-16, 20).

CONCLUSION: Let’s purpose to follow the ark [according to God’s pattern] and contend for the presence of God!