

The Ark in Battle



The Ark of the Covenant was a symbol of the very presence of God. It was involved in a number of battles. Here is an account of one such battle.

And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto 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 unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD. And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout. So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp. Joshua 6:6-11

The Hebrew host marched in perfect order. First went a select body of armed men, clad in their warlike dress, not now to exercise their skill in arms, but only to believe and obey the directions given them. Next followed seven priests with trumpets. Then came the ark of God, glittering with gold, a halo of glory hovering over it, borne by priests in their rich and peculiar dress denoting their sacred office. The vast army of Israel followed in perfect order, each tribe under its respective standard. Thus they compassed the city with the ark of God. No sound was heard but the tread of that mighty host, and the solemn voice of the trumpets, echoed by the hills, and resounding through the city of Jericho.

With wonder and alarm the watchmen of that doomed city mark every move, and report to those in authority. They cannot tell what all this display means. Some ridicule the idea of that city's being taken in this manner, while others are awed, as they behold the splendor of the ark and the solemn and dignified appearance of the priests and the host of Israel following, with Joshua at their head. They remember that the Red Sea, forty years before, parted before them, and that a passage had just been prepared for them through the river Jordan. They are too much terrified to sport. They are strict to keep the gates of the city closely shut, and mighty warriors to guard each gate.

For six days the armies of Israel performed their circuit around the city. On the seventh day they compassed Jericho seven times. The people were commanded, as usual, to be silent. The voice of the trumpets alone was to be heard. The people were to observe, and when the trumpeters should make a longer blast than usual, then all were to shout with a loud voice, for God had given them the city. "And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner

seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city.” “So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.”³⁸

What role did the ark play in God's plan to conquer the city of Jericho?

Joshua 6:2-7

God is a mighty God. The Ark represented His presence to the people. In that Ark was the Law of God, the foundation of His government. Obedience was the condition upon which God would accompany His people.

What happened in a war when the Ark was brought to the battle but there was not faithful obedience among the people?

1 Samuel 3:11-18, 4:3-11

We all want God's presence and protection. But if we are willfully disobedient to His commands, He cannot protect us as He would if we are faithful.

There is another conflict that has been going on for a long time. It is still raging but it will be finished in the near future. The ark of God is going to be involved.

Who is at war with who in the following scenarios?

Revelation 12:7-10

Revelation 12:17

Revelation 13:1, 2, 7

Revelation 19:11, 19

Who finally wins?

Revelation 17:14

The main issue in this conflict is: Who has the right to rule this earth? Who should be worshipped and obeyed? What is your answer to this question?

When Jesus establishes His kingdom, He will have a time of Judgment to decide who shares it with Him. Here the Ark comes into the picture.

And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail. Revelation 11:18, 19

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. Revelation 21:6-8

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. Revelation 22:14, 15

Who will inherit all things?

Who will inherit the lake of fire?

Who will have a right to the tree of life?

Who does not enter the holy city?

The law of God is in the Ark. Whether we choose to obey or disobey will determine our final destiny. What is your choice?

God will not be able to save us if we do not obey His law. Every precept is important. Through God's power we can obey Him. If Satan tempts you, call on Jesus for help immediately. He is always ready to help His children. If we are faithful to Him, He will save us and give us eternal life so we can inherit all the wonderful things God has for us. Let us each determine to be among God's faithful, obedient people.