

The Contents of the Ark and Their Significance

By Art Fahy
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The Ark of the Covenant has stirred many questions and interest over the centuries. To the Israelites, it was God manifesting Himself here on earth in their presence. In Hebrews 9:1-5 we read what the contents were in the Ark, "Now the first covenant had regulations for worship and also an earthly sanctuary. A tabernacle was set up. In its first room were the lampshade, the table and the consecrated bread; this was called the holy place. Behind the second curtain was a room called the Most Holy Place, which had the golden altar of incense and the gold-covered ark of the covenant. This ark contained the gold jar of manna, Aaron's staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.

Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing

the atonement cover. But we cannot discuss things in detail now."

What did the writer mean when he wrote, "But we cannot discuss things in detail now?" The Ark had been missing for six centuries by the time the book of Hebrews was written.

The writer refers to Old Testament passages what the Ark contained at one time. At some point before the ark was brought into the temple that Solomon built, two of the contents were missing. One Kings 8 says, "There was nothing in the ark except the two stone tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt."

These three items in the Ark of the Covenant held notable significance for the Israelites. The two tablets containing the Ten Commandments provided the Israelites with

a standard of behavior that guarded them from sin. Exodus 31 describes the Ten Commandments as "The Law." "The Law" convicts believers of sin and gives them the opportunity to ask God's forgiveness.

God wanted Aaron to be the first high priest of Israel. In Numbers 17 God told Moses, "Speak to the Israelites and get twelve staffs from them, one from the leader of each of their ancestral tribes. Write the name of each man on his staff. On the staff of Levi write Aaron's name..." God continues in verse 5, "The staff belonging to the man I choose will sprout, and I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you by the Israelites." God

instructed Moses to place the staffs in the Tent of Meeting in front of the testimony. The next day Moses entered the Tent of Testimony and saw that Aaron's staff had sprouted, budded, blossomed, and produced almonds. God made His decision.

The golden pot of manna was the third item in the ark. After leaving Egypt, the Israelites believed they were going to die of starvation in the desert. They longed to be back in Egypt where they could have all the food they wanted. In Exodus 16:11, God instructs Moses to tell the Israelites that at twilight, they would eat meat and in the morning, they would be filled with bread. God fulfilled His promise and met

the physical needs of the Israelites.

The contents of the ark are as significant today as they were thousands of years ago. The Ten Commandments instruct believers how to live. No one will ever adhere to these principles perfectly. That is why God sent His son Jesus. Aaron's rod shows God is the ultimate authority and the golden pot of manna shows God provides.

When the Israelites traveled, they brought the Ark with them. Do you bring God with you? Do you live by His commands, trust Him, and know He is in control? You could be the only godly person people see today. Who is the person you want them to see?

Ishes Smith

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eight time, five division world champion — is that he cares so much about people. Smith says, "I've learned that Floyd cares about people and his fighters. When people hear that he's donated money to pay for a child's surgery — he cares about those people. It isn't just for publicity." Smith adds, "If I needed something, he would take care of it. There's never been an instance when he hasn't been there."

Smith won a decision against Irving Garcia in September of last year and hurt his right hand during the fight. He told *The Answer* that his hand is much better. He says, "I found an excellent doctor. His name is Dr. Jedediah Jones, here in Las Vegas. We went through two to three months of intensive therapy. We were able to get it back and get it healed. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be ready for this fight. Everything's going great."

Going into the IBF title fight this month, Smith feels very confident. He says, "I feel confident and I'm at ease with everything. It's something I've prayed for for so long. I've been praying for this since I was a little boy and after all these years, it's finally come." Smith trains every day except Sunday. He jokes, "I'm not as young as some of these guys that can hang out all night and be at the gym the next day. I like being at home and spending time with my kids. I try to let my kids know I'm there for them."

Smith's win will mean a lot to Las Vegas boxing fans. Being born and raised here, Smith wants to bring the IBF title home to Las Vegas. Smith says, "I'm taking one day at a time — one fight at a time. Boxing is just a platform for me to do God's work. Whatever God brings my way is something I'll be happy with. Let people see what I've been through. If I can be a light in the darkness to someone — I'd be happier with that than with any world title."

The IBF Light Middleweight fight will be aired on Showtime, Saturday, February 23rd. Local fight fans will be watching with fingers crossed for hometown favorite Ishe Smith.

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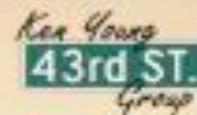
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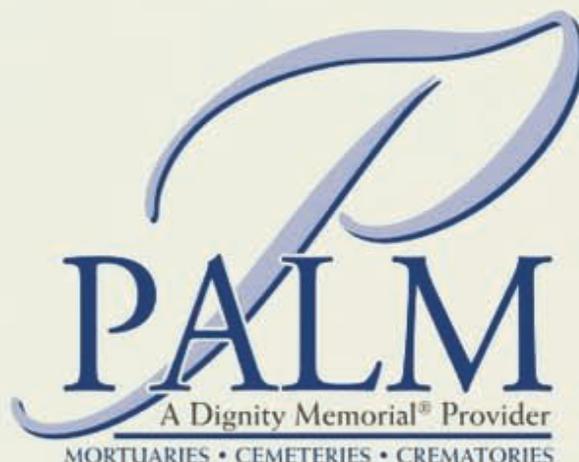
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