

## Chapter Ten: Teachings of the Tabernacle and Temple

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The Ark of the Covenant was called the Ark of the Testimony because it housed the Stone Tablets that represented the sacred writings, or testimony of the Living God (Exodus 25:21, 31:18, 40:20). All subsequent writings that were inspired of God have also come to be called the testimony. As explained in the first chapter, the witness of God's Creation is also a part of this testimony. This is what the Two Witnesses of the Book of Revelation - Enoch and Elijah - will testify to during the Great Tribulation.

The allegorical Language written into the Universe that Enoch knew, and the writings, prophecies, and rituals of the Bible that Elijah knew are equally inspired, and both witnesses reveal great truths about Yahweh's character and purpose. Enoch and Elijah were witnesses of God's greatness and power in eras when wickedness and apostasy were rampant among the once righteous followers of Yahweh. Therefore, they are well qualified to witness to humanity during this current age, which is filled with ever-increasing apostasy, and wickedness. These evils will reach their peak during the Great Tribulation.

### ***The Ark and the Staff of Yahweh***

Though the wooden rod, or Staff of Aaron has already been discussed as a symbol for our Savior, it can signify even more (Numbers 17:10, Hebrews 9:4). This staff was also called the Rod of God (Exodus 4:20, 17:9; Job 21:9), and represented Aaron, the first High Priest, and the Aaronic Priesthood. Allegorically, it also signifies the High Priesthood of Christ. The Staff of Aaron once sprouted overnight with a living branch containing leaves and ripe almonds (Numbers 17:8-10). This happened when the staff was placed before the Ark in the Tabernacle. Yah used this miraculous sign to show the Israelites that He fully approved the choice of Aaron and his Levite clan to retain the priesthood. Afterward, this sprouting staff that Aaron once held was stored inside the Ark:

*"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*

## The Language of God in Humanity

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**staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant.** *Above the ark were the cherubim of the Glory, overshadowing the atonement cover.* - *Hebrews 9:3-5 (NIV)*

The Staff of Aaron was the same staff that Moses carried. In fact, the Bible records that Aaron wielded this miracle-working Staff on Moses' behalf. Comparing the two following Scriptures shows their connection:

*"So the LORD (Yahweh) said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' And he said, 'A rod.' And He said, 'Cast it on the ground'... and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. Then the LORD (Yahweh) said to Moses, 'Reach out your hand and take it by the tail'... and it became a rod in his hand."* - *Exodus 4:2-4 (NKJ)*

*"So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh... just as the LORD (Yahweh) commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh... and it became a serpent. But... the wise men and the sorcerers... they also did in like manner... every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods."* - *Exodus 7:10-12 (NKJ)*

In the first Scripture quoted, Moses holds a rod that turned into a serpent. This happened when he cast it down onto the ground as Yahweh commanded him to. In the second Scripture, however, Aaron throws down this same rod before Pharaoh. There, the rod turns into a serpent again, and swallows the serpents that form out of the staffs of Pharaoh's sorcerers. Moses and Aaron therefore shared this single rod of power. Since Moses and Aaron allegorically represent Yahshua as a Prince and Priest, it is not an accident that God had these two brothers share the same staff, or rod, of authority. This rod was also known as the Staff of Elohim:

*"So Moses took his wife and sons, put them on a donkey and started back to Egypt. And he took the staff of God (Elohim) in his hand."* - *Exodus 4:20 (NIV)*

## Chapter Ten: Teachings of the Tabernacle and Temple

---

When this Staff turned into a snake, and then swallowed up the two staffs that Pharaoh's court magicians also turned into serpents, this startling event had a secondary symbolic meaning that was both spiritual and prophetic. Just like the serpent-draped staff that Moses made to heal the ailing Israelites, this serpent, or stick that swallowed up and absorbed two other serpents, or sticks foreshadowed Christ on the Cross. This shows that the true Shepherd of all Israel, who is Christ, would be viewed as an evil serpent - even though He was without sin. Yahshua took on the image of a serpent on the Cross, and the image of a serpent is a symbolic embodiment of all sin in Scripture. When He died, Yahshua forever destroyed the breaches between God and man, and Jew and Gentile that are formed by sin and evil. That is why, in the New Heaven and New Earth, there will no longer be a division between God and man, and all people will be viewed as the Body of Christ, and as perfect Children of God, forever!

This allegorical interpretation can be verified by referring to another prophetic passage in the Book of Ezekiel:

*“Thus says the Lord GOD (Yahweh Elohim):  
‘Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the  
hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his  
companions; and I will join them... with the stick of  
Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one  
in My hand.’ ” - Ezek. 37:19 (NKJ)*

This passage is profoundly interesting due to four significant facts:

1. **Yahshua Himself is speaking through Ezekiel in this passage.**
2. **Yahshua indicates that He will hold one stick representing a kingdom made up of Joseph and Judah someday**
3. **The stick of Joseph is currently in the hand of Ephraim, and his Israelite companions, and**
4. **The stick, or kingdom of Judah is currently separate from the stick, or kingdom of Joseph**

Now, on one level, the stick of Judah is an allegorical reference to the throne of David, and the royal scepter that Yahshua

## The Language of God in Humanity

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will carry during His Millennial Rule. It represents the literal, physical Kingdom of God on Earth. On another level, however, it represents the Jewish people: both Messianics, and those who are still waiting for their Messiah. The stick of Joseph, however, is partly an allusion to the staff that Moses and Aaron wielded as a symbol of their spiritual authority as chosen servants of Yahweh. On another level, it also represents the True Church full of believers in Yahshua.

Ezekiel's prophetic words just quoted imply that the Staff of Yahweh, as an allegorical symbol of His *spiritual* authority on Earth, is not currently in the hands of the Jews, or Judah, but belongs to the believing Gentiles called Ephraim, and the believers reckoned as the other Ten Lost Tribes of Israel. Ephraim was half Gentile (Egyptian) and half Israelite, yet he inherited Joseph's birthright. However, Ephraim and his older brother Manasseh's descendants sinned deeply by falling into idolatry, and temporarily forsaking their heritage. Ephraim is, therefore, a symbolic reference to the modern True Church of born again believers worldwide - those who have come out of idolatry, and turned back to the true worship of the one true God Yahweh, and His Son. There is however, a deeper mystery contained in this portion of Ezekiel that is revealed in the following passages:

*"Then say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD (Yahweh Elohim): 'Surely I will take the children of Israel from among the nations... and will gather them... and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation... on the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king over them all; **they shall no longer be two nations, nor shall they ever be divided into two kingdoms again.** They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their detestable things... **but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and will cleanse them.** Then they shall be My people, and I will be their God. David My servant shall be king over them, and they shall all have one shepherd... and observe My statutes, and do them.'"*  
- Ezekiel 37:21-24 (NKJ)

What is this section of Scripture telling us? It suggests that there are two literal and distinct groups of people in the world

## Chapter Ten: Teachings of the Tabernacle and Temple

---

today that represent Israel and Judah, and both are scattered among the nations. Furthermore, it implies that Joseph, or Ephraim represents the lost Kingdom of Israel, or the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel that lost their Israelite identity by marrying into the Gentile communities, adapting their heathen customs, and idolatrous religions, but who then repented of their sins, and returned to the worship of Yahweh God alone. Therefore, though ***the stick of Joseph represents the lost, apostate Kingdom of Israel, it also represents a literal Church and spiritual Kingdom. Likewise, the stick of Judah represents a literal kingdom that still retains the worldly authority, or throne given to King David.*** This kingdom is the Kingdom of God, which is a *spiritual kingdom* within the heart of every believer. It is, however, also a *coming worldly kingdom*.

Ephraim was the son of Joseph who inherited the right of the firstborn over Manasseh, even though Ephraim was the younger son. Similarly, Joseph took the right of the firstborn away from his older brother Reuben, who lost his status due to his sins against his father, and his people. Likewise, the adopted Israelites in the Church, or Ephraim, inherited the right of leadership over the natural Israelites - including those who form Judah. All who are reckoned as the symbolic Tribe of Ephraim are believers in Christ - and by that belief, are adopted into the Family of God, and Body of Christ - who significantly was *a man of Judah!* As a good Jew, ***Yahshua covers His brethren in the True Church with His cloak of righteousness, thereby also making them a literal part of Judah.*** Therefore, Judah and Israel are, even now, *spiritually* joined together as one in Christ (Gal. 3:28). This unity is expressed in Ezekiel's vision of the coming Kingdom of God on Earth, or the Millennial Rule of Christ - when the Tabernacle of David will again represent God's literal presence on Earth among the nations:

*"Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them, and it shall be an everlasting covenant... and I will set My sanctuary in their midst forevermore. My tabernacle also shall be with them..."*  
- Ezekiel 37:26-27 (NKJ)

*"In mercy the throne will be established; and One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness." - Isaiah 16:5 (NKJ)*

## The Language of God in Humanity

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**“On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old...” - Amos 9:11 (NKJ)**

This means that the Tabernacle of David will one day be restored in Israel, and the Ark of the Covenant - as the sanctuary mentioned in Ezekiel 27:37 - will be placed in that Tabernacle once more. The Tabernacle will therefore be established to represent the unity between Judah and Ephraim through Christ! Indeed, even though Judah and Ephraim are still stubbornly struggling to maintain their own separate identities, they should be viewing themselves *as one*:

**“Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion...” - Col. 3:11-12 (NIV)**

This Scripture loudly cries out for unity - a unity that should exist between the Christian Church and Messianic Jewish believers - but that, in many respects, is sadly lacking. Therefore, it is clear that this spiritual oneness between Gentiles and Jews, *who both become God’s chosen people through Christ*, will not be a reality until the Millennial Rule of Christ. Yet, it will not fully be realized until the New Heaven and Earth, when all people will truly see themselves as children of God, and as one family through Christ - forever!

The stick of Joseph has an interesting history, as it represents the Staff of Yahweh that Moses wielded on Yahweh’s behalf! This is revealed in the Book of Jasher, where we are told that the Sapphire Stick, or Staff of Yahweh belonged to Joseph when he was Vizier of Egypt. When Joseph died, there was likely no Israelite worthy enough to possess it. Yahweh therefore allowed the stick to pass into the hands of Reuel, the Gentile leader who was to become Moses’ father-in-law (Jasher 67:41, 77:48). As will be further explained in “The Language of God in History,” Reuel was a counselor to Pharaoh, and a Midianite Prince and Priest who was descended from Abraham’s second wife Keturah.

## Chapter Ten: Teachings of the Tabernacle and Temple

---

The Book of Jasher calls the Staff of Yahweh “the Sapphire Stick” possibly as a descriptive term (Jasher 77:39). Therefore, the term may indicate that some part of this wooden staff that budded (i.e. brought new life from death like Christ) sparkled like sapphire gemstones. The Name of “the Lord God” or “Yahweh Elohim” was also engraved on the upper portion of this staff (Jasher 77:40). Could the crown of the staff have been decorated with a large sapphire gemstone, or piece of lapis lazuli engraved with the proper Name and Title of God? This may be the case, though the whole staff may have been carved from wood, and then inlaid with many smaller gems or stones. If a gem was meant by the term “sapphire,” it makes it difficult to determine what color this Sapphire Stick was. This is because sapphires come in various colors such as deep blue, purple, and red (where it is identified as a ruby).

Thankfully, the biblical account of Yahweh sealing His Covenant with Israel after the Exodus can help identify the Sapphire Stick’s actual color. At that time, the Bible recalls that the first priests and leaders of Israel saw a sapphire pavement that appeared beneath the feet of a bodily manifestation of Yahweh’s physical presence:

*“Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity... So they saw God, and they ate and drank.” - Exodus 24:9-11 (NKJ)*

This manifestation of Yah was the preincarnate Christ! The Mosaic Covenant meal was therefore eaten in the very presence of the preincarnate Christ, on this sapphire pavement. Since it was transparent, and otherwise resembled the heavens, this pavement of sapphire stone was undoubtedly a deep blue color - the way the heavens appear before full darkness envelopes the Earth at night. This same sapphire-like pavement appears in the Book of Revelation. It is underneath the throne where Yahshua, in His preincarnate form as the Creator God, sits in the presence of the twenty-four elders, the four living creatures, and the Lamb who was slain - i.e. the risen Christ, Savior of the World (Rev. 4:2-6, 5:6).

## The Language of God in Humanity

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This sapphire pavement is described as *“a sea of glass, like crystal”* (Rev. 4:6, NKJ). This implies that it was a shining, crystalline blue pavement that may have sparkled like the Sun on the waves of the sea. It may also have appeared as if it was touched by moonlight, or it may have resembled a night sky twinkling with stars. In fact, this sapphire pavement is likely an allegorical representation of the star-spangled Universe surrounding our Earth, just as the Cherubim on top of the Ark of the Covenant were. Also like the Cherubim, the sapphire pavement represents the Two Persons of our Triune Godhead who worked together to create the Universe: Yahshua, and the Holy Spirit.

Though the appearance of this sapphire pavement in Scripture suggests the look of an uncut, polished blue sapphire, it may also have resembled the gemstone called lapis lazuli. This blue stone is flecked with yellow iron pyrite crystals, and was prized throughout the ancient world because it resembles a clear, star-studded sky shortly after dusk. Since the ancient world’s Pagan religions used a mythology created by perverting the original Star Gospel, this fascination for starry night skies was no coincidence. Instead, it is just one of many instances where ancient art was used as a symbol to reflect the knowledge, and beliefs of the people who created it. In ancient times, many people likely chose to wear jewelry made of lapis lazuli to symbolize either their knowledge of the true Star Gospel, or their opposing false worship of the wrongly deified Sun, Moon, stars, and planets.

The Sapphire Stick, or Staff of Yahweh was extremely ancient. The Book of Jasher traces its origins back through the antediluvian patriarchs Noah and Enoch to Adam. Ultimately, this staff can also be traced to Yahweh Himself, who likely gave it to Adam as a gift after he fell. If so, the staff would have offered the now mortal man some divine spiritual protection - along with its very practical use as Adam’s first real tool, weapon, and symbol of earthly authority.

Regardless of its actual origin, the Staff of Yahweh is another potent symbol for Yahshua’s kingship and power. Like the dead wood of the staff of Aaron, which sprang back to life by sprouting a living almond branch, Yahshua was destined to die, and then spring back to life during His miraculous resurrection. The Staff of Yahweh that Aaron and Moses carried was a symbol of authority and power, carved with the very Name of Yahweh

## Chapter Ten: Teachings of the Tabernacle and Temple

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Himself. In addition, it figured prominently in the working of many miracles. Similarly, Yahshua shares the Name of Yahweh, and has been given all the authority and power of the Father to work miracles in the lives of every person who loves God.

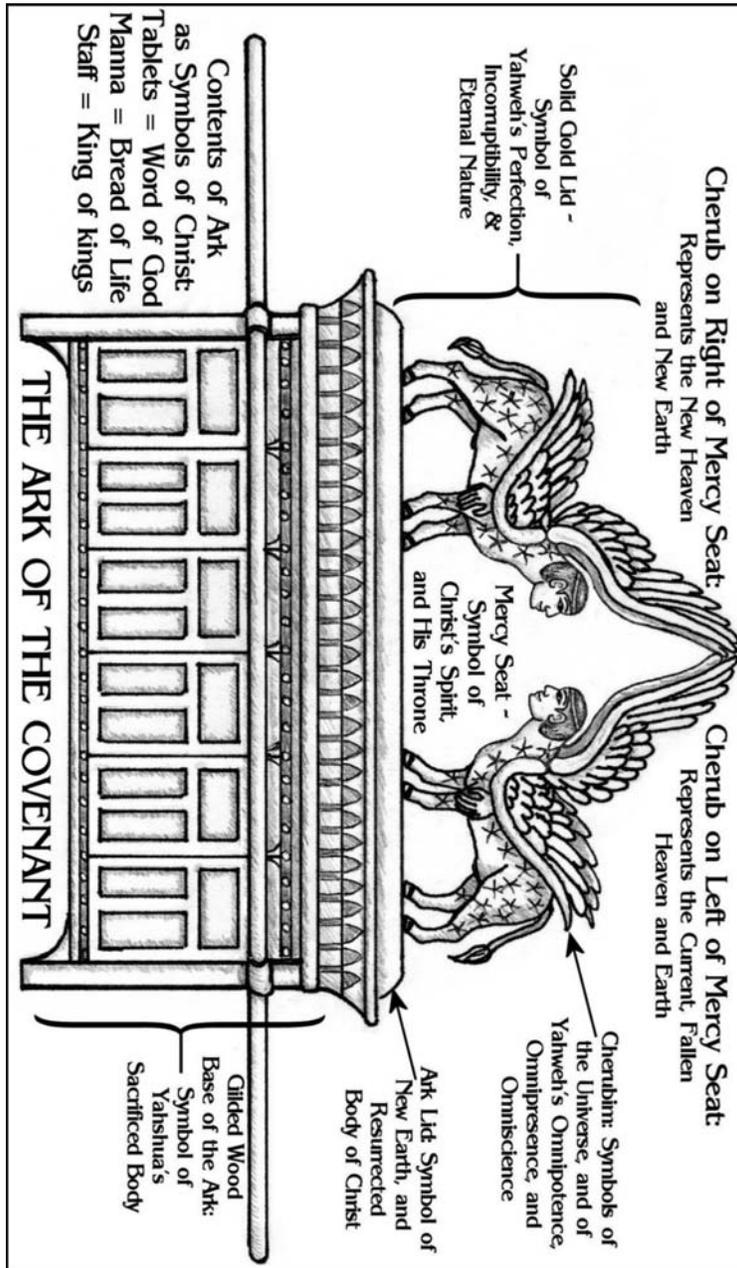
### ***The Ark as a Symbol of Salvation in Christ***

The budding of the Staff of Yahweh was its final miracle before being stored inside the Ark. When it budded and bloomed, it ensured that Aaron, and the Levites he represented, would be the only Tribe to serve as priests in the Tabernacle, and later, in the Temple of Yahweh. The priesthood was necessary to minister before the Ark, and to perform the required blood sacrifices for forgiveness that Yahweh ordained. Through the Aaronic priesthood, Yahweh showed the Israelites that they were in need of redemption through a substitutionary sacrifice. This sacrifice needed to be offered by someone who was "set-apart," or "holy." However, every High Priest, and every sacrifice they offered, was tainted by the affects of sin. Therefore, they needed to find a perfect High Priest, and a perfect sacrifice to offer Yahweh - one that would pay for our sins once, and for all time. Yahshua became both.

Much more than a storage chest, the Ark of the Covenant was a symbolic lesson plan describing the nature and purpose of Christ. Yahweh Himself provided all three objects inside the Ark for mankind's instruction. The first objects placed in the Ark were the Stone Tablets. As mentioned before, these tablets signify the Spirit of Christ, and the knowledge given to mankind by the Holy Spirit, which was Yahshua's own Spirit. Therefore, the tablets represent the spirit of every person who is born again. Also, as mentioned earlier, the budded staff in the Ark represents the soul, or mind and actions of every born again human being - especially Christ.

Christ acted in three major roles that were connected to the objects in the Ark. The Staff of Aaron is directly tied to Yahshua's role as the Good Shepherd, and King of kings, the Stone Tablets with His role as Law Giver and Judge, and the Manna with Yahshua's role as our Passover Lamb and Great High Priest (John 10:14; Revelation 17:14; Hebrews 9:11).

The Ark as an Allegory for Christ, and the Trinity



## Chapter Ten: Teachings of the Tabernacle and Temple

---

Yahshua is called "the Christ," or "the Anointed One" because Yahweh anointed His Son to serve as our perfect King and High Priest. Therefore, Yahshua is the ultimate recipient of the Staff of Yahweh - if it still exists. Shepherds, priests and kings throughout history all carried staffs, but the only man who can fulfill the roles of perfect shepherd, ruler, and priest is Yahshua our Savior. Yahshua alone is the Righteous Branch or Staff, the Rod of Jesse, and the Scepter of Judah that the Staff of Yahweh allegorically represents (Genesis 49:10; Isaiah 11:1; Numbers 24:17). Yahshua is also our great High Priest, who ministers to those who love Him in the temple of their hearts.

The third sacred object that was placed inside the Ark was the golden jar filled with an omer of Manna:

*"So Moses said to Aaron, 'Take a jar and put an omer of manna in it. Then place it before the LORD (Yahweh)...' As the LORD (Yahweh) commanded Moses, **Aaron put the manna in front of the Testimony** (i.e. the stone tablets), that it might be kept. The Israelites... ate manna until they reached the border of Canaan." - Exodus 16:33-35 (NIV)*

As explained earlier, the Stone Tablets represent the righteousness of Yahweh, while the Manna represents Christ's mortal body. Consequently, the Manna also represents people who become part of the Body of Christ through belief in Yahshua as their Savior. Manna is a symbol of Yahweh's mercy, love, and provision for His people. However, it later came to signify Yahweh God's ultimate mercy and love, which were given to us through His Son Yahshua. By becoming the Bread of Life for all mankind, Yahshua far surpassed the miraculous Manna from Heaven given to the Israelites:

**"I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."** - John 6:48-51 (NIV)

## The Language of God in Humanity

---

To obtain the fellowship promised by the Mercy Seat atop the Ark of the Covenant, sacrifices were continually needed to make atonement for the sins of the Israelites. Through all these analogies, the Ark ultimately represented Yahshua, the Word of God who proclaimed God's Law to us (the Stone Tablets). As the Bread of Life (the Manna), Yahshua also feeds us spiritually. He now serves in Heaven as our Great High Priest and Good Shepherd (the budding Staff of Aaron), ministering for us before Yahweh (Hebrews 8:1-6), and being the ultimate atonement sacrifice.

Through Yahshua, our Ark of Salvation, we survive Yahweh's wrath, and learn to live for His Glory. As temples of the living God (1 Corinth. 3:16; 2 Corinth. 6:16), believers become the Ark's symbolic dwelling place. The "Ark" of Yahshua, our Savior and Lord must dwell within the temple of our hearts - just as the Ark of the Covenant was once housed in the Desert Tabernacle, and the Temple (Exodus 26:34; 1 Kings 8:6).

### ***The Mercy Seat: Symbol of Yahshua's Universal Throne***

As the symbolic throne of God on Earth, the meaning designed into the Atonement Cover, or Mercy Seat can tell us much about Yahweh's sovereignty, omnipotence, and omniscience. The main symbols on the Ark were the two winged Cherubim that faced one another, and the crown-like rim of the Ark. One set of the Cherubim's wings touched above the Mercy Seat, while the other set covered the bodies of the Cherubim. This is shown in the illustration of the Ark presented in this chapter on page 476.

As shown in Book One, Ezekiel described the Cherubim as ox-like in appearance, though their bodies were covered with eyes. The eyes which covered their bodies allegorically signify stars, and the four legs, and four to six wings of the Cherubim may symbolize the branches in a spiral galaxy - just like the six arms of the Milky Way Galaxy! In addition, it appears that the six winged Cherubim described in the Book of Revelation signify the Six Great Days, or Ages that God allotted for mankind to show their works. It is also possible that the eyes in the ox or bull bodies of Ezekiel's Cherubim symbolize each galaxy in the visible Universe. At the very least, these eyes definitely represent the stars in the Milky Way, and their

## Chapter Ten: Teachings of the Tabernacle and Temple

---

four different faces correspond to one of the four fixed signs of the Zodiac, as well as four spiritually significant Tribes of Israel.

Since the Cherubim upon the Mercy Seat likely symbolized the entire starry Universe, they tell us what the Scriptures also firmly declare about God's Throne in Isaiah 66:1, as quoted earlier. Through Isaiah, Yahweh tells us that He cannot be contained in any man-made structure, or temple. This is because Yah is infinite, and eternal. Yah is greater than the Universe He created, and He never had a beginning or end like the Universe is destined to have. So, even though the Father sent His Son Yahshua to show us the beginning and end of human history, Yahshua is without any kind of beginning or end.

Yahweh, His Son Yahshua, and the Holy Spirit are truly infinite in a way we mortals cannot grasp, or comprehend. Our one triune God has always existed, and always will exist. **This is why Yah calls Himself "I AM." He is - always, and forever!** This is also why Yahshua is called "the Beginning and the End" in the Book of Revelation. Though Yahshua was once governed by time as a man, but now exists separately from it, **Yahshua is the Master of time because He co-created the concept, and reality of time with the Holy Spirit!** Likewise, because the Tabernacle and Temples to Yahweh were only reflections of Christ, Yahshua is greater than these places of worship and sacrifice, as well as the people who built them (Mat. 12:6, 12:42).

Besides being a miraculous symbol of the entire starry Universe, the Mercy Seat on top of the Ark represents the fact that Yahweh shows mercy to all people, even though they deserve to die for their sins. Undeniably, Yahweh showed no greater mercy than this: He allowed His perfect and sinless Son Yahshua to become the perfect sacrifice to atone for all the sins of humanity. Yahshua died not just for the sins committed by the people of His own era, but for *all sin* - from the beginning, to the end of time (Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17). Unlike the sinful representatives of the Aaronic priesthood, whose sacrifices had to be continually offered to atone for sin, Yahshua acted as our perfect High Priest before Yahweh. Yahshua offered Himself in Heaven as the final, and perfect atonement sacrifice for our sins. He therefore did as no High Priest before Him could have done. This is shown clearly in the Epistle to the Hebrews:

## The Language of God in Humanity

---

**“When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is... not a part of this creation. He did not enter by... the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.” - Hebrews 9:11-12 (NIV)**

**“For Christ did not enter a man made sanctuary... he entered heaven itself... Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Then Christ would have had to suffer many times... But now he has appeared... to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time... to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.” - Hebrews 9:24-28 (NKJ)**

As the author of the Book of Hebrews states, Yahshua acted as our High Priest. But He did not enter a man-made Tabernacle to obtain temporary forgiveness for our sins. Instead, Yahshua entered the Tabernacle in Heaven after He offered Himself on the Cross. At that time, Yahshua entered, and sprinkled His own blood in the Most Holy Place in order to procure our eternal redemption! Since Yahshua is our only gateway into everlasting life, it is through our communion with Him in the symbolic partaking of His body and blood that we enter the “Ark” of His love, and pass from death, and destruction into immortal life.

Yahshua is the eternal Person symbolized in the Ark of the Covenant. He is the Creator, and Master of the Universe, and the King of kings - as represented by the Cherubim overshadowing His merciful throne atop the Ark. Also, as the contents of the Ark proclaim, Yahshua is the Bread from Heaven represented by the golden jar of Manna, the Righteous Branch represented by the Staff of Yahweh, and the Word of God represented by the Stone Tablets, which were etched by the finger of Yahweh with His Holy Name.

## Chapter Ten: Teachings of the Tabernacle and Temple

---

In a similar way, Yahshua is the eternal symbol for the Ark of Noah, for in the womb of Yahshua's Spirit we are symbolically covered by His blood, and reborn (1 Peter 1:18-20). This birth into everlasting life can only be accomplished by the power of Yahshua's Spirit. Spiritually, the Holy Spirit is both Yahshua's Mother and ours - but only if we believe in Yahshua as our Savior and Lord. Through the Spirit, Yahshua protects believers from drowning in the floodwaters of God's Wrath, and preserves us with His love and Grace, which both the Ark of the Covenant and Noah's Ark symbolized. In this way, we may become God's faithful, and righteous followers for all eternity.

### ***Biblical Hints That Yahshua Was Born During Sukkot!***

As shown in Book One of "The Language of God" Book Series, some scholars that have applied Biblical Astronomy have ascertained that Yahshua may have been born on or shortly after September 11th, 3 BC. This was not determined solely by the astronomical events described in Book One, however. First of all, it is based on the fact that the early Church fathers Eusebius of Caesarea, Epiphanius, Julius Africanus, Hypolotus of Rome, and Tertullian dated Christ's birth to sometime between the beginning of 3 BC and end of 2 BC. Clement of Alexandria dated Christ's birth to November 18, 3 BC, and Irenius stated that it was in the 41st year of Augustus Caesar's reign, which would place it at 3 or 4 BC.

Besides the celestial evidence given in Book One, and the testimony of 1st Century Church fathers, textual criticism of the New Testament in Greek played a role in dating Christ's birth to the time of the Feast of Tabernacles. Using the Hebrew and Aramaic version of the New Testament as a guide, some Bible scholars believe that the word translated as "manger" in Yahshua's birth narrative in the Gospel of Luke should have been translated as "Sukkah." This is the singular form of the Hebrew word "Sukkot." If the word "manger" is read as "Sukkah," it reveals a far more profound meaning to the place where Yahshua was laid just after birth. Substituting the word "Sukkah" for "manger" in the birth narrative, we have the following: