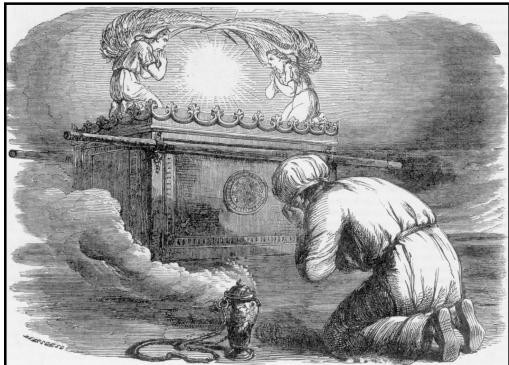


Our Lady as the Ark of the Covenant



ARK OF THE COVENANT (cf. Exodus 25:10f)	OUR LADY (cf. Apoc. 11:19f)
Contents (cf. Heb 9:3-5): Stone Tablets, Jar of Manna, Aaron's Rod. This is the heart of the Old Law. Ark carried the written word of God.	Contents: Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. The New Law in its entirety. The Word made flesh, the Bread of Life, the Shepherd, King of kings, the miracle worker. Reflect on the Visitation and Our Lady of Guadalupe as examples.
Made of Acacia Wood which did not corrupt in the desert. Also was carefully protected from corruption... carried separately, by special people, doubled veiled when being moved, etc...	Our Lady did not suffer any corruption in the desert of this life. She was assumed body and soul into heaven. We have no relics of her body. She is "Mother most Chaste"; "Mother most pure", and "Mother inviolate."
Overlaid with gold inside and out.	As "House of Gold" she is pure and spotless. No stain of sin inside or out.
Mercy Seat. God spoke with Moses from the Ark of the Covenant. He came down upon the top of the Ark, the Mercy seat. Also, several places in the Old Testament, God mentions that He is "enthroned upon the Cherubim."	As "Seat of Wisdom" she holds the Word of God made man, Wisdom Incarnate. She is the mediatrix of all grace (i.e., all grace comes to us through her). She is "Mother of Divine Grace."
Under His Wings you will find refuge. (cf. Ps. 90(91))	As "Refuge of Sinners" we consecrate ourselves to her... We place ourselves in the Ark with Jesus the King. To Jesus through Mary. God likes to place His covenants in arks... we do well to do the same (consecrate marriage, family, priesthood, diocese, world, papacy...)
Ark was lost on Mt. Nebo. (cf. 2 Mac 2:4-8). This ark was built by human hands to act merely as a symbol of the future living and loving ark. We see the Assumption foretold in Psalm 131(132):8.	This Ark was not made by human hands... being conceived without Original Sin. She is taken up into the Temple not made by human hands. She is "Queen assumed into heaven."

Placed in the Holy of holies... the inner chamber of the Tent and eventually the Temple of Solomon. Solomon's queen was his mother Bathsheba. Solomon was the son of David.	She is the greatest and holiest of all the saints, holding the highest place in heaven... She is "Virgin of virgins" ... "Queen of all saints." Note that in the Hebrew tradition, the mother was made the queen. Thus, the King of kings, the Son of David, made His Mother Queen.
David, the forefather of His Majesty, danced before the Ark... said he was not worthy that the Ark should come to him. So it was in the house of Obededom the Gittite's house for three months (cf. 2 Sam 6).	St. John the Baptist, the forerunner of His Majesty, leaped in the womb of his mother before the New Ark. Elizabeth said she was not worthy that Mother of God should come to her.
The Ark was powerful in battle... Those who tried to reach the Promised Land (symbolizing heaven) without the Ark and Moses were killed (Num 14:44-45).	We call her "Our Lady of Victories" ... She is the Woman clothed with the Sun of whom the devil cannot harm (cf. Apoc. 12) and who is destined to crush the head of Satan (Gen. 3:15).
The Ark was processed around Jericho to produce a great victory. In this case, the Promised Land symbolizes entering into the Way of Perfection... where we seek to overcome all evils in our soul. Jericho is our major fault... usually pride or one of the other seven deadly sins.	We process with statues of Our Lady (e.g., Fatima pilgrim statue). We process in honor of Our Lady (e.g., Lourdes). We also process with the Eucharist. What was in the Ark but the Manna, the Tablets, and Aaron's rod... this is the battle plan of the Lord for overcoming our faults and sins... Frequent Communion (manna) and Confession (rod), study (tablets), and devotion to Our Lady (Ark).
Ark was lost for a time to the Philistines but due to the harm it justly inflicted upon them, they returned it. The Ark was then found in the fields near Bethlehem (Ephrathah cf. Micah 5:2)...Ps 131(132):6-7.	Our Lady gave birth to the Lord outside of Bethlehem in a cave (used as a stable). Note that the Ark of old was lost in a cave too... now it is found by a revelation of the Lord to the shepherds and Magi.
Uzzah was struck dead for daring to touch, and thus profane, the Ark, even for a seemingly good reason (2 Sam 6:6-7).	Our Lady was a perpetual virgin... Not even St. Joseph would dare to touch her in an unbecoming and untoward way.
God came down upon the Ark in a cloud to counsel Moses and strengthen him in all his trials.	God the Holy Ghost comes down upon His Ark at Pentecost and fills the Apostles with strength and counsel for their roles in the Church.
Since God came down to rest on the Ark, the Ark is, as it were, the footstool of God... under which He will place all His enemies. (cf. Ps 109(110):	Once again, in this image we see Our Lady as crushing the head of Satan... thus She is known as the hammer of heretics. Many many victories are attributed to her direct intercession.

