

Provision from the Beginning

God spoke to Moses in the mountain, saying *“Bring Me an offering from my people, of gold, silver, brass, and blue, and purple and scarlet, and fine linen, goats’ hair, rams’ skinned dyed red, badgers skins’, shittim wood, oil, spices, sweet incenses, onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and the breastplate. – “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.”* The very first thing God told Moses to do was make a ark and this was called the Ark of the Covenant because this is an agreement of God confirmed by an oath, *“I will be your God and you shall be my people.”* Everything in the Ark represents God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There will be three things in the Ark:

1. Ten Commandments (The Word of God);
2. Golden pot of Manna (Jesus). In John 6:35 Jesus said, *“I am the Bread of Life,”* Verse 38- *I Came down from heaven”,* Verse 49 – *“Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead,”* Verse 50 – *“This bread ye may eat and not die.”*
3. Aaron’s Rod – Twelve (12) rods were taken of every prince according to the house of their fathers; names were on every rod. The rods were laid up in the tabernacle of congregation before the Testimony (Ark), Exodus 40: 20-21. The next morning Aaron’s rod had budded and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms and yielded almonds.

Aaron’s rod that budded: Type of Christ’s resurrection. Christ was raised from the dead and exalted to be a high priest (Hebrews 4: 14; 5: 4-10. Romans 8:11 – The Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us. He that raised up Christ shall also quicken (make alive) our mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in us. He that raised up Christ shall also quicken (make alive) our mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in us. He in scripture is the Holy Spirit – The Ark represented the Godhead (Father, Son & the Holy Spirit). In the New Testament the Holy Spirit is perfecting (equipping) the saints for the work of the ministry.

In Corinthians 12:8-28 the Spirit is seen as endowing the members of the body of Christ with spiritual gifts, or ennoblements for a varied service; here the Spirit endowed the men to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors & teachers and are themselves the gifts whom the glorified Christ bestows upon His body, the Church. Absolutely nothing in Christ’s service is left to mere human judgment or self-choosing. Even an apostle was not permitted to choose his place of service. (Acts 16:7-8) Through the Holy Spirit men have the authority to direct and control. We must equip the Church to command.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop James R. Sherman