

## 1 Kings 8:8-15, 21-22

The readings from **Exodus 37-38** begin with a description of the Ark of the Covenant and the wooden staves overlaid with gold. This haftarah reading focuses on King Solomon bringing the ark from the City of David into the new Temple, beginning with a description of the staves.

**1 Kings 8:6-7** - "And the priests brought in the ark of the covenant of the LORD unto his place, into the oracle of the house, to the most holy place, even under the wings of the cherubims. For the cherubims spread forth their two wings over the place of the ark, and the cherubims covered the ark and the staves thereof above."

**1 Kings 8:8** - "And they drew out the staves, that the ends of the staves were seen out in the holy place before the oracle, and they were not seen without: and there they are unto this day."

Unlike the set-up in the Tabernacle, the cherubim in the Temple's holy of holies were huge - 10 cubits high (**1 Kings 6:23**). Josephus tells us that the joined wings overshadowed the ark, covering it as though it were under its own "booth." The LXX indicates the ark was "concealed" by the wings.

Apparently the Holy of Holies was in complete darkness. The Ark would have been positioned perpendicular to the veil. The staves, which were to remain in the rings of the ark (Exodus 25:15), were partially pulled out so they would protrude against the veil, pushing out the curtain on the other side so the high priest would know exactly where to sprinkle the blood once he entered into the darkness with his incense.

Rashi adds a mystical note to this, in reference to the love of God for Israel, for the Bridegroom for the Bride:

Rashi - You might think they tore through the curtain and protruded [on the other side]. The text, therefore, states "and they were not seen without." How is this possible? They were pushing and bulging similar to two breasts of a woman, as it says, "he lies between my breasts" (**Song of Songs 1:13**).

**1 Kings 8:9** - "There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt."

Although in **Hebrews 9:4** it states that of the Ark "wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant" this only means they were associated with it. They were laid up before or beside the (tables of) testimony." See **Numbers 17:10**

But it can also be interpreted to mean these items were within the Ark, in which case it would mean the Philistines had removed them when they captured the ark (**1 Samuel 5:2-6**).

**1 Kings 8:10-11** -- "And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD, So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD."

Compare this expanded description:

**2 Chronicles 5:12-14** - "Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets: It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God."

The glory of the Lord was on Mount Sinai:

**Exodus 24:15-17** - "And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount. And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel."

The same thing happened when the Tabernacle was finally dedicated:

**Exodus 40:34** - "Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle."

The dazzling brightness, or rather, perhaps, the dense portentous darkness of the cloud, struck the minds of the priests, as it formerly had done Moses, which such astonishment and terror.

**Ezekiel 44:4** - "Then brought he me the way of the north gate before the house: and I looked, and, behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD: and I fell upon my face."

**Daniel 10:6** - "His body also was like beryl, his face had the appearance of lightning, his eyes were like flaming torches, his arms and feet like the gleam of polished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a tumult."

**Acts 2:1-3** - "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one

accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

### **Paul**

**Acts 26:13-14** - "At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me. And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me..."

**Revelation 1:14-15** - "His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters."

### **Solomon's Speech**

**1 Kings 8:12** - "Then spake Solomon, The LORD said that he would dwell in the thick darkness. (See **Leviticus 16:2**) I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in for ever. And the king turned his face about, and blessed all the congregation of Israel: (and all the congregation of Israel stood;)"

Read the whole address by Solomon.