

Ark of the Covenant
Questions and Answers

Presented by
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SECTION E:

ARK OF THE COVENANT

INCLUDING:

CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION SITE

CHRIST'S BURIAL SITE

THE BLOOD

TYPE AND ANTITYPE

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INTRODUCTION

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE ARK OF THE COVENANT?

It's the most frequently asked question in the world... a three letter word: "WHY?"

ALL THIS VIOLENCE, POVERTY AND INJUSTICE...

Why?

Why is this lonely planet full of tears?

Why so much hatred... pain... loneliness?

The Problem

The celebrated singer Olivia Newton-John asked her minister, "Why so much suffering... if there's a good God, and He's all-powerful?" Her minister could not answer why.

This is a question of cosmic import. But there is an answer-and it makes sense.

We propose now to draw back the curtain, to the unseen world... to events which have a direct bearing on this question.

Our source is the ancient Scriptures. In the beginning, so we are informed, God created a perfect world, singing with life.

Why Did God Make Us?

Let's face it. The Creator could have made us as ROBOTS, so we HAD TO do as He said. So that when He pressed a button, we'd get down on our knees and say, "I love you... I love you..." But there'd be no freedom in that.

The fact that we have freedom to choose tells us much about the Creator.

I think this points to the reason why He made us. A God of love, His heart bursting with an urge to share, He created intelligent beings as objects of that love. He loves what He has created so much that He wants them to experience the greatest happiness possible. THEREFORE HE GIVES US FREE WILL.

It is only if one CHOOSES to engage in some enterprise that optimum happiness is possible. Such could not be so if we were mere robots.

Liberty

Rather He wanted from us the natural response of unforced love from a spontaneous and free heart.

He has made us free even to disregard His existence, if we wish, or to ignore His laws. As intelligent creatures, we were created free to run the world and even to make a mess.

That is one of the most winsome, beautiful and basic things about God, His love of liberty.

Laws

And He gave us laws for our well-being that make a great deal of sense. Ignore them and we suffer. And our actions can make others suffer.

It is a sad fact that our first parents chose to cut themselves off from their Maker - and Life-giver.

And the result was death. From that day, they began to die, cell by cell. This process would be passed on to all their children.

Like it or not, you and I are involved. We are born alienated and separated from God. Rebellion placed the whole world in jeopardy, under the death sentence. All have sinned; none of us can escape the penalty: permanent death.

"Sin?" someone asks, "What is sin?" Let's put it this way:

Crime is breaking the law of the land. Sin is breaking the law of God (1 John 3:4).

And so we find ourselves subject to death. All of us are in the death cell. We all know we must eventually die and we can't help ourselves. We can't escape that.

There have been times in history when men who are condemned to die - who have been on death row - suddenly, at the last moment, received a pardon from somebody in authority outside.

You see, the law-giver has the prerogative of allowing the law-breaker to die - or of pardoning him, rescuing him from the death penalty. And only the law-giver has that prerogative.

God - the Law-giver - as He looked upon the agony of a lost world, was touched with pity for the fallen race. Our condition was hopeless. And He knew what He would do.

Rescue Plan

The broken law of God demanded the life of the sinner. Only one equal with God could provide a way of escape from death.

And so, in His love, God set up a plan to save as many of our race as possible. This plan is complete, thorough and overwhelmingly generous.

His Son would humble Himself to become one of the human race. He would live among us, suffer our pains, temptations and sorrows, but, keeping Himself free from sinning, He would then suffer the penalty for sin. Having not earned our death sentence, He would take our death sentence upon Himself. He would make it possible for us to be rescued.

That was a wonderful deliverance plan - the plan of salvation.

Animal Sacrifice: to Show the Plan

To help mankind understand the rescue plan, a teaching device was set up. It became known as the sacrificial system.

It was required that when a person was sorry for his wrongs, he would kill with his own hand an innocent animal, such as a lamb.

The Lord God took no delight in the shedding of blood.

But, firstly, man needed to feel horror for sin, as he gazed upon the lifeless form of that animal and realized that his own act had caused the death of an innocent creature. It drove home the painful truth that "the wages of sin is death."

Secondly, he was reminded that his guilt would one day take the life of the Coming Rescuer. The sacrificial act was an act of faith and acceptance of future deliverance.

And so God, in His great love, planned a way to rescue mankind from his predicament.

And when the Messiah later appeared, He was publicly identified at His baptism as "*the lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world*" (John 1:29).

You see, the lamb that was sacrificed in the old sacrificial ceremonies was a prophecy of the coming Savior, the Messiah, who would one day die that we might have life.

What a wonderful gift! What a wonderful provision!

The time came when the world was becoming so degraded and rapidly losing its knowledge of God. And the Lord chose one nation for a unique role in history. They were to become a spiritual beacon, a field of influence, in the world.

He rescued the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, and gathered them around Mount Sinai in Arabia.

They stood there trembling, as lightning flashed, thunder rolled and the earth shook violently.

Clothed with majesty of fire, the Lord hovered over the mountain, and for one singular time in history, He spoke before a whole nation of people.

He spoke audibly the Ten Commandments. Ten laws, brief, comprehensive and authoritative - laws which cover the duty of man to God and to his fellow man - and all based upon the great basic principle of love. You could call them God's ten-point character reference.

He wrote them with His own finger on tablets of imperishable stone - written as with a beam of light cutting into the stone.

Then He delivered them to Moses, to be placed in a tent of worship.

The Sanctuary

This tent, or tabernacle, erected in the desert, was the fore-runner of Solomon's Temple.

The tabernacle was surrounded by a courtyard.

In the courtyard was an altar - known as the altar of burnt offerings. This altar was associated with the sacrifice of the lamb and other sacrificial animals.

When a person who was sorry for his sins came to the courtyard, he would lay his hand upon the animal's head and confess his sin upon it -symbolically transferring his guilt to the innocent animal - and the animal died in his stead. This was symbolic of the coming Messiah who would die for our sins.

Let us be clear on this. The death of an animal could not take away our guilt. But God did forgive that man, because he was demonstrating his faith in the Redeemer, the coming Lamb of God who would one day die for him.

You might call this a "passion play", which was enacted daily for 1500 years until the reality should come.

The tabernacle itself contained two rooms, termed the "holy place" and the "most holy place".

In the first room were three items of furniture.

The 7-branched golden lamp stand was a symbol of the coming Deliverer who would bring light into our darkened lives.

And there was a table of shewbread, representing the coming Messiah as the Bread of life, who would spiritually nourish and bring eternal life to all who would accept Him.

Thirdly, there was a golden altar of incense, before which stood a priest on behalf of the people. The incense rose up from here into the Most Holy Place, representing prayers ascending to God. (When we confess our sins, God will hear our prayers and forgive us.)

The incense was very sweet-smelling and represented the perfection of our Deliverer, which makes our prayers acceptable to God.

The Scripture says that these objects in Moses' tabernacle were a "copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary." ... and that the priesthood that ministered in the earthly tabernacle was only a symbol, a prophecy, of the Coming One who would one day give His life as a sacrifice and then ascend to heaven to represent us before God.

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are figures of the true, but into heaven itself now to appear in the presence of God for us " (Heb. 9:24).

So we have someone in God's very presence standing on our behalf - and the Scripture says we can go direct to God through Him, because He understands our problems. He has already been here, to suffer with us.

"There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).

Today He stands on our behalf in the heavenly sanctuary.

Ark of the Covenant

In the earthly tabernacle, the second room was called the Most Holy Place. It contained one object, THE ARK OF THE COVENANT, which represented the Throne of God in heaven. The Ark of the Covenant was symbolic of God's presence.

Over this box there was a lid, known as the MERCY SEAT.

The box was overlaid with gold, while the lid and the angel-like forms attached to it were of solid gold.

A brilliant, supernatural light shone above the Mercy Seat as a symbol of the Divine Presence.

Inside the chest were the two tablets of stone written with God's own finger. These contained the words of the Ten Commandments - God's law, which you and I have broken.

Its Meaning

This ARK OF THE COVENANT was a teaching model of God's plan to save mankind. The message was:

Yes, mankind has sinned. He has broken that law which is the foundation of God's Throne.

But over this law is the Mercy Seat - showing that God will have mercy upon us sinners who have broken His law - if we turn to Him and ask Him to help us.

Each year an animal's sacrificial blood was sprinkled upon that Mercy Seat - to indicate that only through the shed blood of the coming Savior could we as sinners receive mercy and be restored into the presence of God.

From the divine Throne emanates both justice and mercy.

That is the message of the ARK OF THE COVENANT. It was constructed for that very purpose - to tell us the gospel story.

You see, it's very, very simple.

And the reason it was called THE ARK OF THE COVENANT was that it enshrined that law which God had written with His own finger, "*His covenant, the ten commandments.*" So says the old Scripture (Ex. 34:28; Deut. 4:13).

Thus the golden chest was named after the Ten Commandments that were enshrined within it. And the Mercy Seat placed over it spoke of God's loving mercy to us sinners.

What a wonderful lesson! You see, most people today have no idea what the Ark of the Covenant was. They imagine, "Oh, yes, it was a golden box - and it often killed people if they touched it."

Actually, the reason a man would drop dead if he touched it, was that unholy hands cannot enter into the presence of a holy God. And this Ark was rendered holy by the presence of God.

The Ark was symbolic of God's own Throne.

"Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne, "says the psalmist, speaking to the Lord "Mercy and truth shall go before thy face" (Psa. 89:14).

You see, friends, God is a God of justice. If we deliberately disobey Him and show that we do not want to live in His presence, then we shall die for eternity. But if we turn from our sins and ask Him to forgive us and help us live a new life, we have mercy.

This is the God of the Old Testament, as well as the New. He changes not. And He is merciful.

And so this law, the very foundation of God's Throne, was transcribed on earth and placed in the earthly sanctuary, which was a shadow of the heavenly.

Why the Messiah Died

And the Messiah died because we were sinners. We were sinners because we had broken God's law. Just as a man is a criminal because he has broken man's law, likewise a sinner is a sinner because he has broken God's law.

God's Two Options

When mankind sinned, God had two options.

God could have said, "All right, I am going to change the rules:

- So that stealing will not be a sin any more. People are so weak, so we'll just say that snatching other people's possessions is O.K. We'll just change the rules.
- Some people can't help committing adultery, so I'll change the rules, so that if a man wants to cheat on his wife, it won't matter.
- Let's change the rules, so that if children disobey and are rude to their parents, I won't mind.

But these rules are for our protection. Would abolishing them bring happiness?

Well, the Lord could cancel all His commandments and then there'd be no sin. What defines sin? It is by definition of what the law says.

Jesus died for one reason - He died because God's eternal law could not be changed.

The fact that God's own Son, the surety for man, was not spared, testified that the divine law, which had been violated, could not be altered to meet the sinner in his needs.

Jesus died to satisfy the demands of a law from which we could not escape. If that law could have been changed, He would not have had to die, as its penalty.

"All his commandments are sure. They stand fast forever and ever" (Psa. 111:7, 8).

"Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil " (Eccl. 12:13, 14).

So holy was the Presence over the Ark that when the high priest entered that most holy room, he wore bells on his robe, so that the people outside could hear whether he was still alive once he entered the room.

He was also attached to a rope, so that if he should be struck dead, they could withdraw his body from within the sacred place without risking their own deaths.

In Solomon's Temple

Now, this ARK OF THE COVENANT was eventually placed in Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem. It remained there for hundreds of years.

And then came the time that the armies of Babylon attacked Jerusalem.

And some holy men took the Ark of the Covenant and the most sacred Temple vessels - and hid them in a cave, where they could not be found by the heathen Babylonian soldiers.

From this time onward, the Ark vanished from history.

... Lost for 2,500 years.

IN SEARCH OF THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

(as published in Nexus Magazine)

"This is a delicate matter," whispered fellow team member Bob Murrell. He glanced around... saw no one following... and spoke again.

"It's too hot for some people."

I stood riveted, before the niche in the cliff-face. Some forty feet under me sat the most explosive artifact on earth. "They told us to seal off the tunnel mouth," breathed Bob. "I made the door to lead down and fixed it here. It's several feet under. Did it myself."

I surveyed the landscape. A good disguise. "We don't deserve to be here" I said finally.

"Let's go."

For 800 years the Ark of the Covenant was the most sacred and holy object in the world.

Suddenly, in 586 BC, it disappeared.

In 1982 it was found!

It is a discovery so electrifying and so politically explosive that the news was kept secret for over 14 years. Even today, at the request of the host government, not all of the evidence can be revealed. In 1982, American amateur archaeologist Ron Wyatt claimed to have found the Ark of the Covenant. This claim was not made widely known. In fact, Ron had only told a few of his friends before the host government requested that he keep certain information confidential for the time being.

So well was the secret kept, that it was not until 1991 that I learned of Ron's claimed discovery. With three decades of experience as an archaeological explorer as well as a skeptic, I set out with a briefcase full of objections against Wyatt's claims.

My team was to spend four years investigating the alleged discovery of the Ark of the Covenant. I expected to quickly disprove the claims of Ron Wyatt. However, intense investigation, repeated visits to dig sites, and privileged viewing of evidence and artifacts, left me totally convinced of the truth of the find. The result is the 600 page book, *Ark of the Covenant*. What follows is the story of this hugely significant discovery and my thorough investigation. It is a story that could not be told until 1997- 15 years after the fact.

One important note before we go on...

Due to continuing restrictions by the host government, it is not possible to present all the data that has been collected on this subject. For most people, that which CAN be said in this report will be more than enough. Others will have to watch and wait until that time when the ultimate evidence can be made public.

History

It is recorded that the Ark first came into being in the year 1446 BC when it was constructed in the time of Moses to enshrine the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments were called the words of the Covenant; hence the chest that contained them was called the Ark of the Covenant. The Hebrew word "Ark" in this context means "box". The Ark was a wooden chest covered in gold. The lid was made of solid gold and two statues of cherubim, one at each side, were also of solid gold. It is written that the design was handed down by God. The Ark was revered by the Hebrews and surrounding nations who heard of supernatural events associated with it. Quite suddenly the Ark disappeared from historical records.

Long before I had got involved, there had been speculations that the lost Ark was anywhere from Ethiopia to Jordan to Ireland.

Since the Hollywood fantasy *Raiders of the Lost Ark* was first released in 1981, with Harrison Ford in the starring role as Indiana Jones, there had been a proliferation of attempts to find the secret hiding place of this famous treasure.

The real thing had vanished some 2,500 years ago, at least. Its disappearance, according to some people, was THE great mystery:

Still hidden

Well, my investigation had led me into numerous localities in a number of countries. I was satisfied that the Ark had not gone to any of these places, that it had not been taken by the Babylonians or the Romans and that it had not been destroyed either. According to tradition, the Ark and other Temple treasures had remained hidden throughout the time of the Babylonian invasions, the 70 year exile of the Jews in Babylonia and the entire Second Temple period. They remained hidden throughout the centuries while Jerusalem was under foreign domination - and they remained hidden to the present day.

In October 1978, began a story that could yet prove to be the most significant event in modern history. American amateur archaeologist, Ron Wyatt, who at the time was researching his ideas on the location of Noah's Ark, developed a theory on the location of the long lost Ark of the Covenant.

He believed that the golden Ark would be found beneath old Mount Moriah in the vicinity of the cliff face that is sometimes called the 'Skull Hill' escarpment, since it contains the "skull-face" that many Christians believe was where Yeshua (Jesus) was crucified.

Ron's theory was not without basis. A study of historical records reveals that:

1. The Ark vanished between the 18th year of King Josiah (when it is recorded as having been moved back to Solomon's Temple) and 35 years later at the siege of Jerusalem, when the Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians.

2. It was not recorded as one of the items seized and taken to Babylon during any of the three invasions (2 Kings Ch. 24, 25; 2 Chron. ch. 36; Jer. 52:17-23).

3. It is likely that it was hidden just prior to the destruction of the Temple.

4. To have escaped seizure, the Ark would have to be hidden outside of the city, but to get out of the city while it was surrounded by the Babylonian army would have been impossible. However, it may have been possible to secrete the Ark just outside the city to somewhere in the 'no man's land' between the opposing forces

of the Hebrews and Babylonians. Although never previously suspected, it was conceivable that the Ark could have been hidden in the vicinity that Wyatt had chosen.

Excavation Begins

In January 1979, Ron Wyatt and his team began excavation in Jerusalem. Given the broad nature of the clues, they had little idea where to commence digging. The site that Wyatt selected was being used as a 'rubbish dump' and offered very little visual promise. There was so much rubbish in front of the hill that several truckloads had to be carted away before digging could begin. Over the millennia, the city of Jerusalem has been razed and rebuilt several times. Each time, the new city has been simply reconstructed on top of the old. As the Ark was last seen over 2,500 years ago, Ron decided to initially dig straight down along the cliff face. Much of the cliff-face was covered with built up rubble.

Many tons of rock and debris would be removed in the course of the excavation and Wyatt's team would have to sift through it all for artifacts. This was a requirement of the Department of Antiquities with which they would always comply. Ron and his team had begun a job of mammoth proportions!

Digging began along the escarpment as planned, straight down. As the face of the cliff was exposed, a large, shelf-like niche was noticed, cut into the cliff face.

Niches in the Cliff Face

Further digging exposed two more niches cut into the cliff, and another smaller niche to their right. Their appearance suggested that they had been cut to hold plaques or signs. Wyatt's team was digging close to the 'skull-face', which is a known place of executions. As for the three niches, Ron Wyatt hypothesized that they were for placing notices stating the crime of the crucifixion victim, in the three languages of the day (Hebrew, Greek and Latin). The exploration vicinity, Skull Hill, is believed by many to be the site of the most famous crucifixion. Although not the objective of the excavation, Ron Wyatt sensed that they might find evidence to support this notion.

A Stone Plug

Removing more rubble, the men discovered that a shelf of bedrock extended out from the cliff-face by about 2.4 meters (8 feet). It appeared to be a platform. In the platform lay a large squarish stone which appeared unnaturally symmetrical. With closer examination, Wyatt discovered apparent finger-holds on the sides of the stone allowing it to be grasped for removal. Raising this stone revealed it to be a 'plug' covering a roughly square hole chiseled into the bedrock. The hole was recessed to prevent the plug from falling all the way in, thus creating an effective lid. Completely empty, the hole had the appearance of a post-hole laboriously cut out of solid rock.

As the surrounding dirt was cleared away, a large crack was discovered extending out from the hole. The crack didn't appear man-made. Instead, it seemed more likely to have been the result of an earth movement.

Discovered - A Crucifixion Site

Digging was resumed in front of the platform, into an area of packed earth. A lower level of bedrock was struck 1.2 meters (4 feet) deeper. Once cleared, three more squarish holes were discovered chiseled into the lower bedrock in front of the 'platform'. Wyatt believed that these were holes specially made to hold crosses for crucifixion.

The elevated cross-hole was measured and found to extend 60 centimeters (23 5/8 inches) into the solid bedrock. It appeared that this was where the 'star attraction' was crucified, elevated several feet above those crucified around him.

Without doubt, the team had uncovered a crucifixion site. It was on a ledge, in front of a hill facing a public road. Could this be the actual site of the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth?

Biblical writings tell that this event took place near Skull Hill, the place of the Skull - this very place.

It was late 1980. The team had now been toiling for nearly two years. However, the object of their search continued to elude them. They had checked all along the cliff-face with no sign of a cave or tunnel, yet if the Ark was in that location at all, it must surely be hidden in a cave. Wyatt decided that the time had come to attempt to simply break through the cliff-face.

To their delight they soon broke into a cavity inside the cliff. But initial excitement soon turned to drudgery. The cavern proved to be just a very small part of an extensive honeycomb of natural caves and tunnels inside the mountain. Each time tunnels were discovered, they were disappointingly empty.

December 1981 rolled on. One young local who had proven very honest and trustworthy was "Rafat" (not his real name). Being small and slender, this young man was a real help in squeezing through some of the impossibly tight tunnels of the excavations and reporting everything that he saw.

Complete and utter terror

They followed one particularly difficult passageway which led through a 'chimney' to connect with a tunnel so narrow that Ron had to exhale just to wriggle through. Emerging into a wider area, Ron saw a tiny opening in the wall of the passage. Directly in front of the hole was a stalactite about 40 centimeters (16 inches) long. It almost appeared to be 'guarding' the hole. Moments after crawling through the tiny opening, Rafat came frantically tumbling back, crying "I'm not going back in there!" He was trembling and shaking. His eyes showed complete and utter terror.

Rafat claimed that 'he had seen nothing!' Whatever his experience, it was stark and real. He left the chamber and never returned. With Rafat's reaction throbbing in his head, Ron purposely checked his watch. It was 2.00 pm on Wednesday, January 6, 1982. With only 45 centimeters (18 inches) clearance, Ron lay on his stomach and inched forward with nothing but the flashlight in his hand...

Objects from Solomon's Temple

The beam of light shone forward over the huge pile of rocks. Something shiny caught Ron's eye.

He began moving the rocks one at a time. It was slow, tedious work - but just under the rocks were planks of dry-rotted wood. Beneath the planks were the remains of animal skins so affected by dry rot that when touched, they turned to powder. The animal skins were laid over a golden table with raised molding around its side. The decorative molding depicted an alternating pattern of a bell and pomegranate.

Ron's heart raced. He knew that he was in a chamber with objects from Solomon's Temple! With adrenaline racing through his veins and with mounting anticipation, Wyatt scanned the chamber with his torch. A crack in the ceiling with a deposit of a black substance caught his interest.

The Ark of the Covenant

Slowly and painfully, Ron crawled over the rocks to the other end of the chamber, where he saw a stone case extending through the rocks. It was a thin walled case, similar to those used in ancient times to contain objects. The flat stone top was within 8 to 10 centimeters (3 to 4 inches) of the ceiling and it was cracked completely in two. The smaller section of the cover was moved aside, creating an opening into the stone case.

Although it was too close to the ceiling to look inside, Wyatt now knew what must be in that stone case. With that instant realization, Ron Wyatt passed out.

It was 2:45 pm when he came to - only 45 minutes after entering the chamber.

The archaeologist did not report his experience to anyone at that time. His mind was whirring with all that had transpired.

He needed time to think. The plan had always been to find the Ark of the Covenant and to bring it out... but that now appeared impossible!

Attempts to photograph

In the following years, Wyatt made several other trips back to the site, armed with cameras. If he couldn't retrieve the Ark of the Covenant, he could at least secure photographic evidence of its existence.

By inserting a long pole through the opening at the top of the stone case, attempts were made to photograph the Ark.

A Polaroid camera was brought in, but the photos turned out foggy. A 35 mm camera was brought in and again the photos turned out foggy. Finally a video camera was brought in but still the images were fogged.

The photos were taken looking over the shoulder of one cherub, toward the other.

Unfortunately, in each attempt the developed image showed a strange effect. In front of the cherub (which Ron could see clearly) there was a 'supernatural' golden mist obscuring the view.

Being a religious man, Ron Wyatt concluded that he simply wasn't supposed to take any photographs.

Reports to Israeli authorities

Ron made several more trips into the chamber before eventually reporting what he had found to the authorities.

Perhaps not able to believe what Ron told them, or perhaps recognizing the problems that could arise were it made known, Ron was asked not to tell anyone about this discovery. Alas, it was too late, for Ron confessed that he had already told a few people.

Realizing that "what is done is done", they asked him not to reveal any more details than he had already shared. For this reason, the information that is presented from this point on cannot be too specific in certain areas, nor can some vital evidence be published.

Evidence handed over

Some time later, Wyatt was able to present an artifact from the excavation to the authorities. What he presented convinced them that he had indeed found some items from the First Temple.

In 1990, the Israeli authorities decided to test public reaction to a possible discovery announcement of the Ark of the Covenant and to a possible building of a new Temple. The result was a bloody clash and many deaths.

The morning of Monday October 8, 1990 will survive in history as the "Temple Mount massacre". Eleven Israeli worshippers and eight policemen were injured, while 21 Arabs were shot dead and 125 seriously injured in a clash between Zionists and Arab Moslems.

Between Jewish extremists and nervous Arabs, the Ark of the Covenant was political dynamite.

The chamber which houses the temple artifacts is 6.6 meters (22 feet) long. At one end it is 3.6 meters wide (12 feet). One side follows the line of the cliff face narrowing the chamber in one corner. The height of the chamber is about 2.4 meters (8 feet), and the ceiling fairly flat.

The Cracks Explored

On one of the later expeditions, attention focused on the two cracks. The cracks, one in the ceiling and one in the lid of the stone case, are in line. The crack in the ceiling with its black substance deposit had caught Wyatt's attention on his first visit to the cave.

It almost seemed as if the crack had come down through the rock and `leapt through the air' to start again by splitting the lid of the stone case directly below. To add to the mystery, some of the black substance appeared to have run down the crack and dripped through the gap in the lid to land inside. There was also some splashed on the lid of the stone case. Samples were taken of the black substance.

Detective work was begun by investigating the extent of the crack in the ceiling. One team member sat up by the ledge outside and Wyatt entered the chamber to push a rigid metal tape up through the crack in the ceiling. The tape emerged on the left-hand side of the elevated cross hole, making the crack a total of 6 meters (20 feet) through solid rock.

The mystery of the black substance

Samples of the black substance taken from the crack leading from the cross-hole have been analyzed and found to be human blood.

Ron's theory is that it is the blood of Christ that was copiously spilled when the Roman soldier thrust his spear into Yeshua (Jesus) to confirm that He was dead on the cross.

History records that at 3:00 pm when Jesus died, an earthquake struck. Perhaps this was the cause of the crack. If it can ever be proven that this is the blood of Jesus, then this would mean that His was the last blood to be spilled on the Mercy Seat [lid] of the Ark of the Covenant. In every sense of the original Hebrew belief in the sacrificial system, this would indeed make this the last sacrifice.

This would be consistent with prophecies that the Messiah would be the final sacrifice (in ancient times the blood of a sacrifice was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat once a year).

The original tunnel found?

Ron Wyatt has pursued his search for the original access tunnel since 1982. Many leads have been followed. Sub-surface interface radar has been used to search for voids crossing from the Old City to the excavation. Hopeful trails have been followed only to be met with disappointing rock barriers.

In desperation, in 1992, Ron even attempted to reach the cavern by digging straight down from above with pneumatic hammer drills. Unfortunately, over several trips to the site they had only managed to get through 3 meters (10 feet) of solid limestone and thousands of dollars in expenses, so the attempt was abandoned.

Government reaction

In recent days, I have often been asked, "How do the Israeli authorities react to the find?"

I shall speak frankly. From the information I am able to acquire, it is evident that the authorities do not know how to handle this discovery.

They have a right to be nervous. Some time ago, a permit was granted to some Israelis to undertake an excavation under the Temple Mount. After a short while, it was reported that workmen had been seen lugging crates into the excavation tunnel. This aroused the curiosity of the authorities. They sent men in to investigate. It was found that the tunnel penetrated to a spot close under the Dome of the Rock... and high explosives were being set in position, presumably to blow up the place.

If you didn't know, the Al Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock, together named the Haram al Sharif, comprise the third most important place for the Moslem people. Just think what sabotage of that site could do. It might well provoke an Islamic Jihad, a "holy war".

The Israeli government desires to maintain good relations with the Arabs. It does not want to disturb the peace with the Arabs.

Both sides lay claim to the Temple Mount, recognized as the third most sacred Moslem site in the world.

There are Israelis who want to demolish the Moslem Dome of the Rock to build a Third Jewish Temple on the site.

Possession of the Ark could encourage extremists to wage war in order to achieve this aim. The Ark of the Covenant would be the most coveted item for such a Temple.

So we have Jewish extremists... angry Palestinians... and a third potentially explosive factor... the Ark of the Covenant find.

U. S. News and World Report put it well: "In a land torn by competing historical claims, archaeology is a weapon."

While the authorities (and by this I mean a handful of tight-lipped officials) know of the Ark's location, they have decided that the matter is too politically volatile for them to go public. An official announcement could provoke "premature" action by fringe groups wanting to build a new Temple.

Government officials regard this as a critical issue, in which the safety of the people must come first. In view of the prospect of a negotiable peace in the Middle East, the present actions of the government are deliberately against any disclosure of what it knows.

Perhaps sensing the imminent recovery of the Ark, permission for the ultimate recovery has been denied at this time.

Sealed up

When the authorities ordered the crew to seal up the entrance to the excavation tunnel leading to the chamber, we knew that absolute confirmation of our story would be impossible for the present. Workmen constructed a steel door to close off the entrance. And several feet of earth were piled over it, to disguise the location. The cross-holes also were covered over with timber and gravel since the authorities did not want them revealed.

No matter how wonderful and exciting would be the display of the items in that cave; it seems likely that this will have to wait a while longer. Meanwhile, the accumulated evidence must ultimately apply public pressure to international politicians. SHOULD THIS DISCOVERY BE KEPT UNDERGROUND FOR ANOTHER DECADE?

Some final thoughts...

Continuing tests on the discovered blood are proving very interesting. It is hoped that conclusive evidence will be gleaned that confirms early indications that it is the blood of a virgin birth. Christians believe that Jesus was born of only one human parent, the Virgin Mary. Again, if Ron had not found the crucifixion site with the crack in the cross hole, the link between the blood and the crucifixion might never have been made. If conclusive evidence is found to link the Ark of the Covenant and the crucifixion site, it would mean that Jeremiah concealed the Ark in exactly the right location some 600 years earlier.

Epilogue

The story you've just explored is as much as can be told at this time. With strong initial skepticism, I have spent eight years from 1991, investigating Ron Wyatt's claims. I have been privileged to view evidence that cannot be publicly shared at this time. After becoming convinced of the truth of Ron's claims I have assisted Ron with his exploration and research.

We now both look forward to the day when two independent geneticists can be taken to the chamber that houses the Ark of the Covenant.

Nevertheless, for many people, the evidence that can now be offered is more than enough. For others, you can only wait and watch until the ultimate evidence can be presented.

SECTION F: ARK OF THE COVENANT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ARK COPIED FROM EGYPTIANS?

1. Was the Ark's design really given by God, or was it a copy of an Egyptian or Babylonian religious Ark?

Jordon Maxwell, an American mythology educator, asserts that the Babylonians, Assyrians, Persians, Greeks and Egyptians all had a story of an Ark of the Covenant, from which the Hebrew Ark is borrowed.

So-called "Ark-like" objects in other cultures have only a superficial resemblance. Such resemblances have been sought in model temples, chariots for gods, squared thrones, tent-shrines and even coffins for gods. That's really stretching it.

If any borrowing was done, very likely it was from the Ark of the Covenant, not the reverse. Many of the similar objects were built after the Ark of the Covenant.

Yes, God dictated the design to Moses (see Exodus chapter 25).

And of course, we know from the historical record that the Ark was not some pagan box devoid of power behind it. Supernatural happenings took place around the Ark.

APPEARANCE

2. What did the Ark look like?

The Ark is described in the twenty-fifth chapter of Exodus. It was a chest made of wood overlaid with gold.

The lid of the Ark, known as the Mercy Seat, was of pure gold. Attached to it and beaten out of the same piece of solid gold, were two angel-like carvings called cherubim. These faced each other, looking down toward the law and the Mercy Seat.

Various ancient accounts describe the cherubim wings as being raised above or level with their heads. Yet the word translated "upward", "on high" or "above" (Hebrew *lema'lah*) in Exodus 25:20 and 37:9 actually indicates that the wings were spread horizontally near their heads.

One wing of each cherub is thus outstretched (and shown as such in our sketch), while the other wing of each is clasped by the side.

The sketch in the circle is a close-up of the crown molding around the edge of the Mercy seat. This is approximately 2 to 2 1/2 inches high. It comprises alternating bells and pomegranates.

Four rings attached to the base of the Ark were for the insertion of poles, by which to carry the Ark.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT ©H.A.R.

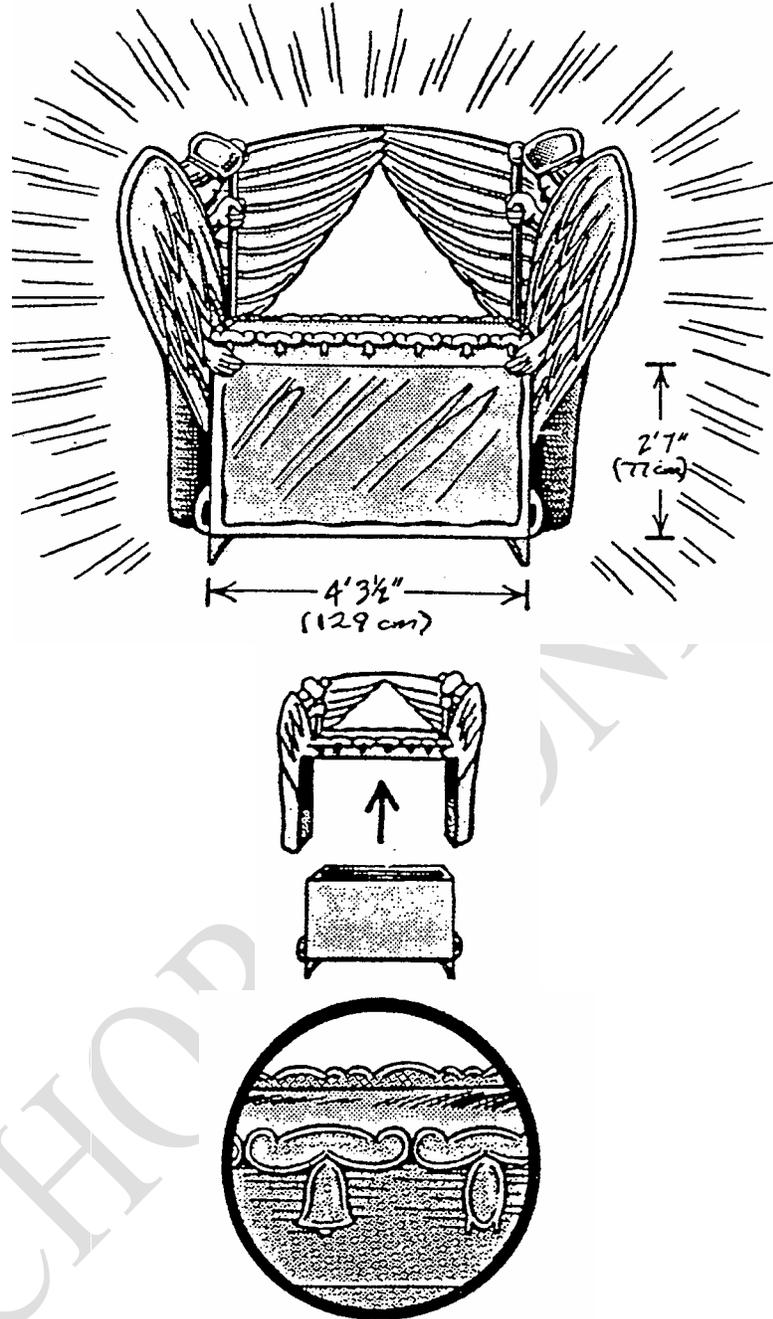


Figure 1 Artist rendition of the Ark of the Covenant

3. Since the Bible says the angels have their feet on top of the Mercy Seat, why do you place them beside the two ends with their feet on the ground?

Our portrayal is based on physical eyewitness observation. Also, here is what the Bible says: *'and make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof' (Ex. 25:19). "And he made two cherubims of gold, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat; One cherub on the end on this side, and another cherub on the other end on that side: out of the mercy seat made he the cherubims on the two ends thereof' (Ex. 37:7,8).*

According to Strong's Concordance, the word "on" in Exodus 25:19 ("cherub ON the one end" and "cherub ON the other end") can most certainly also mean "touching", "against", and "beside". (See Hebrew entry 5921)

A motor vehicle's rear vision mirror is said to be "on" the car, even though it is not on top, but attached to the side.

Another point to consider is that it is called a mercy SEAT, and it is a symbol of God's THRONE. If the angels' feet were on top of the Mercy Seat, the whole object could not present as a seat or throne.

The symbolic representation of the holy angels looking reverently downward toward the Mercy Seat represented all the heavenly angels looking with reverence toward the law of God deposited in the heavenly Ark. But how could such symbolism be correct if the cherubims were actually standing on top of the Mercy Seat which is on top of the Ark containing the law of God? That would show irreverence. It would be incorrect symbolism.

As the record says, the angels are "on the two ends" "at either end of the Ark", the symbol of God's Throne. The angels are not standing on top of God's Throne. They stand beside the Throne.



Figure 2 Color representation of what it actually looks like

WEIGHT

4. Gold is heavy. If the Ark of the Covenant (with such large cherubim as shown in your picture) was made of solid gold, might it not have been too heavy to carry?

The Ark was merely overlaid with gold. As for the Mercy Seat, this was beaten out of one solid piece of gold, and two cherubim were made, one standing on each end, beaten out of the same piece of gold. From actual examination, the Mercy Seat is about 3 1/2 inches (9 cm) thick. It does look like solid gold, or at least thick gold plate. However, since the craftsmen took one piece of solid gold and beat it into shape to form the Mercy Seat and two cherubim, these are probably hollow. Perhaps, like the Ark, they are composed of wood overlaid with gold.

Dr. Leslie Hardinge (*With Jesus in the Sanctuary*, p.190) concurs that "The lid of the Ark was a slab of acacia wood encased in solid gold" and that the angels were hollow (p.206).

PURPOSE

5. What was the Ark's purpose?

1. The Ark was the special place for the manifesting of God's presence on earth.

The book of Numbers depicts Moses coming to the Ark and hearing the voice of God speaking from between the cherubim upon the Ark (Num. 7:89).

The Ark was symbolic of the Great Throne in heaven, the centre of rulership for the universe.

Thus two cherubim (representations of angelic beings) were attached to the cover of the Ark. Cherubim always appear in Scripture as immensely powerful beings who attend the visible presence of God. Various Scripture passages picture the Lord as sitting enthroned between the cherubim (1 Sam. 4:4; 2 Sam. 6:2; Psa. 80:1) with the Ark as His footstool (1 Chron. 28:2; Psa. 132:7,8).

2. The Ark's main purpose was as a repository for the holy law of God.

It was for this reason that this golden chest was named the ARK OF THE COVENANT (or ARK OF THE TESTIMONY). It enshrined "the words of the covenant, the ten commandments", also known as "the testimony" (Ex. 34:28; 32:15, 16).

That law was a transcript of the character and will of God. The tables of the law within the Ark testified to the fact that God's kingdom is founded on an unchangeable standard of right living (Psa. 97:2).

The location of the TEN COMMANDMENTS below the MERCY SEAT of the Ark taught that God's government and law isn't arbitrary, but is based on LOVE.

From the Divine Throne emanates not merely "justice and judgment" but also "mercy" (Psa. 89:14).

3. The Ark was a teaching model of God's great plan to save fallen man.

The message was that God will be gracious to those who come to Him in His appointed way.

Firstly, man has sinned. He has broken that law which is the foundation of God's government. Says John, "Whosoever commits sin transgresses also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4).

But secondly, over this law is the Mercy Seat. The Lord's mercy is over His law. It is the prerogative of the law-giver to provide mercy.

The sacrificial blood placed upon the Mercy Seat over the Ten Commandments was an impressive symbol of the price that our sins have cost and which the Deliverer would be willing to pay.

So in a nutshell, it meant simply this:

The blood of the Coming One shall be shed as a sacrifice and God will grant mercy to all who accept that sacrifice on their behalf and turn from their wrongdoings.

Before we leave this point, something I found interesting was that on the annual Day of Atonement the blood was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat once and before it 7 times. Just so, the coming Lamb of God, the Messiah, would be offered once for all. Seven is the number of perfection and completeness.

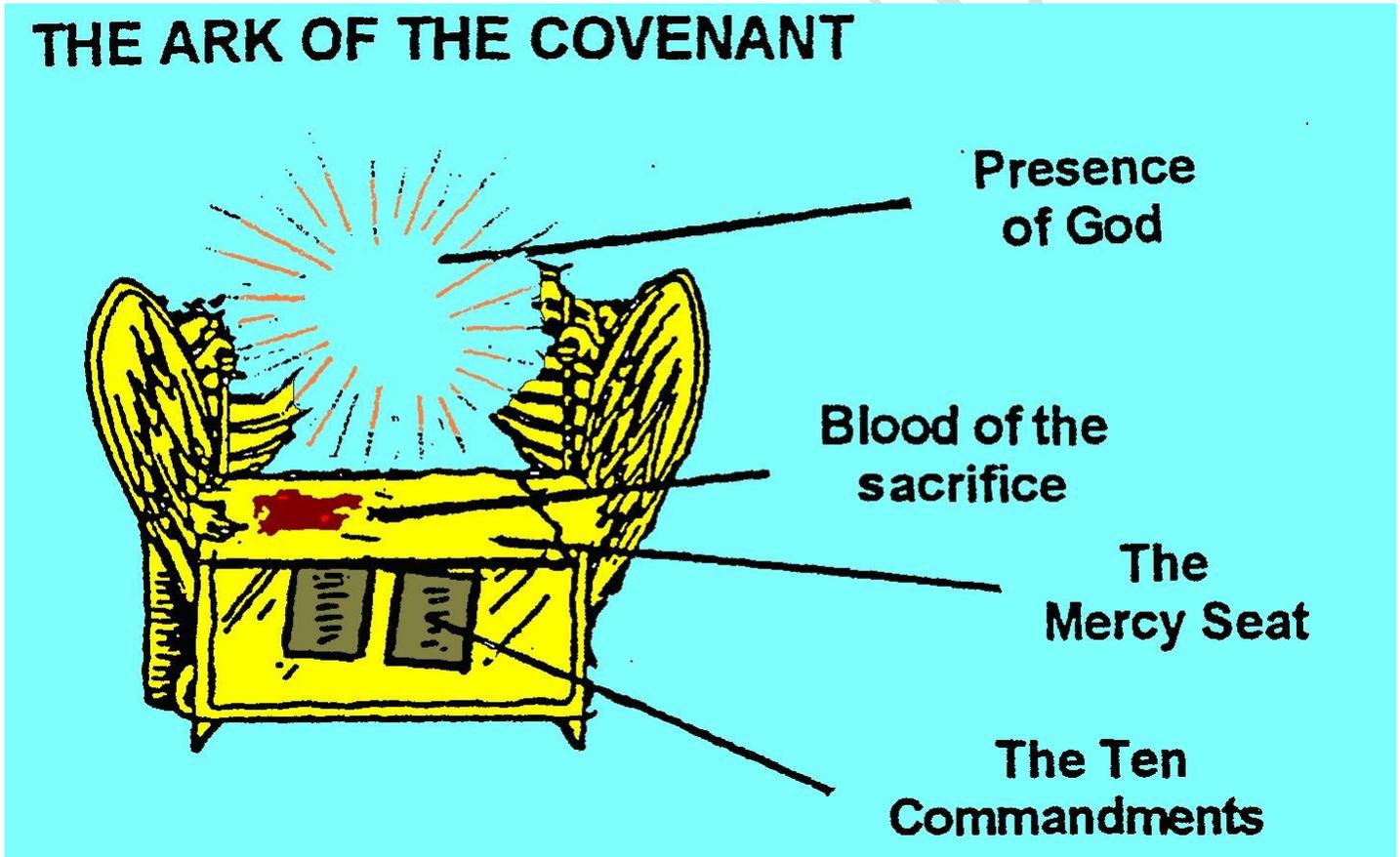


Figure 3 Ark of the Covenant layout



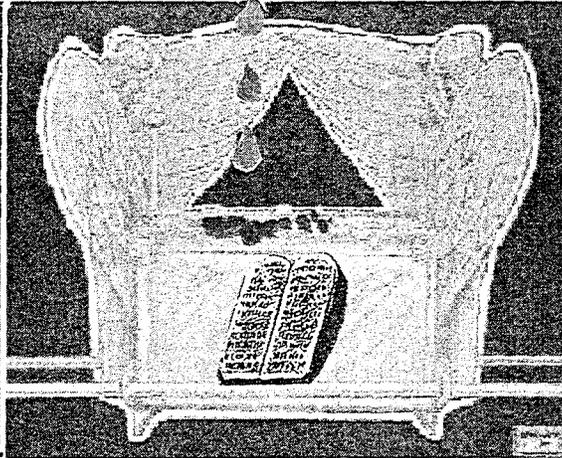
Figure 4 High Priest sprinkling blood on Mercy Seat



Figure 5 Jesus as our High Priest

WITH HIS OWN FINGER

WITH HIS OWN BLOOD



SINAI
"the mount of God"

MORIAH
"the mount of the Lord"

The message in the Ark of the Covenant

Figure 6 Pictorial of the message of the Ark of the Covenant

CONTENTS

6. Are the jar of manna and Aaron's rod still inside the Ark?

In the *Update Newsletter No. 10* we incorrectly stated that "at one time, Aaron's rod and the pot of manna were in it." We should have stated that they were in front of it.

The Old Testament, Josephus and Philo are all unanimous in their verdict that the only items in the Ark were the tablets of the Ten Commandments. The rod and the manna were said to have been kept IN FRONT OF the Ark (Ex. 16:33-34; Num. 17:10; 1 Kings 8:9; 2 Chron. 5:10: *see Philo, De Vita Mosis 2:97; Josephus, Antiquities 3.6.5.138; 8.4.1.104*).

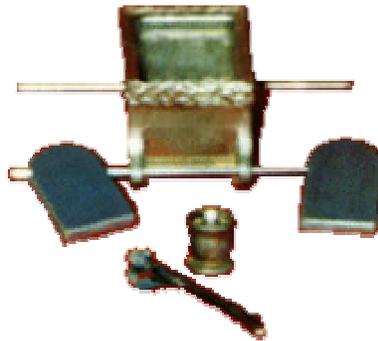


Figure 7 Contents of Ark of the Covenant

DEATH TO TOUCH IT

7. Was the Ark an electrical conductor?

As a matter of fact, replicas of the Ark have been made, without any such electrical conductivity resulting.

But, more to the point, our original sources of information concerning the Ark - ancient Hebrew texts - refute such an idea. According to the first book of Samuel, Chapter 4, the Ark had no independent power as a super weapon. It was powerless to prevent its own capture by the enemy.

Apparently, there was nothing inherently dangerous about the physical structure of the Ark. If we are to believe the ancient writings, the true power of the Ark rested only in the Divine Presence. It is related that when God's presence was with the Ark and the Hebrews who possessed it, the Ark was heralded as a wondrous source of divine blessing and protection to the faithful. It brought them victory in battle - and prosperity to the home of a man named Obed-edom while it rested there.

But when the Divine Presence departed, in response to Israel's faithlessness, the Ark was as powerless as any man-made object.



Figure 8 Israelites carrying the Ark



Figure 9 Death of Uzzah

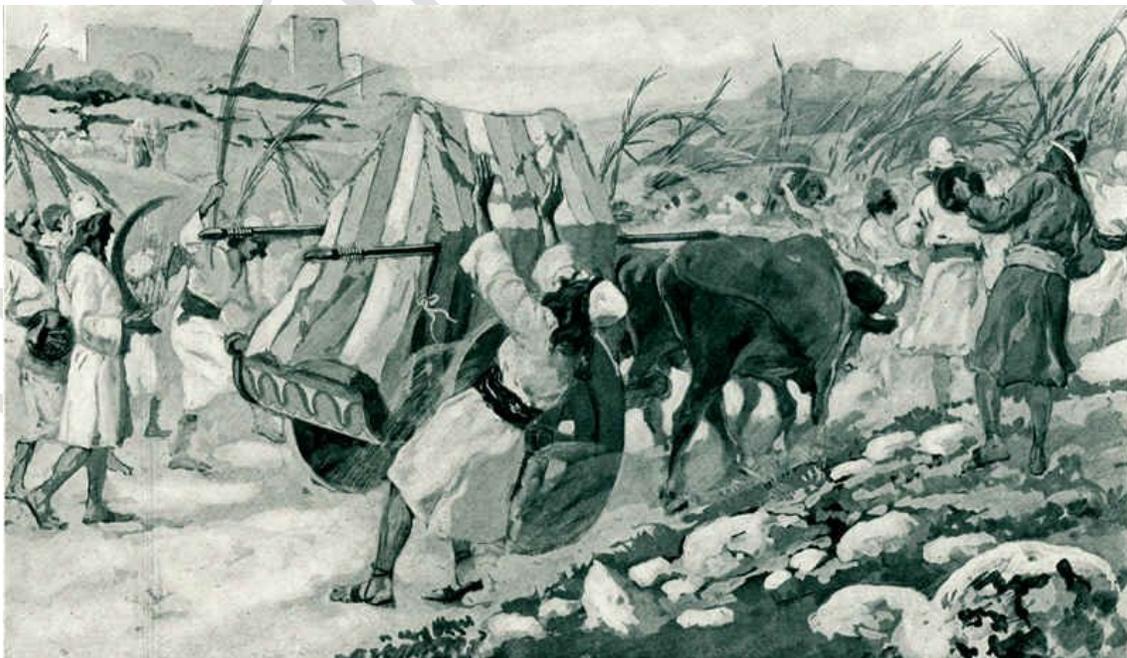


Figure 10 Death of Uzzah, another rendition.

8. Why did people drop dead when they touched it?

The Hebrews held that the Creator of the universe was holy and that they were unholy. This entire planet had fallen temporarily under the powers of evil, and in order for the Deity to meet with His chosen people, He had instructed that a special place be kept aside that was not defiled by unholy beings.

The Ark of the Covenant came to be known as God's earthly "Throne", so to speak. Since the Holy One could be approached only in holiness, the Ark, which represented God's Presence, was to be treated as holy.

According to the writings of Moses, "violation of the holy things" that were set apart exclusively for the worship of God was a serious matter (Lev. 5:15). The Lord Himself, it was declared, had spoken thus:

By those who come near me I will be treated as holy and before all the people I will be honored (Lev. 10:3).

Since the Holy Creator cannot look upon evil, (Hab. 1:13), it meant instant destruction to any human, except the high priest, who came into contact with this earthly "Throne" of the Lord. God would not permit men to defile His earthly "Throne". This was the one object on earth which they were powerless to defile.



Figure 11 Ark of the Covenant from "Raiders of the Lost Ark" movie

9. Why was Uzzah struck dead merely for trying to keep it from falling?

Uzzah's fate was linked to the violation of a most explicit command. Through Moses, God had given special orders concerning the Ark's transportation.

Firstly, none but the appointed priests, descendants of Aaron, were to look upon it uncovered, much less touch it (Num. 4:15). After the priests had covered the holy chest, the sons of Kohath must lift it by the poles that were placed in rings on each side.

Secondly, while carts and oxen were used to transport other items belonging to the worship tent, this was not to be the method of transportation for the Ark. It was to be borne upon the shoulders of the sons of Kohath (Num. 7:9).

Thus, on this occasion, there had been a direct and inexcusable violation of the divine command.

Certainly, King David and his subjects were performing a glad and willing act in transporting the Ark to Jerusalem. However, their neglect of the divine instruction was unacceptable. In Uzzah's case, such neglect had apparently lessened his sense of the sacredness of God's plain statements. Only a strict heed to His requirements was acceptable.

10. Did God's presence leave the Ark?

When the glory of the Lord left the Temple (seen by Ezekiel), doesn't it follow that God's presence left the Ark? So would it not be pointless for Jesus to sprinkle His blood on the Ark if God's presence had left it? The Lord's glory left the Temple just before the Babylonians destroyed the Temple. The Ark also left the Temple just before the Babylonians destroyed the Temple. It seems possible that the glory departed from the Temple when the Ark departed. The Scripture says God's presence left the Temple.

In the earthly sanctuary services, sin-laden sacrificial blood was never carelessly permitted to just flow onto the ground. Some of it was always taken by a priest and applied in the case of individual offerings, onto the horns of the altar of sacrifice in the courtyard, and in the case of sacrifices for corporate sins, onto the horns of the altar of incense in the Holy Place.

Then the "clean" blood shed on the Day of Atonement came to these altars via the Most Holy Place (where the Ark reposed), to cleanse the two altars where the sin-laden blood had been applied (*See Leviticus chapters 4 and 16*).

The earth has been defiled and for the time being the earth is controlled by evil forces. However, the Lord preserved one thing free from contamination - the Ark. It was the earthly "Throne" of God. It was holy and He kept it so. Thus it was upon this earthly Throne of his Father that the blood of the Messiah fell.

The fogginess of the Ark of the Covenant photographs taken by each of three cameras was not due to faulty cameras.

11. Since in former times people died when they tried to touch the Ark, what would happen if you touched it today? How do you protect yourself?

We all know, don't we what happened in the long ago if someone tried to touch the Ark.

That was because the Ark was a symbol of God's Presence. God is holy and unholy man cannot approach into His presence. In those days, the people were forbidden to look upon it.

Even in recent times, when it was photographed, the pictures turned out foggy. And one might ask could it be that the Lord even now does not intend that it be seen by the world... at this present time?

Over the years, many unsavory characters have attached themselves to the search - men motivated by greed or self-interest. Suppose that such men were to catch a clear glimpse of the shimmering gold of the Ark, just what might they attempt then?

The Bible states, of course, that once the Lord places His blessing upon something, that blessing remains forever (1 *Chronicles 17:27*).

The Ark of the Covenant is the earthly Throne of God. At this point of time, all of the furnishings of the Temples (both the wilderness Tabernacle and the Temple of Solomon) - all of that furniture - is set out in the underground chamber in exactly the same way as it was in those two places. The only difference is there is no veil between the rest of the furnishings and the Ark.

What would happen if one touched the Ark today? My personal feeling would be that unless one was chosen for the job, it would be advisable not to try and find out.

Says Ron, "Before I go in there I ask the Lord, in the Name and Blood of His Son, to forgive me and cleanse me of every sin -the ones I know about and the ones I don't know about. You see, the Bible says, 'Even your righteousness is as filthy rags.' So there are things we allow and participate in that won't be allowed in a perfect universe. All the things we have here will be replaced with things that are a whole lot nicer and healthier, and all of that.

"But anyway, that's how I protect myself - it is by the blood of Jesus. And for all of us - all the protection we need, is that.

"I know a lot of people who think they should be able to go in and have a look. Well, God is up there; He is not hard of hearing, or retarded. He understands all languages. And if they ask Him to see it, in the name and blood of His Son, and if He wants them to see it, He can make the arrangements. He can show them where it is, and all else necessary.

"There are 16 people that have died because in one way or another they have tried to mess up with the discoveries. SO GOD HAS HIS HAND OVER THESE THINGS."

LOCATION TODAY

12. Was the ark in 2nd TEMPLE?

The Ark was never in the Second Temple. We investigated carefully to determine whether, after the Jewish captivity in Babylon, when the Second Temple was built, the Ark had been placed in that Temple. Since I was in South Australia at the time, I placed a call to a rabbi there in Adelaide.

"Rabbi David," I asked, "did the Second Temple contain the Ark of the Covenant?"

The Rabbi responded, "There was no longer a supernatural Presence. Where the Ark should have been, there was placed a table."

Indeed, the Most Holy Place remained empty. This was much to the astonishment of Pompey, the Roman general, who in 63 BC forced his way into the inner sanctuary of the Second Temple.

And Josephus, familiar with the Temple and present when the Romans destroyed it, states:

There was nothing at all in the Holy of Holies (*Wars of the Jews* 6:555).

We find confirmation in the Jewish Talmud that the Ark was non-existent in Herod's Temple (the refurbished Second Temple) (*Yoma* 5:2).

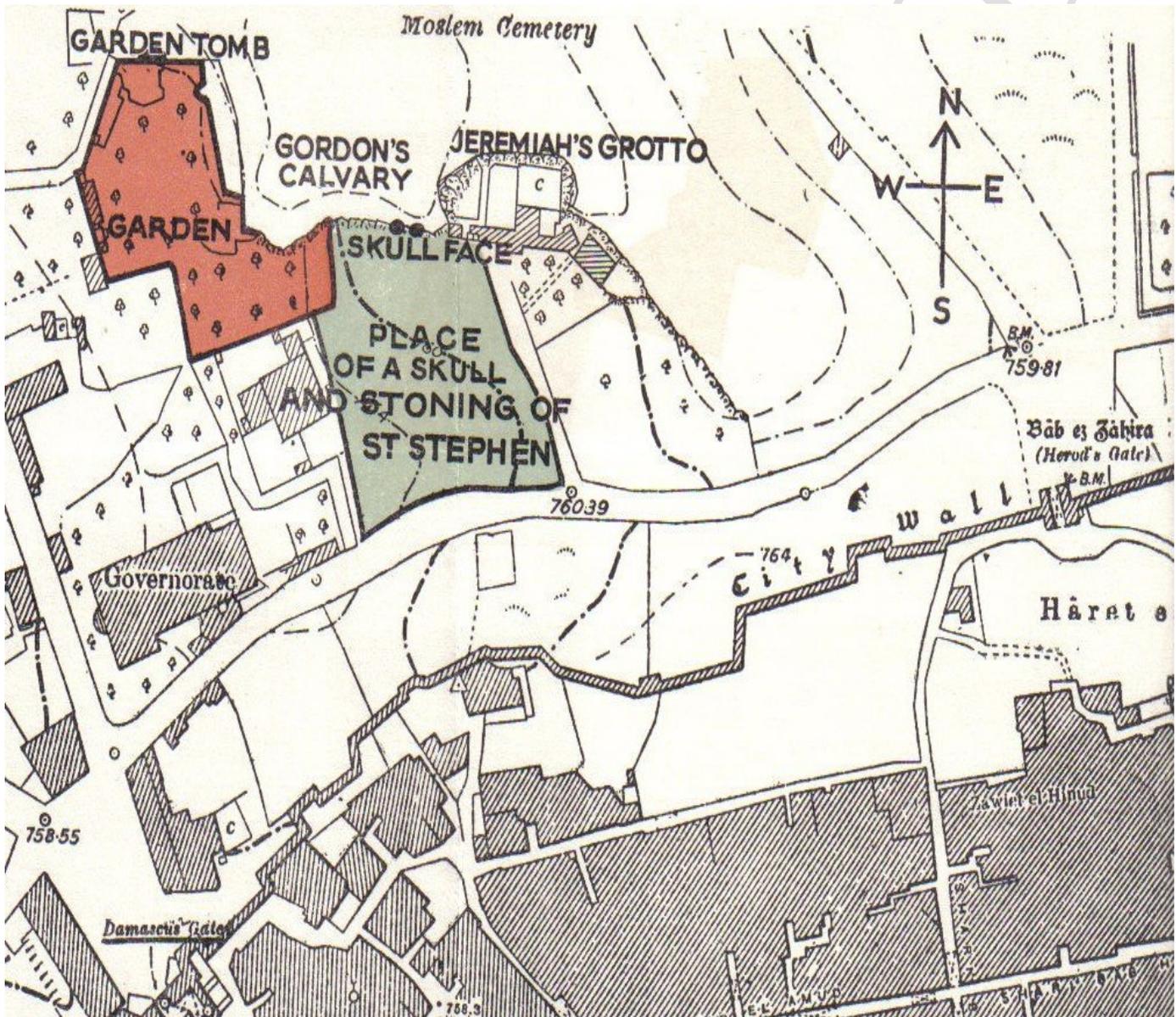
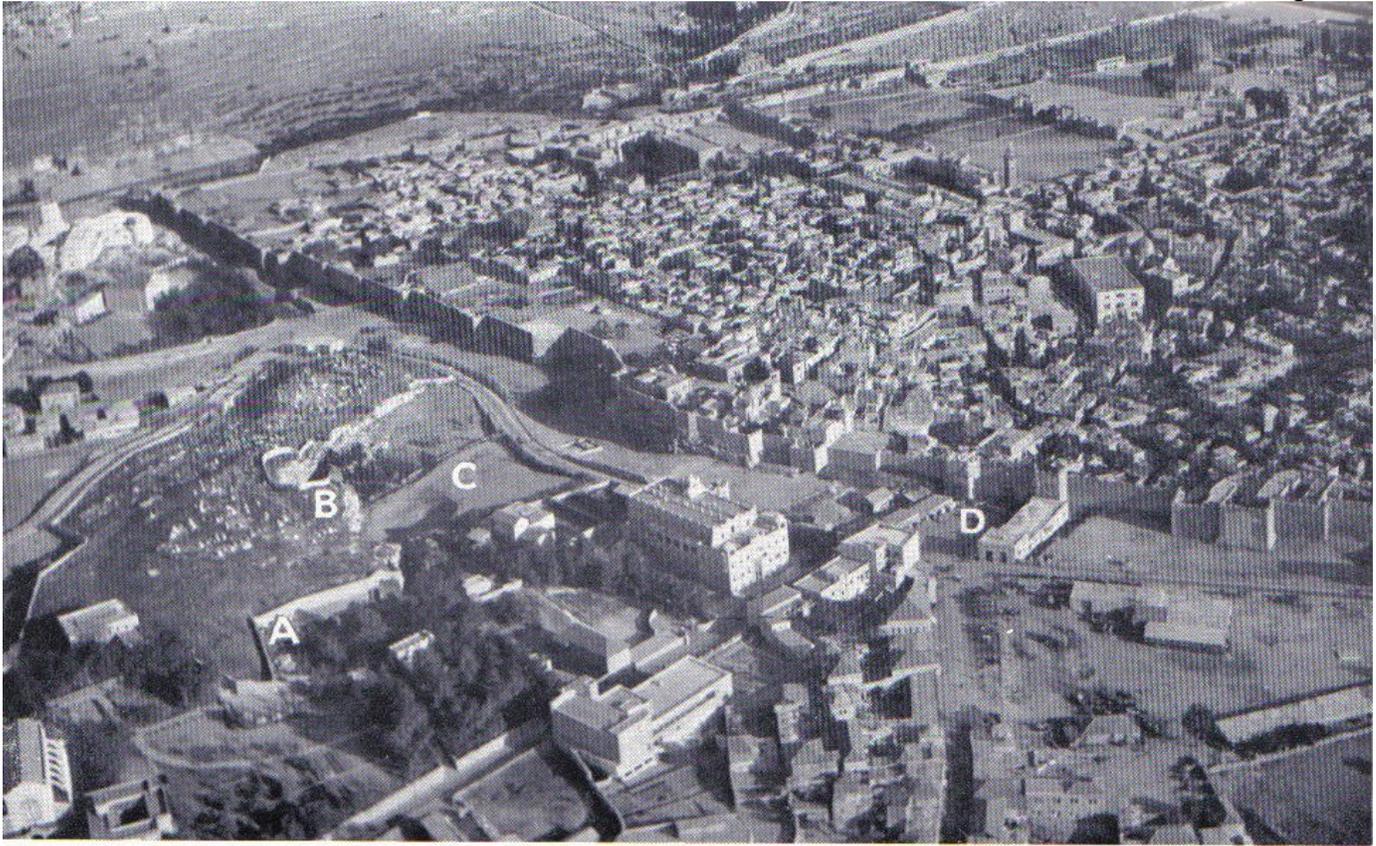


Figure 12 Close up map of Ark location and Crucifixion sites



A. GARDEN TOMB. B. "GORDON'S CALVARY." C. PLACE OF A SKULL. D. DAMASCUS GATE.

Figure 13 Older Location map

ANCHORS



Figure 14 Google Earth map of Ark location and Crucifixion sites

13. How do you account for other reported discoveries of the Ark in Ethiopia, Jordan or under the Temple Mount?

Since the Hollywood fantasy *Raiders of the Lost Ark* was first released in 1981 with Harrison Ford in the starring role as Indiana Jones, there has been a proliferation of attempts to find the secret hiding place of this famous treasure.

We have made it our business to investigate reports of searches and alleged finds. And I can assure you without fear of being successfully contradicted in the future, that in none of these places will the real Ark ever be found. Replicas, however, are known to have been made.

A detailed report of our investigation appears in our standard 600-page work, *Ark of the Covenant*, pages 18 to 35.

This covers the alleged transportation of the Ark to:

- Mt. Nebo, Jordan - pp. 18-22
- Ethiopia - pp. 22-25
- Ireland - p.26
- Rome - pp. 26, 27
- Babylon - pp. 28, 133, 134
- Temple Mount, Jerusalem - pp. 29-34
- Other speculated sites - p.34

14. Why do you claim that some Temple treasures (such as the 7 branched Lampstand) are still stored in a cave with the Ark, when the Arch of Titus clearly depicts them as booty brought to Rome in 70 AD?

Firstly, because they're there, in the cave. But secondly, consider this:

The First Temple had been destroyed in 586 BC. Later, a Second Temple was built in 515 BC, and this was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

According to the Jewish historian, Josephus, who was present at that second destruction of the Temple, the Roman emperor, Vespasian, erected a "peace sanctuary" after the Jewish War to commemorate the destruction of the Second Temple (*Wars of the Jews* 7:148-150).

Josephus says that captured Temple treasures had been taken to Rome and placed in this building.

On the Arch of Titus in Rome, a 7-branched Candlestick and Table of Shewbread are depicted as objects that had been seized from the doomed Temple and taken to Rome.

However, it is doubtful that these dated from the First Temple of Jeremiah's time, the Temple that had contained the Ark of the Covenant.

It is known that there were many duplicates of the Table of Shewbread and the Candlestick and other vessels, kept in storage in the Temple treasuries in case the vessels in use were defiled. (Talmud Hag. 26b, 27a).

The 7-branched Candlestick, depicted as booty on the Arch of Titus, can hardly be an original, say many Jewish scholars, because its octagonal base is shown to have graven images. No Jewish Candlestick ever possessed images, since they were considered a form of idolatry (Deut. 4:16-25; 5:8).

And the earliest form of the 7-branched Candlestick (undoubtedly patterned after the Mosaic model) possessed a 3-legged stand, not an octagonal base, according to archaeological evidence.

The Candlestick depicted on the Arch of Titus was very likely a non-Jewish creation made by Herod's craftsmen as a gift to Rome.

One notes Josephus' statement that priests gave to Titus "two lamp stands similar to those deposited in the Temple" (*Wars of the Jews* 6:388).

On the Arch of Titus in Rome, where all that was captured is portrayed quite vividly, the Ark of the Covenant is not inscribed. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE ARK WAS TAKEN TO ROME.

15. Wasn't the Ark taken to heaven? And if so, how could it be found in a cave on earth?

In support of this idea, some refer to a New Testament book which mentions a Temple in heaven containing "the Ark of his testament" (Rev. 11:15-19).

Yet, according to another part of the Scriptures, the Hebrew tabernacle and its furniture were merely replicas of those in heaven (Heb. 8:1-5; 9:23-24). There is the heavenly original and the earthly copy.

Because the heavenly Ark has always been in heaven, the earthly Ark had no reason to be there.

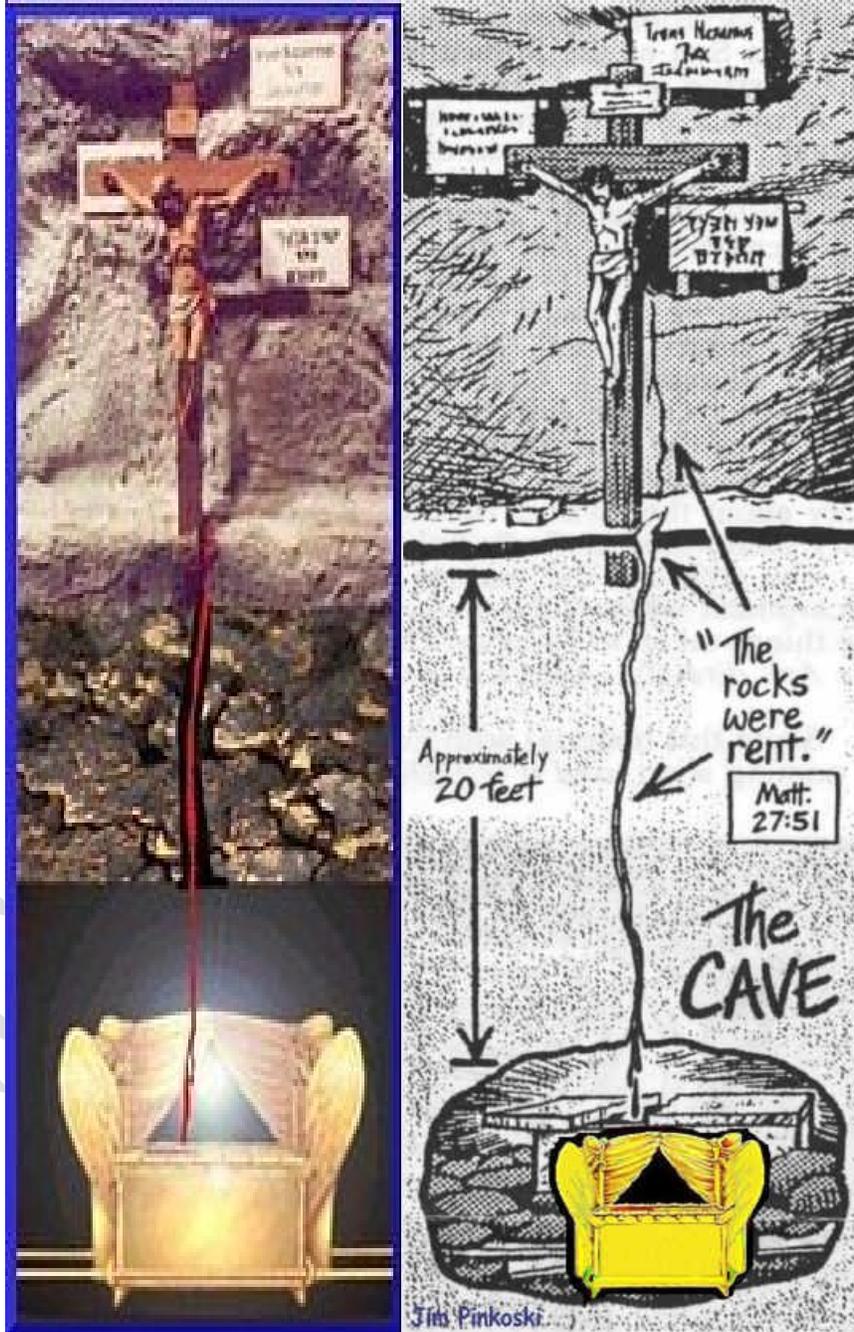


Figure 15 The ark has remained in a cave under Golgotha for 2,500 years.

HIDING OF THE ARK

16. Since it took the team so long to reach the Ark cave, by tunnels which were so narrow, then how did the Temple priests get into the cave quickly enough to hide it, and how could they transport it through such narrow tunnels?

In an attempt to locate the original entry tunnel, sub-surface interface radar has been used.

And the result was encouraging.

Up on street level, the equipment was able to detect a tunnel-like void running at a depth of perhaps 20 feet under the road. It ran from the direction of Solomon's Quarry. But on account of the distance to the Skull Hill excavation site, as well as to the presence of buildings now occupying much of the area, it was impossible to follow the "void" to its final destination.

The radar was later brought into the underground quarry. It revealed a void behind the stone blocks. We believe this to be the original entry tunnel.

EXCAVATION AND DISCOVERY

17. Why hasn't the Ark been found before this?

See answer to [Question 45](#).

18. I refer to the three years or more of seemingly needless detours in search of the Ark - all that hacking, digging and circling about. If Ron Wyatt really was supernaturally led to point toward the Ark of the Covenant cavern, then why wasn't the team led straight to the chamber?

Just think! If the original tunnel had been found first, the team would never have gone digging and found the cut-out niches, nor the cross-hole with the earthquake crack, nor the seal-stone of the tomb. Ron would have entered the Ark chamber and not recognized what had happened here. The relationship between the two discoveries would never have been known. What a thoughtful God we serve! He wants us to see how much He loves us, and how much thought He has put into our salvation.



Figure 16 Ron Wyatt at entrance to dig site

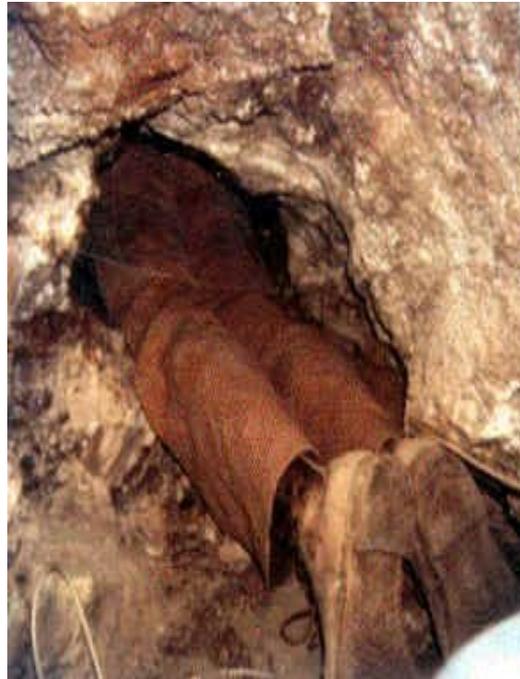


Figure 17 Ron in a tight fit

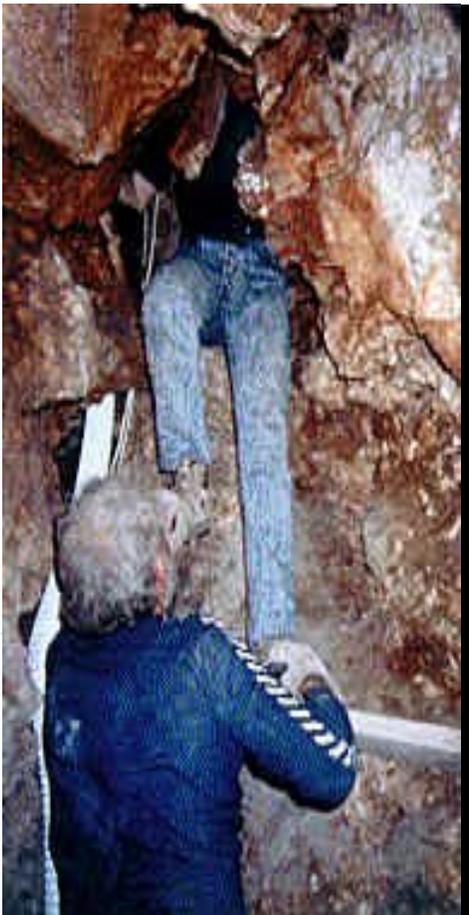


Figure 18 Working in the caves

19. Why did the photographs turn out foggy?

The photos were taken looking over the shoulder of the first cherub, toward the other one. But in each case, after development, a strange effect was noticed. In front of the cherub (which he could see clearly) there was, as it were, a golden mist obscuring the view. So Ron concluded that he simply wasn't supposed to take any photographs.

As Ron's wife, Mary Nell, puts it, "He later understood why: at that time, he was much freer with sharing his information and this could have caused a lot of serious problems if some of the `unsavory characters' he came in contact with over the years had seen evidence that this solid gold object really existed. Remember how Noah's wife's grave was plundered?" (See *The Ark Conspiracy*, pp. 146-151.)

Since this time, every item in the cave has been successfully videotaped. These pictures will be released at the time when the tablets of the Ten Commandments are finally brought out for the world to see.

Josephine Gray has a suggestion worth considering: that "fogginess" is evidence of the Divine Presence. That was how the Lord showed His approval in ancient times.

In the cave, Ron approached the Ark from the left hand side and the photographs were taken looking toward the cherub on the right hand side. This side turned out foggy on the film.

"Above the mercy-seat was the shekinah, the manifestation of the divine presence and from between the cherubim, God made known his will. Divine messages were sometimes communicated to the high priest by a voice from the cloud. Sometimes a light fell upon the angel at the right, to signify approval or acceptance, or a shadow or cloud rested upon the one at the left to reveal disapproval or rejection." (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 349)

Before the excavation began, you will recall, Ron had been walking with that Israeli official when suddenly his left arm shot out and out of his mouth came words that had not been in his head: "There's Jeremiah's Grotto and the Ark of the Covenant is in there" - which shocked Ron as well as the official -and he was offered a permit to dig. (*Ark of the Covenant*, pp. 228-231)

It's just like God - what He started that day, He now finished in love. The light shone on the right hand angel, as evidence of God's approval.

That's how He showed His approval in the ancient times. And that's how He showed His approval in the modern time. And God did it because He wants the world to know it: the divine approval of the discovery, and the divine approval of the man He has used.

Labeled Photo of Ark



Ark as seen facing other angel



All photos were blurred until later years

Figure 19 Blurry photos of items in cave

When Moses came into the Presence of God, he was not allowed to see Him. When Ron came into the Presence of the glory of God, he fainted. (See *Ark of the Covenant*, p.333.)

We are not comparing Ron to Moses or the high priest. The analogy we are drawing is THE APPROVAL.

20. Were the angels in the cave dressed in white?

Ron recalls: "They had ordinary haircuts just like you and me. If I had seen them in the street I would not have known they were angels."

21. Why does the banana merchant who occupies Jeremiah's Grotto know nothing about the Ark of the Covenant being in there? (David Down)

There is an open cave a little to the south of Skull Hill, which is often referred to as Jeremiah's Cave.

But don't go rushing off there, please. It's only a banana merchant's cave. He stores crates in there. And better not ask him about the Ark of the Covenant. He'll know nothing.

An Australian archaeology writer who didn't like Ron Wyatt - or Jonathan Gray, for that matter - did just that. He went and spoke to the humble Arab banana seller. Then he rushed into print quite seriously with the hot news that the banana man knew nothing about the Ark of the Covenant being in there!

We had a chuckle over that one.

You see, that's just a shallow cave open to the street. And it was not in the direction Ron had pointed. His arm had thrust out in the opposite direction.

22. Is it true that, after paying Ron Wyatt \$10,000 for rights, a team from 3ABN sent a man down, but when he couldn't even see the rubble or even the claimed tunnel (but a 5 foot by 5 foot cave room was all there was); Wyatt refused to refund their money?

The cave that the man crawled into was not the cave in which the Ark and other artifacts reside. That whole tunnel system is a vast and complex honeycomb, and crawling into the first cave you arrive at would leave you far from the real site. You would have to travel a fair distance, taking all the exact turns to end up at the Ark. Apparently the man crawled into a cave, said, "The Ark of the Covenant is not here", and crawled out.

Several diggers have been down into the cave system to dig - and if "all there was" was a 5 x 5 cave room, we would have heard about it from dozens of people who dug there!

In January, 1989, a group of Americans representing Three Angels Broadcasting, Inc. (3ABN) came to Jerusalem.

Mary Nell Brunotts (now Wyatt) was in Jerusalem at the time, and witnessed what really transpired. In a fax to Ula Cable of Australia, dated October 15, 1998, she reports on the incident.

"Harold Follett, 3ABN's attorney, had found out about what Ron was working on and began to call us, wanting 3ABN to come over and video everything. Ron and I both told him we were trying to find the original entrance into the chamber and did not expect to enter it on that trip, but he persisted. Sometimes 3 and 4 calls a day. I began to tape his calls when I noticed his stories were subtly changing from time to time. I begged Ron not to accept any money from them and he told them we didn't want their money. But Harold would not take "no" for an answer.

"Ron went to Israel early because he had a large group of "diggers" waiting for him. I came at the same time 3ABN and their entourage came. They had brought \$10,000.00 and insisted on giving us the money. Ron said no at first, but Harold put pressure on, saying they had come over and gone to such expense, etc., etc. We finally agreed, but not without a contract. Also to prevent any situation coming up where they claimed Ron didn't live up to any agreement, we decided not to even have him sign the contract. The diggers from Florida had formed a nonprofit organization, so they made me a director and we transferred all rights to that organization for that one trip.

"Note- my legal name at that time was still Mary Nell Brunotts, even though Ron and I were married. I was an officer of a stock brokerage house and my signature was on file at over 300 banks across the US and the world so I could guarantee signatures on stock certificates. It would have been a major ordeal to change my legal name at

that time, so I kept 'Brunotts' until July 1989, when I resigned that job. We would have had to have sent out over 300 new signature cards to all those institutions. That's why my signature is as it is on the contract.

"John Rauch, one of Ron's volunteer diggers, had brought a computer, and he was a hospital administrator so he knew about drawing up contracts. 3ABN had also brought two attorneys - Harold Follett and Ed Stoiz, who specialized in international law. They began to dictate the terms of the contract. It soon became clear why they were so persistent in wanting a "deal" with Ron- they believed if he had found the Ark, he would be due remuneration from the host government, and they wanted to get in on it. So, they sent Ed Stoiz to Hebrew University to check out the law. Para. 5 is the result of their desire to make money off of the discovery of the Ark. Harold Follett worded that part, despite our protestations that we never had, nor ever would seek money for anything Ron ever found.

"The 3ABN people all told us 'the Lord had told them' the Ark would come out that trip. Ron's crew worked 12 and 14 hours a day- I videoed much of the work. We took their money and spent it on jackhammers, a ventilation system in the cave system, and lots of materials to shore up the inside of the cave, as they had several cave-ins. When it came near time for 3ABN to leave and the chamber still had not been found from the alternate direction, they called a meeting. They insisted that the Lord had promised them it would be found that trip. Danny Shelton told Ron to show them the original entrance to the chamber, anyway. Ron said- OK, 'but ONLY if I know it's the Lord's will'. Everyone agreed to ask for a sign.

"The weather had been perfect the entire time, so Ron suggested they ask if He did NOT want Ron to show them, that it would rain the next day (Sabbath). Rain was not in the forecast. Everyone (all the 3ABN people) agreed on that sign. The next morning we all awoke to a torrid downpour. But the 3ABN people became quite adamant that Ron show them anyway. I became so distraught that I went to our room. Then Ron reluctantly took them into the chamber. 3ABN had chosen Danny's brother, Ronnie, as the person who would descend into the deep cavern to look for the original entrance. But he wouldn't go - he said the Lord had given them a sign not to go. So, they sent someone else, I don't remember who - maybe Harold Follett. Anyway, he couldn't find it, so they became extremely furious.

"They left the next morning and had taken the van we had rented to use during the trip. They said they would reimburse us for it because they had used it the entire week. Ron was to get up at 5:00 am (I think it was 6) to take them to the airport, but when he got to their hotel, he found they had left with our van. We later found it parked in front of the airport in a "no parking" zone with the key left in it. They never reimbursed us the \$693.00.

"We had a large dig crew present when all this occurred:

Bob Murrell (Florida), John Rauch (Florida), Fenton Froom (Florida He left earlier than the others), Dale Ernsberger (Florida), Dr. Nathan Meyer (Virginia), Mark Yates (Australia), Jamie Blackmore (Australia), Frank Sheffield (Florida).

I'd have to go back and review my video to remember all the others. This trip was already arranged before Harold Follett began calling us.

"As I told you, I have several of Harold Follett's telephone calls on tape and I am now considering making them available. The sad thing is, and the main reason I have not done so, - is that it will badly damage 3ABN if these are heard, and I have no desire to do anything such as that. Anyhow, I think the contract says it all. I've heard from a Dr. in California, that Harold Follett has expressed regret at his part in the events, and confessed that what we have said occurred is correct. I think they are putting it on a web page- I'll let you know if I find out

more. They know I don't like to even hear about it so they don't contact me about it anymore. But it's time to put this to rest. I pray for everyone involved..."

AGREEMENT

This agreement is made this 18th day of January 1989, between Three Angels Broadcasting Network, Inc., herein after referred to as 3ABN and Biblical Truth Revealed, Inc., hereinafter referred as BTR.

Whereas BTR and/or it's agents believed to have located a chamber in which certain artifacts are located near Jerusalem, Israel, at a place mutually understood by the parties, and BTR is willing and desirous of opening the chamber with the financial assistance of 3ABN;

Whereas 3ABN is desirous of assisting BTR in the above stated endeavor;

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED:

1) 3ABN will pay the sum of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000) to BTR to assist in meeting expenses of BTR and/or its' agents involved in the above stated endeavor.

2) BTR agrees to allow 3ABN to film the above mentioned artifacts in their chamber position. Under the control and direction of BTR, 3ABN may be allowed to film the process of removing debris from the chamber to cover the artifacts which may be within.

3) 3ABN will be allowed the use of the film obtained within their programs presented on their network, only. BTR will retain joint ownership with 3ABN of the film and/or video tape taken by 3ABN at the agree upon location. It is agreed that the original film and or video tapes shall be maintained in the custody of 3ABN unless otherwise agreed, and copies shall be made available to BTR, on a timely basis, to BTR. Cost of copies shall be borne by the party requesting, after the initial first copy.

4) It is further expressly understood that BTR expects to produce or have produced, an overall presentation of this event. BTR and 3ABN agree that said video tapes and or copies thereof may be used by BTR in the production of this presentation, in the event that 3ABN and BTR do not jointly produce such presentation.

5) It is understood by both parties that money and or property may be due or become the property of the finder. Such shall first be credited or transferred to BTR as its sole and separate property to the extent of ONE MILLION DOLLARS (US)(\$1,000,000.00), however, it will be the responsibility of 3ABN to secure such with the cooperation of BTR, and expenses directly related to this paragraph shall be charged against this portion, and the first TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS secured shall be released to BTR prior to expenses (Said TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS shall be and constitute a part of the said ONE MILLION DOLLARS). Any initial expenses relating to the securing of property rights above \$100,000 shall be approved by both parties. Beyond this above stated amount, 3ABN and BTR shall each participate equally, less cost of securing the same, and 3ABN shall have primary responsibility, with the cooperation of BTR, unless other agreed by the parties.

6) It is expressly understood by 3ABN that there are risks that are beyond the control of BTR which may include, but not be limited to, the loss of permission to BTR from The Garden Tomb Association to work on their site. In any event, moneys paid by 3ABN to BTR shall not be returned.

7) The participation of 3ABN is at their own expense.

8) Limitation on the presentation of the films are as follows:

a. Said programing will not be exposed to any expanded 3ABN network durring 90 days from the date of this agreement, with the exception of the greater Bolder, Colorado area and South Salem, Illinois area.

b. It is further understood that 3ABN will not restructure programing content or delete any portion

thereof that would mislead the public concerning the facts or assumption surrounding this situation, and give special consideration to suggestions from BTR.

9) Any disputes between the parties to this agreement, shall be within the jurisdiction of the State of Florida.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have signed and executed this document on the date indicated by each signature.

Danny Shelton
Danny Shelton, President
Three Angels Broadcasting, Inc.
on Jan 18 1989

Mary Nell Brunotts
Mary Nell Brunotts, Director
for Bible Truths Revealed, Inc.
on Jan 18 1989

Adds Jim Pinkoski:

And as you probably know, Dr. Tom Andrews did extensive research into the 3ABN mess -- and even talked with the SDA who wrote up that revised contract on his own portable computer that Danny DID sign over there! This is such a shame -- I really hate to see Danny loose his salvation over this, after he has done so much good with 3ABN --

MNB *DS*

Dr Tom Andrews of California did extensive research into the 3ABN affair. Hereunder is a brief extract from his report:

The problem with 3ABN came to my attention several years ago. I had attempted to bring a Ron Wyatt program to our church when I received a call from our pastor. Danny Shelton had informed him that Ron Wyatt shouldn't be allowed to present his discoveries in our church because he was not truthful. The pastor asked me to contact Danny, 3ABN's spokesperson. I was willing to do this. I had known Danny and his brother Kenny when they stayed with my family in 1986 in North Carolina. And I helped with arranging a presentation at our church. This surprised me as I had been with Ron on four visits to the Middle East and had not seen anything to lead me to form this conclusion. I spoke with Danny and later his attorney who had accompanied him and his group on the 1989 trip. I listened to their concerns and decided to follow through and speak with the principal people involved. I also spoke with Ron Wyatt, Mary Nell (his wife), Bob Murrell, and John Rawgh (members who attended the dig), and finally reviewed the contract that 3ABN and Mary Nell had agreed to sign.

The trip occurred in January of 1989. Danny Shelton had heard via his attorney that Ron was going to bring out the Ark of the Covenant and he wanted to film this event. When he called Ron he offered money to him in order to secure this opportunity. Ron solicited nothing from him and initially refused the offer and was queried whether he couldn't use \$10,000. Ron was recently married and was planning to spend time with his new bride while working on the AC dig site. A crew of six had preceded Ron and he was to join them. Ron traveled with his wife and the 3ABN group to Jerusalem. He had difficulty with the Garden Tomb authorities to recognize his permit, this resulted in a few days of delays. During this time Ron was with his wife and crew. 3ABN felt slighted about this. Others in Ron's group detected an arrogant attitude towards the group by 3ABN.

At this time 3ABN had two attorneys with them who presented a contract to Ron which would have taken one half of any earnings from the AC and any of Ron's past, present, or future earnings from his archaeological work. Ron would not sign this but instead had two associates draw up a new contract, which I have enclosed. I have spoken with the writers of the new contract and they verified this account. Danny also verifies that it is his signature on the contract. Mary Nell signed the contract and the initials BTR (Biblical Truth Revealed, Inc.), a non-profit corporation, formed by Bob Murrell to help finance the work. It was quite clear in the contract under section 6 that "money's paid by 3ABN to BTR shall not be returned." And in section 7 "the participation of 3ABN is at their own expense."

The permission was finally granted and they resumed the dig. They had to go in a different way as camera equipment would not fit through such a small opening and in fact Ron had gained some weight and couldn't fit through the same opening. John Rawgh confirms this and stated that they followed the path Ron had spoken of and eventually reached the cistern wall, which he had broken through. This placed them just a few feet from the chamber. During this dig multiple cave ins occurred and some members were in life threatening situations. Ron was concerned about anyone going into the dig site to film and felt that an expedition delay should be in order.

The 3ABN group was disappointed and they asked if they could pray for a sign. They asked if it did not rain they would go. It rained. They still wanted to go and the 3ABN attorney and Ron nearly came to blows. The attorney went to the site and crawled down with a light and voiced disappointment that there appeared to be no evidence of an opening with entrance to a chamber. Ron says that he was not correctly interpreting the situation. John Rawgh and Bob Murrell confirmed the site location and the correctness of Ron's directions before they even reached the cistern. 3ABN left the area and Ron offered another time when the work wasn't delayed and they had accessed the site to allow filming. Danny was disappointed.

When 3ABN left Jerusalem they left their rental car at the airport and Ron later had to pay the bill. This was a breach of section 7 of the contract. Danny claims Ron didn't fulfill his contract. When asked about the contract and section 6 Danny kept remarking, "that is my signature but I don't remember signing it." Yet, John Rawgh remembers it and says Danny repeated it to 3ABN board members whom John knew.

As a Psychiatrist, I have experienced controversy in working with couples and families. Perception of issues is the key to resolution of conflict. When plain truth is evident and people resist then defensiveness prevents the change inspite of obvious facts. Danny felt responsible to a major contributor who for purposes of filming the AC unearthing donated equipment to 3ABN. When Danny returned without the film Ron became the convenient scapegoat. God's timing is not ours.

HAROLD FOLLETT TAPE

More recently, Danny Shelton's attorney had an audio-taped conversation with Ron Wyatt. THIS TAPE IS MOST REVEALING (and is available upon request).

It becomes clear that Ron was not seeking any funds. He was willing to let 3ABN cover the event without any remuneration to himself. Shelton's attorney concedes that a contract was to have been signed first, before any visit to the Middle East - but that 3ABN showed up without having yet signed any contract. It was their own decision. And it was at their insistence that money was handed over to Ron.

RECEIPTS

Jonathan Gray has in his possession receipts which show that most of the money was paid to the Garden Tomb organization; Ron did not use it for himself.

To those who request it, we shall make available the following: (1) Dr. Tom Andrews' investigative report; (2) the Harold Follett audio-tape; (3) the receipts for payments to the Garden Tomb. (The whole lot for \$10 including packaging and postage.)

13. I am told that a man named Sam Martz donated \$30,000 to Ron Wyatt for archaeological work, but it turned out to be a fake and nothing came of it. Is this true?

This man Sam Martz came to Ron at a meeting. "I want to help you," he told Ron. "I want to get in on this:" He added, "If you can get someone to match my money, I'll put in \$10,000."

Ron did get a check for \$10,000 from another man toward the Ark excavation project. And Ron put in \$5,000 himself. Ron had already spent so much on previous work at the site; this was all he could personally scrape up.

Sam Martz wrote Ron a check for \$10,000 and Ron assumed that he now had \$25,000 for the trip.

It wasn't until later that Ron discovered the check had bounced.

Later Sam Martz would go around telling people he had donated \$30,000 to archaeological work and that it was all a fake.

Ron ended up paying for him and his wife and son, a paid holiday in the Middle East.

Sam Martz never put one cent into Ron's work. He gave Ron the check documented here for his part of the expedition. When Ron took it to the bank, he was told the account had been closed.

This check has been kept to this day as evidence. Mr. Martz has NO cancelled check made out to Ron and can produce NO evidence that he EVER contributed to the work.

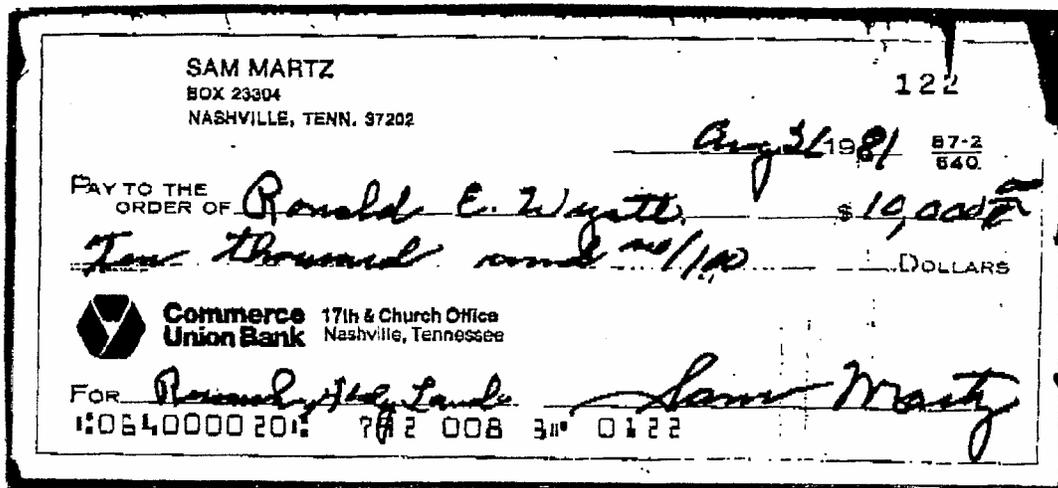


Figure 20 Sam Martz receipt

24. Is it true that Ron Wyatt dropped a hammer into the crack in the rock and then ran a metal detector over the crack to "show" that the Ark of the Covenant was down there?

(J. Randall Price says in his book In Search of Temple Treasures)

Jim Fleeting, religious minister cum archaeologist who visits Israel from time to time, attempted to gain control of the area encompassing Ron's excavation for archaeological purposes, so that Ron would not be able to continue excavating.

Ron rang the antiquities official under whom he was working (who shall, by request, remain un-named here, and I respect that request. However, to readers familiar with all of our published material this will not pose a problem.)

Ron complained to him, "This man is trying to stop the project. What will you do about it?"

The official dialed a number and told Fleeting to "take a hike!"

Furious, Fleeting came back to the U.S.A. and concocted the story that Ron had dropped a hammer into a crack at the crucifixion site, and had then run a metal detector over the area, claiming that it showed the Ark of the Covenant to be down there.

Price accepted the spiel and wrote it in his book!

25. Standish's publicly claimed that a Jim Fleming said Ron Wyatt offered him \$10,000 if he could use his influence with the Antiquities Authority to get him a permit. Is this true?

Ron has never had to ask anybody to help him get a permit. He has always worked with a permit. For that matter, we know that Ron never has anything like that amount of free money to toss around recklessly.

Some people run out of things to say, so then they make up lies. You have no way of proving you DIDN'T do it. And they have no way of proving you did do it.

A person who bandies around a lie becomes a liar himself. The lie becomes his.

26. How do you know this "Ark" is not a replica?

Consider the "supernatural" events that attended the discovery - the pointing arm incident (Ark of *the Covenant*, pp. 228,229); the stranger who suddenly appeared knowing everything and bestowing the blessing (*Ibid.*, pp. 465, 466); the simultaneous death by stroke of the six men dressed as Levites who tried to retrieve the Ark (Q. 218).

Consider the almost "supernatural" opposition concerning the discovery claim. Are we to believe the forces of good and evil become so intensely active over a mere "replica"?

But more pertinently, consider the thoughtful juxtaposition of the crucifixion hole and the cave precisely below containing this item of furniture. Whose but a Divine Hand could have organized that? Consider the opened crack between the two, so that crucifixion blood sprinkled down onto the Mercy Seat. Consider the blood analysis showing that this is the blood of no ordinary man.

Consider all these and then ask yourself would God allow Himself to be fooled by a "fake"?

THE DISCOVERY AND THE ISRAELIS

27. Why haven't you brought out the Ark to show the world?

Just try to ponder the effect this discovery will have on the Jewish people. And the problems that it generates for the political leaders in Israel.

When Ron Wyatt reported to the authorities what he had found, perhaps not able to believe what Ron told them, or perhaps recognizing the problems that could arise were it made known, his superiors told him not to tell anyone about this discovery.

Alas, it was too late for that, since Ron had already told a few people, he confessed.

Realizing that "what is done is done", they then ordered him not to reveal any more details than he had already revealed.

Evidence handed over

Some time later, Ron was able to present something from the excavation to the authorities. What he presented convinced them that he had indeed found some items from the First Temple.

The Israeli authorities then decided to test public reaction. The result was a bloody clash and many deaths.

Again, some time ago, a permit was granted to some Israelis to undertake an excavation under the Temple mount. After a short while, it was reported that workmen had been seen lugging crates into the excavation tunnel.

This aroused the curiosity of the authorities. They sent men in to investigate. It was found that the tunnel penetrated to a spot close under the Dome of the Rock... and high explosives were being set in position, presumably to blow up the place.

If you didn't know, the Al Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock, together named the Haram alSharif, comprise the third most important place for the Moslem people.

Just think what sabotage of that site could do! It might well provoke an Islamic Jihad, a "holy war".

The Israeli government desires to maintain good relations with the Arabs. It does not want to disturb the peace with the Arabs.

There are extremists who believe the Dome of the Rock sits illegally on the old Temple Mount. That does not make them extremists. However, it is reported that these men would feel quite safe in provoking a war just to get the mount - if they knew they had the Ark of the Covenant "on their side".

It is remembered that during the period of the ancient Judges, before Solomon's Temple was built, the Israelites would take the Ark with them into battle. And they were victorious.

Well, not always. It depended upon their faithfulness to the Lord. There was nothing inherent in the Ark itself that brought them victory. Their help came from the Lord.

Nevertheless, there are some modern religious extremists who would not hesitate to provoke a war in order to secure the old Temple site and build a Third Temple - if they could lay their hands on the Ark, believing its very possession would render them victorious.

So we have Jewish extremists... angry Palestinians... and a third potentially explosive factor... the Ark of the Covenant find.

U.S. News and World Report put it well:

In a land torn by competing historical claims, archaeology is a weapon (Oct. 7, 1996, p.45).

While the authorities (and by this I mean a handful of tight-Tipped officials) know of the Ark's location, they have decided that the matter is too politically volatile for them to go public. An official announcement could provoke "premature" action by fringe groups wanting to build a new Temple.

Government officials regard this as a critical issue, in which the safety of the people must come first.

Sealed up

When the authorities ordered the crew to seal up the entrance to the excavation tunnel leading to the chamber, we knew that absolute confirmation of our story would be impossible for the present.

Bob Murrell was among those who constructed a steel door to close off the entrance. And several feet of earth were piled over it, to disguise the location.

The cross-holes also were covered over with timber and gravel since the authorities did not want them revealed. Meanwhile the government has placed a clamp on some information concerning the discovery. And we shall not go against the host government.

Currently, therefore, we are unable to present all collected data on this subject. We only ask that the reader watch and wait until that time when it will be made public.

Certain rabbis may have had some influence in this decision, believing that the secret of the Ark belongs to the future time of redemption and the Messiah's appearance. They may fear that a premature disclosure of the facts could possibly delay these events.

No matter how wonderful and exciting would be the display of the items in that cave; it seems likely that this will have to wait a while longer.

Such concern about the Ark does reflect orthodox thinking. Since the destruction of the Second Temple, all Jews have been considered to be in a state of ritual impurity. This condition is supposed to end only with the coming of the Messiah. (Geoffrey Wigoder, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Judaism*, pp. 695, 481-483)

Strong opposition to archaeological work could, therefore, be expected from some Jewish religious authorities. This still represents a potential obstacle to bringing anything out from the cavern.

Lubavitcher rabbis have said, "What will you do with it if you find it? Will you bring tourists to look at it? You had better leave it closed until its time will come."

The Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi, Rabbi Unterman, was quoted as saying:

What will happen, if, as a result of the archaeological excavation, you find the Ark of the Covenant, which Jewish tradition says is buried in the depths of the earth. (heir Ben Dov. In *the Shadow of the Temple*, 1985, pp. 19, 20)

The Rabbi said that it was precisely such a discovery that he feared. Since the children of Israel today are not "pure" from the viewpoint of Jewish religious law, they are forbidden to touch the Ark of the Covenant. Hence it is unthinkable to even consider excavating until the Messiah comes!

28. Why has the story not been told until now?

As intimated earlier, when Ron Wyatt claimed in 1982 to have found the Ark of the Covenant, this claim was not immediately made public. In fact Ron had told only a few of his associates before the host government requested that he keep certain details confidential for the time being.

So well was the secret kept that it was not until 1991 that I learned of Ron's claimed discovery. I was naturally skeptical of such a claim and decided to do a thorough investigation.

I expected to quickly disprove the claims of Ron Wyatt. However, after intense investigation and repeated visits to the dig sites, I was overwhelmed by the evidence uncovered.

I suggest there might be two reasons why the discovery of the Ark of the Covenant is a hot issue. The first was political ([see Question .27](#)). The second is religious.

Just think of the repercussions within Judaism if it were to be officially announced that the Person who was crucified at Skull Hill on that historic Passover day, branded by Jewish church leaders as an imposter, had actually spilt his blood on THEIR Mercy Seat? What would that do to Judaism?

Yes, the Jewish people may be excited about discovering the Ark of the Covenant, since that is the most important piece of furniture for their Temple.

But the last blood to flow onto that Ark was the blood of Jesus Christ, a so-called impostor. Can they take the blood of animals again and sprinkle it on that Mercy Seat? They have a decision to make.

Every Jew will have to examine his or her faith and decide whether Yeshua is the Messiah or not. That has the potential to shake world Judaism.

The Israeli political climate is so volatile that, in the eyes of some, the government's very survival could depend on maintaining the status quo. And for this reason alone, there are many who would not welcome a further destabilizing of the scene.

One thing is certain: the authorities do not know how to handle this discovery.

29. It has been claimed that the Jews will not permit the Ark to be displayed because of Christ's blood on it - but surely a simple washing of the gold Mercy Seat would have easily destroyed that evidence?

(R. Standish, circular letter, Nov. 6, 1996)

You can forget that! No man on earth is going to get near the Ark, unless God authorizes it. In our book *Ark of the Covenant* (pp. 465-466) is the account of what happened to one Jewish man who tried to gain access to the Ark. In 1995, six Israeli men dressed in the clothes of Levitical priests tried to get to the Ark so they could "shift it from occupied territory". They managed to get in only about 70 feet through the tunnel system when they ALL died of strokes. It appears that each of them suffered a bi-lateral stroke. This is suggested from the fact that both left and right eyes were crossed toward the other eye. (With a stroke on one side, one eye only is crossed.) We believe that the heavenly beings guarding the Ark did that.

30. Why do you not reveal the specific location of the find?

From information we have already divulged ([see Questions 27, 28](#)), it will be seen that this is a most sensitive issue.

We have always considered discretion and respect for a host government's wishes to be important in such matters.

Over the years, eleven different people lost their lives at the very time they were attempting to interfere with the excavation.

One man stumbled upon the discovery when he noticed the team members coming and going from the excavation. He began to ask questions.

This man, a young British tourist, soon found out what was going on and was determined to learn the precise location.

As Ron entered the hotel on this particular night, the man approached him again. "Will you show me where is the Ark of the Covenant?" he urged.

"I don't know you," was Ron's reply. "Why should I reveal it to you?"

But the gentleman was not to be put off. Each day he kept pestering the archaeologist to tell him the location.

Failing to elicit this information, the man resorted to watching. One morning as Ron left the hotel early; the man darted from behind his hiding place and followed him at a distance. He found out the location.

Ecstatic, he made his next move. He himself would tell the world.

He went to a phone box and called the media. He informed them that he would conduct a press conference the next day, in which he was to announce "a great discovery". The conference was scheduled for nine in the morning.

As the crew members came in from the diggings that night, the man intercepted Ron.

"Mr. Wyatt," he announced, "Tomorrow I shall tell the world."

"You can't do that!" exclaimed Ron. "It's too sensitive!"

"This is something the whole world needs to know," he insisted.

"We are sworn to secrecy on the location," said Ron. "Cancel your news conference."

"Too bad!" he thundered. "I'm going to do it anyway."

That night, the team members changed their flight booking and left early.

The press conference was scheduled to take place in a nearby alley, a relatively secluded place.

The next morning, when the journalists arrived, they found the man lying in the alley in a pool of blood. There was a bullet hole in the back of his head.

He had been shot by a single sniper's bullet. The lane was swarming with mounted police, soldiers and medical units.

"Arab extremists," said the newspaper. No further explanation was given.

That was back on April 27, 1986. The situation has not changed. And we respect the government's wishes not to divulge certain details.

31. If you're not allowed to reveal certain things, then why are you talking about them?

Before officially reporting the find to the Israeli authorities, Ron had already told a few people. Realizing that "what is done is done", they ordered him not to reveal any more details than he had already revealed.

It is new details that have not been told (as well as a few documents) upon which the clamp has been placed - not that which was already public. That's the difference.

32. Does the Israeli government acknowledge the discovery?

Israel, the "holy land" that so many of us love, is today on tenterhooks. The government is nervous. It does not want war. Neither do most of the people, whether Israeli or Arab.

But it is against this background that we must view the present official attitude toward the Ark of the Covenant discovery. It is potentially the most explosive object on earth... politically and religiously.

In virtually every country, official denials of certain matters are standard procedure. And in such cases, almost all personnel in the department concerned are kept in the dark.

A classic example of the denials policy in action was seen in April, 1995, after Channel 7 Radio in Israel broke the news that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had met with the Pope with a proposal to place the Old City of Jerusalem under Vatican control.

Israel's Ambassador in Rome, Shmuel Hadas, and Peres himself, denied such a plan.

However, a copy of a telegram sent by Miriam Ziv to, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, outlining Peres' plans, surfaced and was printed in the *Hatzofe* newspaper.

Former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told *The Jewish Press* that:

... this is similar to Peres' denial that there was ever a letter with promises to Arafat about Jerusalem and later the letter surfaced. Now this telegram was revealed. Who knows what else they are concealing from the public? (Issue of Apr. 74-20, 1995)

Has human nature changed? On January 17, 1883, General Gordon observed in a letter to his sister:

"The present-day governors, like those at the time of Christ, continue to be corrupt and are preoccupied with political expediency." (Bill White, *A Special Place*, p.16).

Occasionally one bumps into an official who admits that not all is being told.

Following a 2 1/2 hour presentation on the Ark of the Covenant to an audience in Auckland, New Zealand, a member of the audience introduced himself to me as an Israeli ex-Secret Service agent. He raised the subject of Rabin's assassination and said, "I have information that Rockefeller initiated the act and that Israeli Secret Service men were implicated. It was called 'Operation Champagne'. But let me tell you this: your lecture on the Ark of the Covenant has just filled in the missing gaps in what I already knew!"

What did this man already know? With the pressure of a crowd around us, there was no opportunity to continue the conversation.

33. What prevents the Israelis from going into the Ark of the Covenant site and taking out the Ark?

Some have already died in an attempt to go in and move it! When it was decided to move it out of occupied territory in to undisputed Israeli territory, this seemed like a noble project. But the men who went in to move it died, before they even got near the chamber. As far as we know there have not been any more attempts.

34. You speak of 6 Israelis who were dressed as Levitical priests and tried to get into the chamber that contains the Ark of the Covenant, and who dropped dead. Were they rabbis?

We don't know if they were rabbis or not. The Ark of the Covenant is 370 feet north of the old city wall of Jerusalem and is in occupied Arab territory.

As you know, Yasser Arafat has every intention of getting Jerusalem back, including this area. And the U.N. and the United States seem to be intent on forcing Israel to accept that situation.

The Israelis wanted to move the Ark of the Covenant out of occupied territory, into their own territory. And they allowed or arranged for six men, who were dressed in Levitical garb, to go in and move the Ark. (We didn't ask too many questions, since we have learned that it is best not to get nosy.)

When we go over to Israel, Ron has quite often stopped by the Antiquities office, and asked them if there was something he could help them with. Now, we have some electronics and some experience using electronics; so we are able to help find things that they may have problems locating. We are able to see if there is something in a cave, before we actually open it, with electronics. So they have had us do some of this.

On this occasion they just said, "Well, yes, we have a problem that you can help us with."

So that night Ron was to meet them down at Zedekiah's Cave.

They went in. Inside the cave, at the entrance to the tunnel that goes north, they stopped. The Antiquities men announced: "Six men went down this tunnel to move the Ark of the Covenant to a safer place. And they didn't come out. Would you go see what happened to them?"

Well, the Israelis are not cowards by any stretch of the imagination. Now the men who entered the tunnel had walkie-talkies (two-way radios); they undoubtedly were in contact with men who were at the entrance to the tunnel. We can only surmise that they must have made some horrifying noises as they died. Otherwise some people would have gone in to see what happened to them. Nobody would go in.

Well, when Ron went in, there were the six men, all dead.

From the beginning of the tunnel in Zedekiah's Cave to the actual chamber containing the Ark of the Covenant is 370 feet (c. 114 meters). The six men had progressed approximately 70 feet (21 meters) along the tunnel when they died. All of them died of stroke.

(Incidentally, 16 people have died because they tried to interfere with or stop this work, most of them in connection with the Ark of the Covenant. They have all died of brain cancer or stroke.)

Anyway, when Ron saw what had happened, he went back out and told the Antiquities men. They had brought along some rescue baskets made of lightweight alloy, with ropes tied to them, in case Ron was able to go in. So he took a basket, and picked up the persons one at a time, and put them in the basket, holding it upright, as the men at the entrance to the tunnel pulled the basket out. When they got one to the entrance of the tunnel, Ron took another one, then went back and did another, until they got all six of the bodies out.

Ron didn't ask what they did with them; he didn't ask anything. He was asked not to say anything; but this appeared in a couple of newspapers - that there had been six Israelis who had died in an effort to retrieve a national artifact.

Because it was in the papers, some people have asked if we knew about it; the answer is yes. For this reason we have shared the above information.

This indicates to us that the Lord is quite happy for the Ark of the Covenant to remain where it is, and it appears He has no intention of letting anyone move it.

THE IVORY POMEGRANITE

In 586 BC, the invading Babylonian army surrounded the city of Jerusalem. Jeremiah was told by God that Jerusalem, including Solomon's magnificent Temple, was about to be destroyed. With mourning and sadness, some righteous men secreted the most sacred Temple vessels (including the Ark of the Covenant) in a cave, where they would remain hidden for thousands of years.

On January 6, 1982, Ron Wyatt found the cave, with the Temple vessels in it. These things remain in the cave to this day, awaiting God's timing to bring forth the tablets of stone which are in the same cavern.

Meanwhile, there are some critics who will not wait. And so they sneer: "IF THE TREASURES FROM SOLOMON'S TEMPLE (which includes the Ark) HAVE BEEN FOUND, THEN LET ME SEE THE EVIDENCE."

REPORT TO AUTHORITIES

Ron made several trips into the cave and eventually reported to the Israeli authorities what he had found.

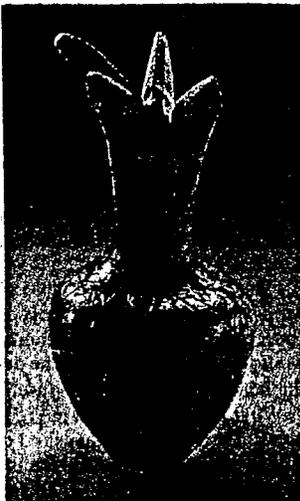
Perhaps not able to believe what Ron told them, or perhaps recognising the problems that could arise were it made known, they told him not to tell anyone about this discovery.

Alas, it was too late for that, since Ron had already told a few people, he confessed.

Realising that "what is done, is done", they ordered him not to reveal any more details than he had already revealed. For this reason, we have remained silent on certain things ever since.

EVIDENCE HANDED OVER

Some time later, Ron was able to present something from the site to the authorities. What he presented convinced them that he had indeed found some items from the First Temple (Solomon's Temple).



NACHUM STAPAK/ISRAEL MUSEUM, JERUSALEM

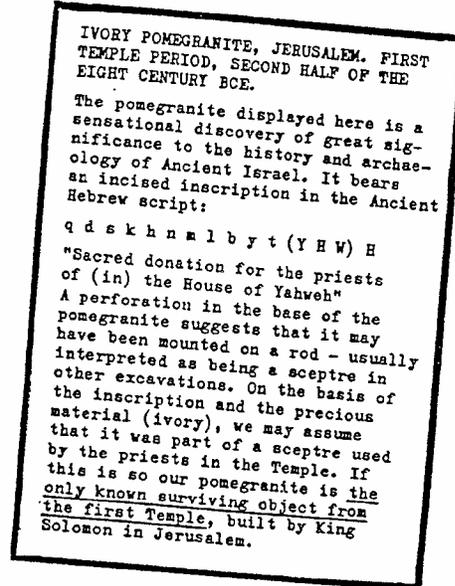
This item was a beautiful ivory head of the priestly sceptre from Solomon's Temple. The Jewish Testament refers to the artefact as a pomegranite. Written on the pomegranite is an inscription in Hebrew.

When the existence of the artefact became known, Biblical Archaeology Review termed it "the only surviving relic from the Solomonic Temple" (Jan/Feb 1984).

Said BAR, "We can only plead with the owner to identify himself - or at least allow the Israel Museum to display the inscribed ivory pomegranite anonymously." It commented, "No one knows who owns it or where it is being kept. No one except the owner, that is, and perhaps the Jerusalem antiquities dealer who handled the sale. If he knows, he won't tell his best friend."

Ultimately the new owner did sell the sceptre head to Israel - anonymously - for \$550,000.

It is at last on display at the Israel museum - but its origin, officially, remains a "mystery".



The explanation on the sign with the pomegranite in the Israel Museum

We sat on this information for seven years, out of consideration for Ron's personal safety. Ron kept the faith - and, as requested, said nothing publicly about its origin.

However we now show this artifact in this "new" context, because it is positive confirmation that vessels from Solomon's Temple (which disappeared in 586 BC, along with the Ark of the Covenant), have indeed been found. This ivory pomegranite has been taken from this cache of items stored together from Solomon's Temple, and now hidden in the underground chamber.

There is more that we could reveal, but the time is not yet. However, this much is shown so that no critic should feel secure. Let any critic beware that he not risk his salvation "bearing false witness" against that which is true.



Figure 21 Close up of Ivory Pomegranite

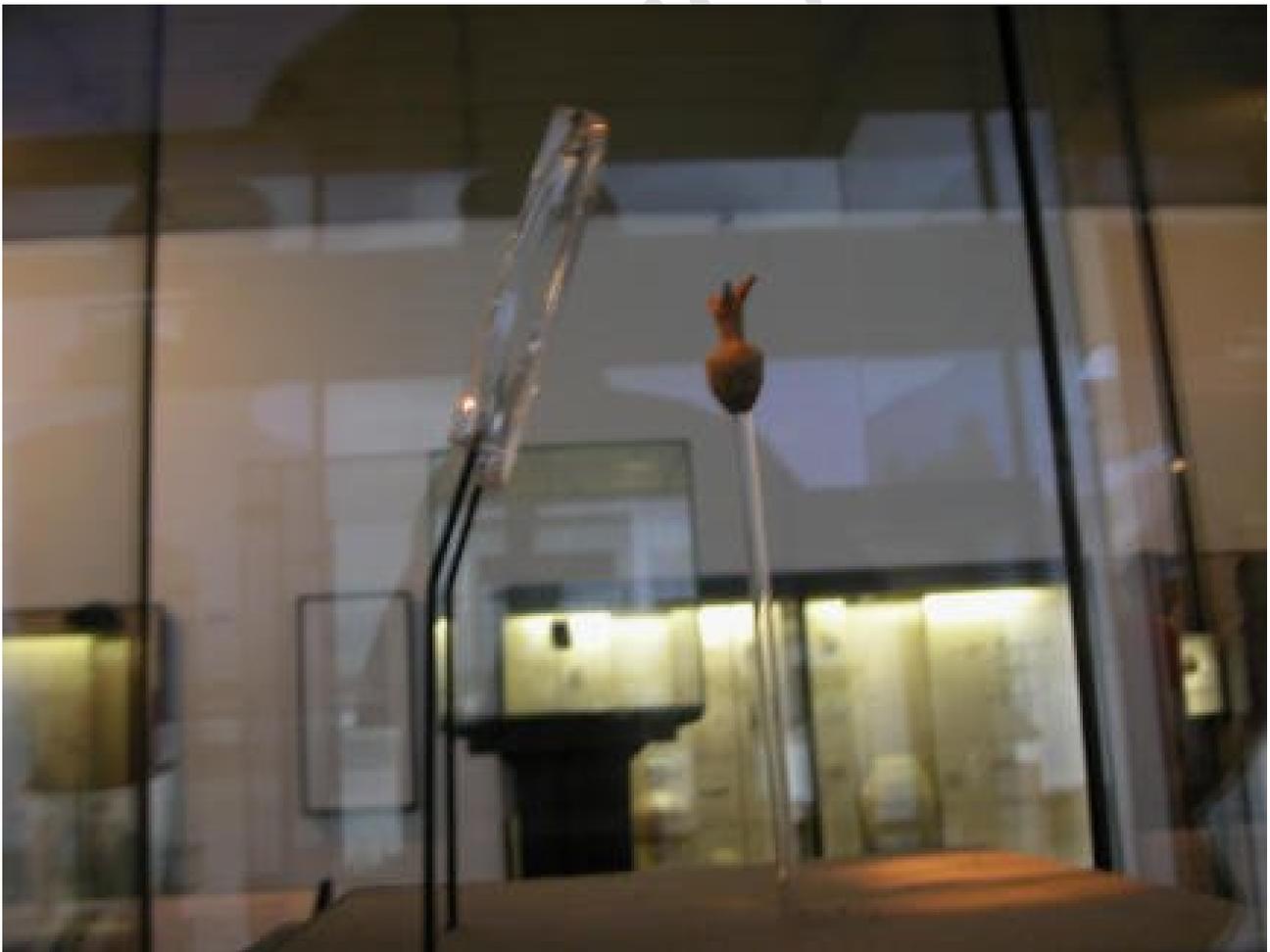


Figure 22 Ivory Pomegranite located in Israel Museum

35. Haven't the Israeli's denied they ever issued Ron a permit to dig?

Russell Standish showed me a letter from the Israel Antiquities Authority denying that Ron Wyatt ever received a permit to excavate in Jerusalem. Standish told a meeting that no one has seen evidence of "Ron Wyatt's excavation license for Israel. It won't- come, BECAUSE IT DOESN'T EXIST." How do you respond?

So what's new? In our book *Ark of the Covenant* (first published in April, 1997) we reported that Ron Wyatt was granted a permit by Israeli authorities to excavate in Jerusalem (see Chapter 21).

But we also explained that if one should write to the Israel Antiquities Authority, one "would probably receive a letter that went something like this: `We have no record of any archaeological permit having been issued to a Ronald Wyatt, nor does anyone in this office know him. If Mr. Wyatt conducted any excavation in Jerusalem, it would have been done illegally.'" (pp. 473, 474)

So, when someone writes to them 19 months later, what is their response? Precisely as we predicted!

They reply: *"Ron Wyatt has never received a license from the Israel Antiquities Authority to excavate in Israel. If he says he has excavated in Israel, he has committed an illegal act..."* (Letter dated November 30, 1998. [See Appendix 10](#))

Now consider. Up to 15 people were working and digging on the site. There was scaffolding, piles of earth, constant use of ropes, hoses, shovels, picks, jackhammers and drills... for several years. And on a very high profile site.

If the team had been doing all of this without a permit, the authorities would have stopped the operation very smartly.

My small team of six was promptly approached by authorities bent on checking our activities -and at the time we were only videoing and measuring. The site, as I said, is very public. It is under constant surveillance. Any illegal excavation would be quickly cut short.

It is naive to expect any thinking person to swallow the line that Ron never had a permit.

Now for some eyewitness testimony concerning Ron and the Antiquities Department.

Dr. John Baumgardner, who accompanied one of Ron's Ark of the Covenant expeditions during March and April 1986, reported in a letter dated December 17 that year:

"We investigated a tunnel network inside the portion of Mt. Moriah north of the old city of Jerusalem where Gordon's Calvary is located... Incredibly, we worked under the authority of the Director of Antiquities for all of Jerusalem." (See [Appendix 11](#))

Another witness is Bob Murrell, who three times worked with Ron in Jerusalem. Bob independently confirms:

"It was in early January 1989. We went back for our second dig on the Ark of Covenant. We needed more help so Ron gave the okay for me to invite some friends... John Rauch, Dale Earnsbarger (both worked with me on the Florida Conference Executive Committee), Dr. Fenton Froom, Frank Sheffield and Randy Osborne."

John, Dale and Dr. Froom were skeptical of the whole thing but came back as believers. We also had about 5 or 6 other people helping us... We dug through what appeared to be a wall. Ron thinks this wall was put there to camouflage the cave. Must have been the back of a pottery factory as we found 3 bushels of broken pottery that was taken back to the hotel and later turned over to the antiquities department. They said it dated back to the time period we were looking at...

"Our time had run out on this dig as we were allotted just so much time. We closed things up and came back a year later... this time with a radar Ron had borrowed. Ron took radar scans at ground level where you and I stood for the photo. I was inside and moved the transmitter back and forth to see what was behind the rock wall that we thought was the entrance to the cave and cisterns where past temple things were stored. Don't forget Solomon made 10 of everything... candlesticks, table of showbread, etc. I went up to look at the graph pictures and could see the cave below us with contents in it..."

"The frequency generator was set for gold and I watched this work several times and it crossed directly over the spot I was stooping. According to this there was definitely gold below us." ([Appendix 12](#))

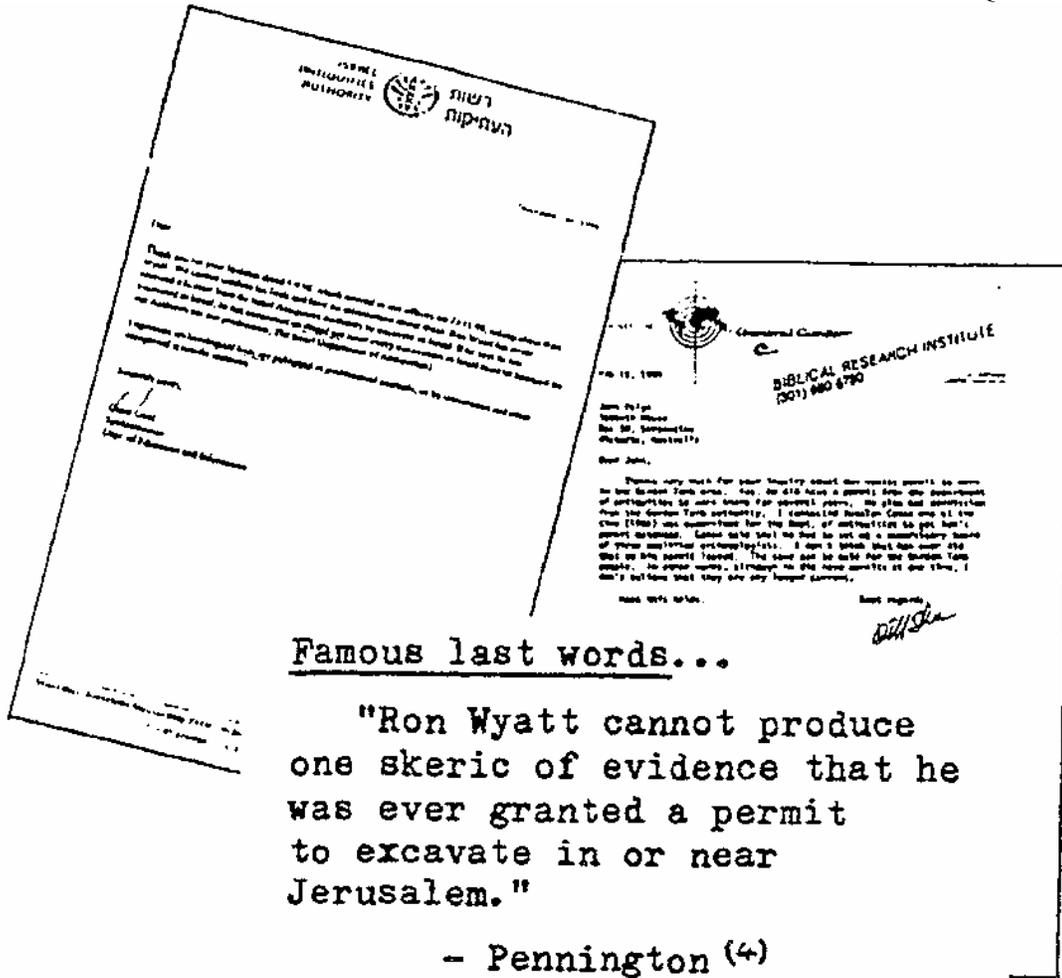
Dr. Bill Shea of the Biblical Research Institute likewise confirms:

"Yes, he [Ron Wyatt] did have a permit from the department of antiquities to work there for several years. He also had permission from the Garden Tomb authority." ([Appendix 13](#))

Also, in a letter to Ron after liaising with antiquities director Dan Bahat, Bill Shea writes:

"Bahat himself does not want you to do any more tunneling... So the way the site has to be approached according to his instructions is to dig a series of 5 meter squares up to the face of the cliff and inwards, that way you will have stratigraphic control over your findings... He did report on the pottery that you brought to him and he says that it is 'Second temple period to Medieval'..." ([Appendix 14](#))

In 1988, when Ron resumed excavating again after meeting with the new members of Antiquities, three young men from Australia were with him, witnessed everything, and when they found the underwater pots at Ashkelon, some men from Antiquities met them at the site - all of which is on video. After that, Ron and those young men did some radar work on some sites with Antiquities people present - again on video.



Famous last words...

"Ron Wyatt cannot produce one skeric of evidence that he was ever granted a permit to excavate in or near Jerusalem."

- Pennington (4)

"Ron Wyatt's excavation license... IT DOESN'T EXIST."

- Standish (5)

Figure 23 Letter's claiming permits didn't exist

So why the .current denial from the Israel Antiquities Authority that Ron ever received a permit?

Although we have suggested sufficient reasons in our answers to Questions 27-32, I shall add another ingredient.

The United Nations has two resolutions concerning Israel that are relevant to this discussion. One was passed after the Six Day War: Security Council resolution 242 (1967) of November 22, 1967. The other was in 1981 after Israel entered Lebanon against Yasser Arafat's guerrillas: Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of December 17, 1981. These affirm the "inalienable right" of Palestinians and other peoples of the occupied territories to certain resources within their territories, and regard "any infringement thereof as being illegal." In effect, these two resolutions call for Israel to conduct no archaeological excavations in its occupied territories.

It means that those who do such excavations are obliged to keep it quiet. Reportedly archaeologist Vendyl Jones spoke out concerning his digs and the Israeli authorities sent him home. Enough said.

See -

- [Appendix 10 - for Israel Antiquities Authority letter;](#)
- [Appendix 11- for Dr. John Baumgardner's letter;](#)
- [Appendix 12 - for Bob Murrell's letter to Jonathan Gray;](#)
- [Appendix 13 - for Dr. Bill Shea's letter to John Paige;](#)
- [Appendix 14 - for Dr. Bill Shea's letter to Ron Wyatt.](#)

36. Joe Zias, retired curator of the Israel Antiquities Authority, has CHALLENGED Ron Wyatt on the Internet to bring the blood results into the open. He even sent a Gentile to the Discoveries museum in Tennessee to ask for it and was refused, he says. If he has brought the issue into the open, then how can the Israelis be wanting the affair covered up? (R. Standish)

It is not unknown for a public figure to be sitting on something he doesn't want known, then to issue an open challenge for another to "prove it".

A classic example was the case of Jonathan Aitken, former Privy Council adviser to the Queen. Aitken was the minister for defense procurement, who became chief secretary to the British Treasury and was considered a successor to then Tory Prime Minister Mr. John Major.

In 1993, he visited Paris for top-secret (but illegal) arms negotiations with a former Saudi business partner, Mr. Said Ayas, a son of the Saudi king.

For four years Mr. Aitken wove a web of deceit concerning his activities.

When the *Guardian* newspaper and *Granada Television* exposed Aitken's financial relationship with the Saudi royal family and other Arab businessmen, Aitken arranged false documentation and then sued the *Guardian* and *Granada* for libel. He swore that their claim was false. His High Court action was a PUBLIC CHALLENGE to them to prove their assertion.

But 17 days into the trial, the newspaper and *Granada* proved he was covering up the truth. On June 8, 1999, Aitken received a prison sentence. (*Adelaide Advertiser*, June 9, 1999)

The point is that Aitken, while covering up something he didn't want known, still issued a public challenge to his accusers to prove it.

We cannot comment on how much Joe Zias personally knows, but his challenge does not change the facts.

We first heard of Joe Zias when Australia's Channel 7 did a follow-up on Jonathan Gray's new book *Ark of the Covenant*. Jonathan was claiming that the Israeli authority would not only deny having given Ron a permit but would suggest Ron's excavation was illegal anyway. The T.V. channel phoned Joe Zias for a comment. And what Jonathan had predicted in the book, is what Joe Zias actually did.

With Jonathan's accusation made public, it was a smart - and predictable - move by Joe Z. to issue his challenge.

However, Ron never worked under Joe Z. He knows nothing about what Ron did.

The prohibition against Ron revealing aspects of his find is NOT FROM THAT MAN Joe Zias. It is from someone else!

What Joe Z. is saying doesn't change anything. Even if the denial sounds damning, it does not change the nature of Ron's claim - because in truth Ron did the excavation under the umbrella of someone else. It doesn't change anything.

Ron will not violate the trust of the person under whom he worked.

If the Israeli Antiquities Authority gave a false denial concerning Ron's excavation permit, then why should one believe Joe Zias concerning the blood test?

ENEMIES OF THE WORK

37. Could all these people be wrong?

-men such as Joe Zias, "Creation Science", Jim Fleming - that is, the people who told stories and wrote against Ron and the work? - Could all these people be wrong? (C. Standish)

YES, Mr. Standish!

How many "wise" men got on board Noah's Ark?

"And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolk, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake. But there shall not a hair of your head perish. In your patience possess ye your souls" (Jesus, in Luke 21:16-19).

ARK IN JEWISH CONTROL?

38. What significance does the Ark have for present-day Jews?

Rabbis have various opinions about that. One considered that the discovery would promote the building of a Third Temple. Another that it would signal the end of the Diaspora, the dispersion of the Jewish people. Another said it would be a clear signal that we are nearing the end of this age and the beginning of the messianic kingdom. Certain rabbis have believed that the Ark of the Covenant would be exposed at the time when the Messiah is to appear.

Indeed, there is growing expectation that the Messiah will soon appear.

Of course, the true Messiah, Yeshua (Jesus Christ) already appeared some 2,000 years ago. And there is an expectation today, among Christians that He is soon to return. This is based on some 300 New Testament prophecies of the event.

I firmly believe that when the Jewish people learn that Yeshua's blood was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat of the Ark, to many Jews this will be a powerful revelation. As the Old Testament Scriptures are blended with the New in an explanation of the Lord's eternal purpose, this will be too many Jews as the dawn of a new creation, the resurrection of the soul. As they see the Christ of the gospel portrayed in the pages of their scriptures and perceives how clearly the New Testament explains the Old, their slumbering faculties will be aroused and they will recognize Jesus Christ, Yeshua, as the Savior of the world. Many will by faith receive him as their Deliverer.

A THIRD TEMPLE AND SACRIFICES

39. If found, would the Ark be used in a Third Temple built by the Jews?

It is worth mentioning that when the Jews went into captivity in Babylon and the First Temple was destroyed, the prophet Ezekiel wrote that the Lord had issued new instructions regarding the sacrificial system - instructions which no longer included the Ark of the Covenant (Eze. chs. 42 to 46).

And so it was that, when the Jews returned from exile, they continued the sacrificial system according to those instructions, without the Ark of the Covenant. During the time of Jesus Christ, they were still performing the sacrificial system - but without the Ark.

There is no reason why the Israelis would need the Ark to perform the sacrificial system. They would need only to build a "table of the Lord" as instructed in the book of Ezekiel (Ch. 41:22; 44:16).

40. Does the Ark discovery mean that Temple sacrifices will be reinstated?

To that I'll say 'This would not be according to God's will.' Jeremiah, who prophesied during the time of the Ark's disappearance, wrote:

And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the Lord, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the Lord: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more (Jer. 3:16).

This passage indicates that God will never return the Ark of the Covenant to the Jews for this purpose.

It is not His will to restore animal sacrifices. Jesus, by his death, has done away with animal sacrifices. He has annulled them. He has abolished them. He has 'caused sacrifice and offering to CEASE' (Dan. 9:27).

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE ARK IN THE FUTURE?

41. Are there prophecies concerning the Ark?

One legend states that the Ark will be brought out when Israel is regathered and the glory-cloud appears (*Life of Jeremiah*, 11-19).

Still another work says that the "holy vessels of the worship-service" will reappear only at the time of Israel's regathering (*Paralipomena of Jeremiah*, 3:519).

There is also the claim that Jeremiah was told by God to bury the Temple vessels "until the coming of the Beloved One" - an allusion to the end times (4 *Baruch*).

It was commonly held by the ancient rabbis that the Ark would be found at the coming of the Messiah.

42. Will the Ark be brought out?

The staves for carrying the Ark have now been removed, and to our understanding, the Ark will not be moved from the cave. But the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments... that's different. We believe they will be put on display eventually.

43. How far have the Israelis gone in their attempt to make an announcement that the Ark of the Covenant has been discovered?

As we stated in response to [Question 27](#), the Israeli government is convinced that if all the Jews suddenly were confronted with the fact that the Ark of the Covenant was available, that some would want a Temple and they would go down and destroy the mosque that is on the Temple Mount - because that's where they would want the Temple.

Well, that Dome of the Rock is the third most sacred place in Islam. And because the Moslems have been taught what they've been taught, they would declare a holy war - and there would be a bloodbath in the Middle East, such as we have never seen before.

So the Israeli authorities are trying to work out some way that they can make this discovery known without getting a lot of people killed.

Let us ever remember that this Ark belongs not to man, but to God. It was the Lord who said, 'let them make me a sanctuary.' And all things in that sanctuary were patterned after the 'things in the heavens' (Heb. 9:23). Any move concerning the Ark will be only with His permission. Not due to political expediency. Of that you can be certain.

At the present time the plan is that the tables of stone (which are inside the Ark) will be put on display around the world - not in Israel, since it's too easy there to blow things up and get a host of people killed. It will be shown in places like America, Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and so on. And video of the Ark of the Covenant - good, clear, crisp video, from *which* people will be able to see all the details. And the blood of Christ, and the analysis that proves that this indeed IS His blood.

1 John 5:8 states that *"there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood."* The blood. Well, this is the dried serum and the dried platelets of the blood of Christ that are on the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant. And in verse 9 we are told, *"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son "* (referring back to the dried serum and platelets of His Son on the Mercy Seat). Presented to the human heart through the power of the Holy Spirit, this, it says, is God's testimony of His Son.

Now, when our Creator - our God - presents proof to us that His Son died for us, you can be sure that it will be very persuasive. And this is what will be done.

I can assure you, that as soon as God is ready, the Israeli government will see their way clear in allowing it to be presented.

Footnote: The video footage referred to is in the chamber. Ron was instructed to leave it there.

44. When will the Ten Commandments be brought out?

The Bible predicts that shortly before Jesus Christ returns, there will emerge a New World Order, in which national boundaries will mean little.

The prophecies of Revelation state that this New World Order will draw together the nations of the world under one common dictatorship.

And even now, a unified global system is being put into place by a group of powerful men working behind the scenes; men with almost unlimited financial resources, who want a global government. And we're being raced into it, whether we like it or not.

There will emerge an one-world economy.

David Rockefeller, the powerful leader of the Council for Foreign Relations, said, "All we need is the right major crisis, and the nations will accept the New World Order."

And all food supplies will be under their control. Living in the cities will be hazardous. Perhaps it is time you considered moving out.

And there is an one-world religion being planned. Are you aware of that? It's coming. It's coming rapidly.

When the world is reduced to chaos by an economic collapse, I believe there will be a tremendous move to come back to religious laws.

It will be argued, "Look what's happening. God's not blessing us. We need these laws to force people to do it our way."

Religious laws will be issued which, although seemingly "good and moral", will be contrary to the original commands of God.

The Bible says that eventually economic sanctions will be imposed against people who will not keep these laws - so that they cannot buy and sell.

Everybody will receive a number. And there'll be something called the Mark of the Beast. This will be in contra-distinction to what prophecy calls the Seal of God.

God has placed His seal in His law. He says, "Seal the law among my disciples" (Isa. 8:16).

There are two sets of laws: God's laws - and man's laws, which will be enforced by the New World Order.

Right now, the governments of the world are in league to regulate peace efforts and environmental and trading practices. But behind the scenes the foundation is already being laid to present a set of "universal spiritual laws".

An attempt will be made to enforce the conscience. It will be decreed that everyone on earth keep these man-made laws which will, however, be contrary to the law of God as given in the Ten Commandments.

The ARK OF THE COVENANT was so called because it contained "the WORDS OF THE COVENANT, the Ten Commandments" (Ex. 34:28).

The Scripture says, "He hath commanded His covenant forever" (Psa. 111:9).

I believe that when the time comes that the "spiritual laws" are being debated and about to become the law of the land, that the tablets of God's Ten Commandments written with His own finger, will come out as a witness to the world - before the fury breaks.

In God's perfect time, the Ark of the Covenant will be a witness. He says: "*My covenant will I not break*" (Psa. 89:34). Did you know that the ONLY time God spoke audibly and publicly to millions of people was when He spoke His Ten Commandments? He says, "*I will not alter the thing that is gone out of my lips*" (Psa. 89:34).

Jesus Himself said, "*Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle [that's one dot of an "i" or one cross of a "t"] shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled*" (Matt. 5:17,18).

I ask you, have heaven and earth passed? Not yet!

And when the entire world can see that very Ark of God's own Presence, then they will see for themselves that His Law is real, that His Law remains.

This will go like shock waves across the world, challenging each person to come to a decision either to serve the Lord, or obey man.

In the Revelation prophecy of events just before Jesus' return, when human laws enforce the "mark of the beast" (Rev. 13:16, 17), God's faithful people are described as those who "*keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus*" (Ch. 14:12).

This is a showdown. There will be no compromise.

45. Why hasn't the Ark been found before this?

Why discovered now? The prophet John saw a vision of the future, concerning...

The time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that (God) should give reward to... small and great; and should destroy them who destroy the earth (Rev. 11:18).

"That's clearly speaking of the end times, when God is about to interrupt mankind's rule and take over this planet (vv. 15-17).- And in that context the prophet saw something else, as well:

And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament (*v.19*).

That's the Ark of the Covenant - the original in heaven.

Cause and effect

Well, right through the book of Revelation a connection is shown between events in heaven and those on earth. And it does make sense. After all, if God has a rescue plan for His faithful ones on this planet, and if it is from His Throne in heaven that the plan emanates, then why shouldn't events planned in heaven have their effect on earth?

The mention of the heavenly Ark in the end times - could that be hinting at the importance of the earthly Ark... that it might yet have a role to play in the divine purpose?

According to this prophecy, the heavenly Ark -the original - has something to do with an end times judgment period of planet earth.

The Scriptures repeatedly tell of judgment to come; that God has appointed a day when He will judge the world and every person will receive according to his works (Acts 17:31; Matt. 16:27); that we must all appear before the Judgment Seat (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Pet. 4:17).

And what is the standard by which all will be judged? The law of God (James 2:10-12).

Would it not be perfect timing for the earthly Ark of the Covenant, containing the transcript of that same law, to be brought to the notice of earth's inhabitants at this very time?

CHRIST'S BURIAL SITE

46. Why do you suggest the Garden Tomb as the likely burial site of Christ?

According to John, Matthew and Luke, the tomb of Joseph had special characteristics:

1. - It was near the place of crucifixion (John 19:42).
2. - It was in a garden (v.41).
3. - It was carved out of the rock (Matt. 27:60).
4. - It was a rich man's tomb (v.57).
5. - The disciples could look into the tomb from outside (John 20:5).
6. - There was standing room for a number of persons (Luke 24:1-4).
7. - It was a new tomb and not an old tomb renewed (John 19:41).
8. - The tomb was closed by rolling a GREAT stone over the entrance (Matt. 27:60).



A. GARDEN TOMB. B. "GORDON'S CALVARY." C. PLACE OF A SKULL. D. DAMASCUS GATE.

Figure 24 Location of Crucifixion sites

In every one of these particulars, the tomb discovered in 1867 matches the biblical description. It fits like a glove.

1. Skull Hill execution site

Firstly, this "Garden Tomb" is very close to a place known as "Skull Hill".

We are informed in the New Testament writings that Jesus was crucified "outside the city" (Heb. 13:12) at a place called "the Skull" (John 19:17-20). That word "skull" translates to "Calvary" in Latin, or "Golgotha" in Hebrew.

There is only one place around Jerusalem which has borne, and still bears, the name Skull Hill. It is just outside the North Wall, about 250 yards north-east of the Damascus Gate. A portion of this hill bears a striking resemblance to a human skull.

It is also the traditional site of burials for Moslems, Jews and Christians. And it was here, according to local tradition, that criminals were stoned to death. In the *Mishna*, this place is called Beth ha Sekelah, literally, "House of Stoning".

Nearby is St. Stephen's church, built over an old basilica that was erected to commemorate the stoning of Stephen, who became the first Christian martyr here, in 34 AD.

This was the recognized place of public execution for Jewish criminals. As late as the beginning of the 20th century, Jews would spit at the hill, throw stones and curse the "destroyer of their nation". It is such a site that the Roman authorities would have selected for executions.

We noted that the crucifixion of Yeshua occurred outside the city.

Skull Hill is just outside the Damascus Gate, the only direct exit from the castle of Antonine (alleged place of trial).

Recent archaeological opinion also holds that the Damascus Gate, which today marks the northern boundary of the Old City, likewise marks the northern boundary of Jerusalem in the 30s, the time of Yeshua's crucifixion.

All this tends to add weight to the feasibility of Skull Hill, outside the wall, advocated by Otto Thenius (1842), Colonel Couder (1875) and General Gordon (1883), being the actual site.



Figure 25 Skull Hill; Golgatha; Calvary



Figure 26 Old picture of Skull Hill

2. A garden

Evidence that a garden once surrounded this tomb is in the ancient cistern and also the winepress uncovered here.



Figure 27 Part of garden tomb area



Figure 28 Ancient Winepress in garden area



Figure 29 Ancient cistern in garden area

3. Carved out of the rock

The Garden Tomb was carved out of the quarry face of rocky outcrop which is hundreds of feet long and includes "the skull".



Figure 30 Tomb carved out of rocky out cropping

4-6. A rich man's tomb

Entering the tomb, one is impressed with the size. Certainly, only a rich man could have afforded a tomb such as this. Inside the tomb, to the right, was a spot for the owner of the tomb to be laid - and close to that, another spot, possibly for his wife. To the left, a large room was cut out for mourners to stand.



Figure 31 A rich man's tomb

7. A new or uncompleted tomb

The existence of the cavity in the receptacle at the tomb's north-east corner, and the absence of this cavity in the south-east receptacle, as well as the unfinished groove toward the north end of the west wall, show clearly that the tomb was never completed.



Figure 32 A new uncompleted tomb

8. A "great stone"

Immediately in front of the tomb is a stone trench, or trough. This was for the rolling of a stone to seal the doorway.

At the left end is an incline. The stone was rolled onto the trough at this end.

Late in 1995, Jonathan Gray took another archaeological team to Jerusalem. We measured this trough which was built to channel the rolling stone. We found this trough to be about two feet wide.

At the right hand end of the trough is a large stone block, positioned to prevent further movement of the seal-stone toward the right. Above that, on the right hand face of the tomb itself, a ridge was cut in the rock, which would block the stone from rolling further in that direction.

In the face of the tomb were two evidences which showed that a very, very large seal-stone was once used to seal this tomb.

In the right side of the tomb face, team member Dr. Nathan Meyer had on an earlier visit pointed out a hole which was pierced into the cliff face. The hole held the oxidized remains of an iron shaft. This has since been removed, but the hole remains.

On the left hand side of the tomb face, another hole had been pierced into the rock for the insertion of a metal shaft, to prevent the seal-stone from being rolled to the left and the tomb being opened.

On Friday, October 20, at 4 pm, team members Dr. David Wagner and Peter Mutton measured across the tomb face from the shaft hole on the left to the ridge at the right. The distance was discovered to be 13 feet 2 inches.

This shows that the seal-stone was "a very great stone" - over twice the diameter of any other seal-stone found! To our knowledge, the largest seal-stone previously found was 5 feet 6 inches. This clue, that it was a GREAT stone, is another evidence that the owner of the tomb was a rich man.

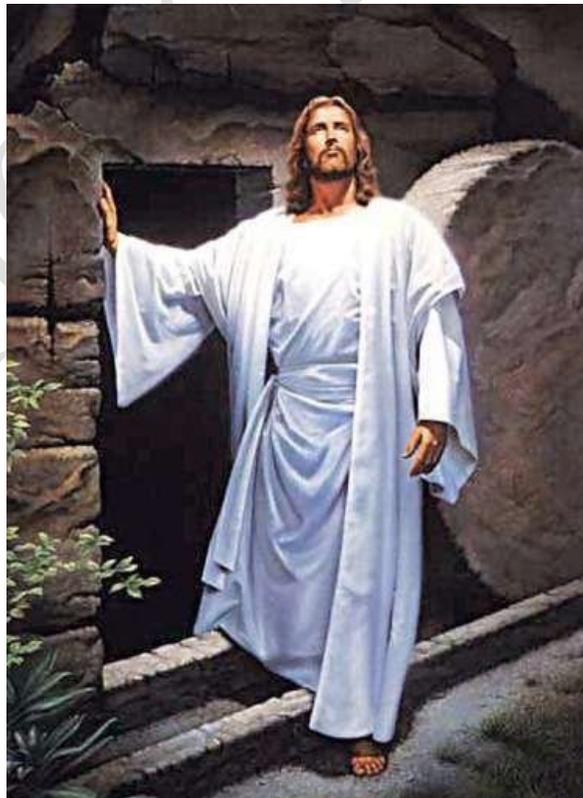


Figure 33 Resurrection scene

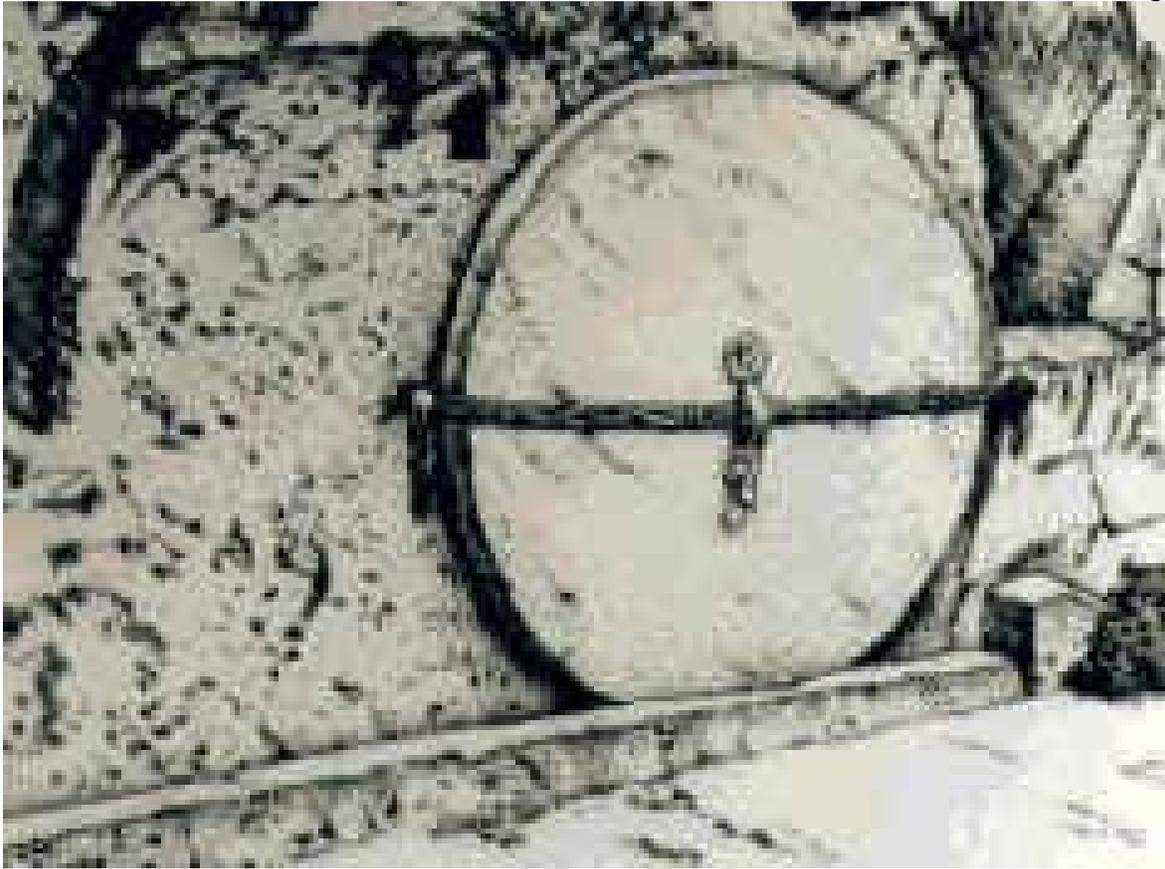


Figure 34 A great stone sealed the tomb

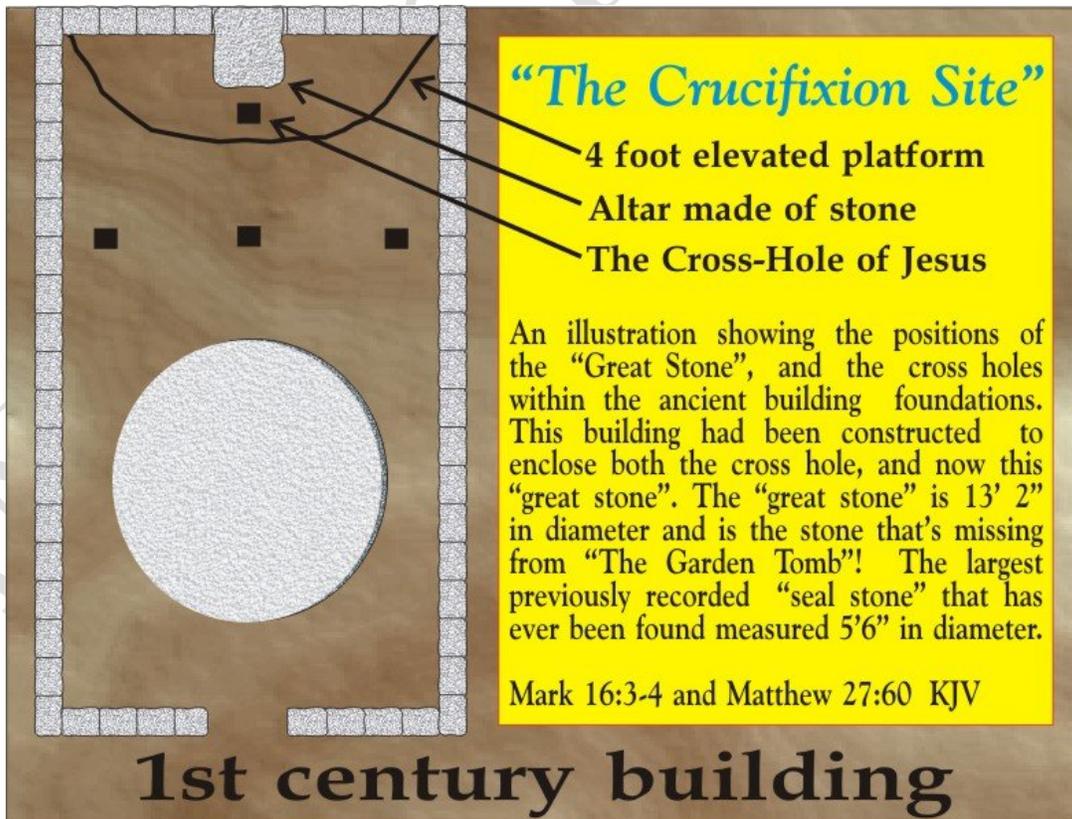


Figure 35 Actual seal stone is located not to far from tomb

9. Used by a different person

This tomb was not used by the person or persons for whom it had been cut out. Inside the tomb, one section carved out of the rock to fit one man, has clearly been enlarged for somebody else - someone who was taller than the man for whom the tomb had been measured. This enlarged section indicates that not the owner, but some other person, was laid in this rich man's tomb.

The ancient record states that Joseph, a member of the Sanhedrin, took the body of Yeshua and "laid it in his own new tomb", "wherein was never man yet laid" (Matt. 27:59, 60; John 19:41). Is this spot in the tomb that was enlarged for someone's feet, another link in the evidence?



Figure 36 The place where Jesus lay

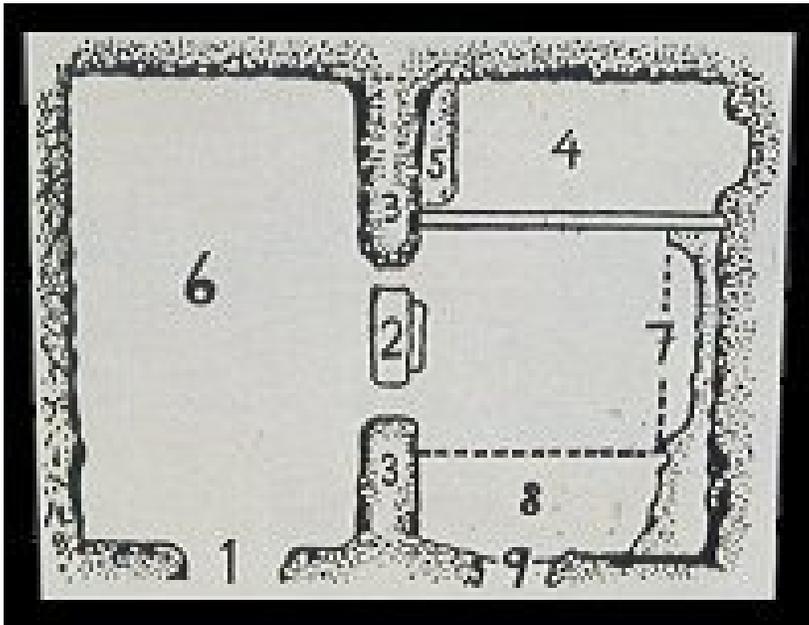


Diagram of the Tomb

1. Tomb entrance
2. Low threshold to the graves chamber
3. Low walls separating the chambers
4. Burial place of Christ
5. Headrest cut in rock
6. Weeping chamber
7. Rough ledge
8. Unfinished shelf where bones would have been kept, but never were here.
9. Small window

Figure 37 Diagram of tomb

10. Frequented by early Christians

In front of this tomb, there appears to have been cut out of the bedrock a font for baptism by immersion (a 1st century Christian practice), as well as a squarish foot bath (foot-washing was another early Christian ceremony). Such evidence suggests that the early Christians revered this particular tomb site as special.

47. The place you say was the tomb of Christ was constructed about 700 years before Christ. How can a tomb that is 700 years old be described as a "new tomb" as Jesus Christ's tomb was? (Russell Standish)

The "700 years BC" dating is misinformation.

Approximately 50 feet from the Garden Tomb to the left as you face the tomb, is located a large complex of tombs that belonged to wealthy Jews.

This complex of tombs to the north-west of Joseph's (Christ's) tomb was hewn into the face of the dry moat that was cut across the ridge of Mount Moriah. This was done to make the north wall of Jerusalem less vulnerable to attack. The tombs were hewn in a north-west to south-east progression. It is obvious that these were the tombs of the wealthy and priestly class. They were hewn during the First Temple period and used until the Babylonian captivity. During the captivity, the portable ossuary was introduced and used, as revealed in the ancient Jewish records.

These stone boxes were of a size to contain the bones of one individual and were designed to make it possible for the bones of the Jews to be transported back to Jerusalem and interred in the family tomb. The families who owned these tombs began using them upon their return from the captivity and they were used through the Persian and Greek periods.

Mistaken dating

In some cases, the tomb entrances were sealed with slabs of stone bearing Greek inscriptions and some researchers present this as proof that the tombs date from the Greek period. This view fails to take into consideration that such a tomb, and such a choice location was a matter of pride for the family, and they, of course, would have their inscriptions updated to the most popular and widest read language as newer members would die and be interred there.

The Garden Tomb is located in the next available position, immediately south-east of these First Temple period tomb complexes. There would be no need for the old, rich and priestly families to hew other tombs. No Jew wished to be buried anywhere but in their ancestors' tomb. Foreign kings had their tombs hewn near the highest points around the city; as higher indicated greater importance. The Garden Tomb location is the obvious first choice for the burial of "the new-rich" of Christ's time. And Joseph of Arimathea was just such a person. Bible scholars and believers have no doubt that he had his tomb hewn by divine Providence just at the right time to allow for the fulfillment of the Isaiah prophecy about Christ's burial.

Once excavation of the Garden Tomb was completed, characteristics were noted which did prove it to be dated to the first century of the Christian era, the time of Yeshua the Messiah.

Dame Kathleen Kenyon, the famous British archaeologist, said in 1970, "It is a typical tomb of about the first century AD." (K. Kenyon, *Archaeology in the Holy Land*. Ernest Benn Ltd., London)

48. Isn't the door of the Garden Tomb too high, compared to the biblical Tomb of Christ?

What do you say about John 20:5, 11?

- That they stooped down? The door of the Garden Tomb seems high enough to walk in.

The doorway, now enlarged, was originally lower, requiring that one stoop in order to enter.

49. Is the metal peg only a stray bullet as some claim?

I've been told that the metal embedded in the front wall of the Garden Tomb (which you suggest is part of the peg inserted by the guards who sealed the stone in front of Jesus' tomb), is only a stray bullet from the 6-day Arab-Israeli war of 1967. What do you say to that?

We asked the Police Department, What would happen if you fired a bullet into a stone cliff? Would it embed into the wall?

"No," was the answer. "It might shatter a hole in the stone wall, but it would not fix itself in it."



Figure 38 Iron rod that sealed the tomb and stone



Figure 39 Location of iron rod

50. What do you say to Russell Standish's claim that he rang the chaplain, who explained that their position is that the Garden Tomb is not really the precise tomb that Jesus was buried in?

As we know, truth is not determined by the position of fallible men, but by the word of God. All available evidence points to this tomb being the precise one described in the Gospels ([see Question 46](#)).

As regards the "position" of Garden Tomb staff, anyone can purchase from their gift shop a video entitled, *A Special Place*, produced in 1986 by Rev. Bill White, as well as a book of the same title, published in 1980, by the same Bill White. Bill White was the chaplain at the Garden Tomb during the 1970s and 1980s (when Ron excavated); he was also chairman of the Garden Tomb Association for some time. From his material it is quite evident that Bill White accepted the Garden Tomb as authentic.

Mr. White gives good evidence, and that is without reference to our extra evidence (such as the sheared off iron rod marker which matches dimensions with the round stone found at the crucifixion site - see our book *Ark of the Covenant*, pages 274,275).

We have a photograph of Ron shaking hands with Bill White, as well as a note that Bill sent to Ron, telling Ron how much he valued his friendship, and thanking Ron for the podium that he donated.

If the current Garden Tomb staff speak against Ron Wyatt, that is to their loss. The Lord obviously arranged for a godly man (obvious when you read Bill White's books, such as *Risen Indeed*) to be in charge at the time when Ron was to do his work there.

51. Isn't the Church of the Holy Sepulcher the true place of Christ's burial?

You have identified the Garden Tomb outside the walls of Old Jerusalem as the burial place of Christ. But what about the Church of the Holy Sepulcher inside the old city, to which many tourists go?

Jesus was crucified and buried "outside the city" (John 19:17, 20; Heb. 13:12).

The traditional sepulcher site over which a church has been built was selected some 300 years after Christ by Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine.

Two main points have frequently been raised in its favor.

1. It has often been asserted that there was an unbroken chain of apostolic primacy in Jerusalem from Herod to Constantine and that therefore the tomb of Christ was never lost, until Helena simply confirmed it.

Plausible? Perhaps. However, 300 years is quite a time. And when one studies the history of that period, the notion that the identity of biblical sites was accurately established, is doubtful. The Christians evacuated Jerusalem before it was destroyed in AD 70. The city remained in rubble for 65 years, until Hadrian gave orders in AD 135 for it to be rebuilt under a Roman name, as a completely Roman city.

From the accounts of Alexander Monachus in the 6th century (who wrote *De inventione Sanctoae*), as well as Eusebius, a contemporary of Constantine (who in 336 wrote *Life of the Empress Helena* - refer pp. 2830), it is

evident that there was NO CLAIM FOR A CONTINUING TRADITION when Constantine's mother selected her site for the Church of the Resurrection. Rather, the discovery was 'contrary to expectation'.

2. Many scholars have asserted that this site of the Holy Sepulcher church could have been outside the city wall in Jesus' time. It is INSIDE the wall today.

Bill White (*A Special Place*, p.61) points out that if it was outside the wall at that time, "then - from a military point of view - the location of the Jerusalem 'second wall' to the west of the Tyropoean valley would have been indefensible." It is now known that a wall excavated in 1962 adjacent to the Holy Sepulcher is not from the time of Christ, but part of a building from the time of Hadrian (AD 135).

Again, if the Holy Sepulcher site was outside the city wall in the first century, then Jerusalem at the greatest of Herodian expansion was smaller than it is today. "The demographic implications of that are very significant," observes White. (Professor W.S. McBirnie's book, *The Search for the Tomb of Jesus*, is very persuasive on these points - see chapters 7 and 8.)

Prevailing archaeological opinion is that the wall is now just where it was in Jesus' day, and that the actual place of Jesus' crucifixion was the "Skull Hill" north of that present/past wall.

Under the present Damascus Gate at the North Wall, remains found include those from Herod's time. Excavations of 1980-85 revealed tremendous stones, remnants of walls built by Herod - the city walls and gates.

A glance at these excavations and the great Herodian stones built into the portals makes it plain that there had been a city Wall on this spot prior to the destruction by Titus (AD 70).

The Holy Sepulcher site was inside the wall. And without doubt the Garden Tomb was **outside** the city wall at the time of the crucifixion!

Jesus was crucified "outside the city" (John 19:17, 20; Heb. 13:12), at a place called "the Skull" (Matt. 27:33; Mark 15:22; Luke 23:33; John 19:17). "Calvary" is Latin; "Golgotha" is Hebrew, for "skull". There is only one place around Jerusalem which has borne, and still bears, the name "Skull Hill". It is just outside the North Wall, near the Damascus Gate. It is a hill with a striking resemblance to a human skull.

In 1883 when General Gordon was convinced that the skull face was the true Golgotha, he sought a tomb that was "nigh at hand" as the Bible indicated (John 19:41, 42). Just a few hundred feet away was this tomb we now call the Garden Tomb.

Although many have tried to discredit the tomb, Dame Kathleen Kenyon, the famous British archaeologist, said in 1970, "It is a typical tomb of about the first century AD" - the time of Christ.

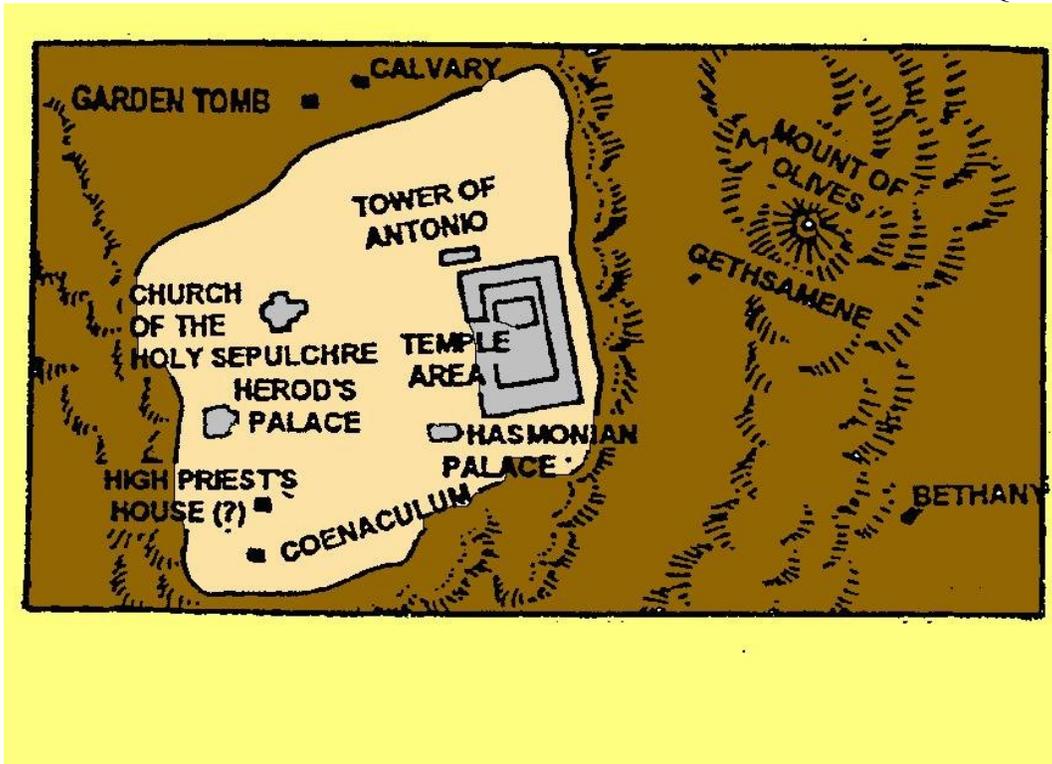


Figure 40 Location of the Church of the Sepulchre



Figure 41 View looking down on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre

SITE OF CHRIST'S TOMB

In the first century AD, this site consisted of a small, rocky rise just outside the city walls and a disused stone quarry into whose rock face tombs had been cut.

The hillside was dug away in the 4th century to allow a church to be built around the tomb.

Burial chambers existed here in the 1st centuries BC and AD.

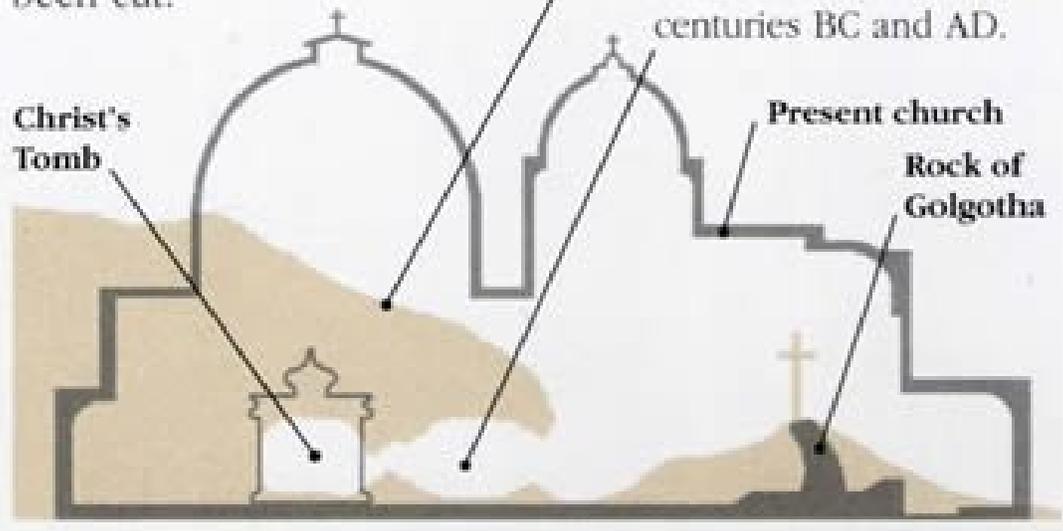


Figure 42 Supposed sites of crucifixion and burial of Jesus

ANCHORS



Figure 43 Supposed place of the crucifixion

CHRIST'S CRUCIFIXION SITE

52. What do you say to the Catholic tradition that St. Helena found the True Cross at that other site, the church of the Holy Sepulcher site?

It is better to let a Catholic authority answer this one. A priest in Victoria, Australia, wrote to us as follows:

"The enclosed notes on the Holy Cross are very helpful, especially if you come across Catholics dubious about your Ark of the Covenant book on the grounds of the tradition about St. Helena finding the True Cross at the other site.

"You will notice it is a small `t' tradition, unlike the capital `T' traditions Catholics are obliged to accept as the Word of God. There are several accounts of the St. Helena discovery, all conflicting. It is thus perfectly safe and OK for Catholics to accept the site Ron chose if the evidence seems to support it. It is not a dogma of Catholic Faith that the bastion of the Holy Sepulcher is the actual site of the Crucifixion." (*Fr. K Robinson, Melbourne*).

52a. I have always assumed that Christ's blood fell upon the earth (soil). What support is there for your claim that the crucifixion of Christ was upon a rock or that the dripping of His blood was not upon earth, but upon rock?

Firstly, our archaeological work demonstrates that the crucifixion site was indeed cut out of the rock platform in the front of the escarpment known as Skull Hill. (See *Ark of the Covenant*, pp. 234-259.)

Secondly, the blood analysis links this site with the death of our Lord Himself. (See *Ark of the Covenant*, pp. 418-428, 484, 488.)

Thirdly, the Bible goes out of its way to record that "the rocks were rent" (Matt. 27:51). Why this reference to the "rocks" unless there was some significance linking this to the crucifixion of Christ?

53. At the Skull Hill crucifixion site, there were three cross-holes plus Jesus' higher cross-hole. Why the extra one (there being only two thieves)?

I realize you may not have a definite answer for this. Could it have been from a previous or subsequent extra crucifixion?

Here's a possibility. In John 19:31-37, an eyewitness apostle documents the interference of the Jewish leaders in the crucifixion of Jesus. We have several examples of such interference. Firstly, they didn't want the condemned men hanging on the cross over the Sabbath (thus, to their mind, defiling it). At their instigation (according to some writings) "one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side." Actually this fulfilled the prophecy "they shall look on him whom they pierced" (v.37).

Secondly, the Jewish leaders again interfered in demanding that the tomb of Jesus be "made sure", sealing the stone and setting a watch (Matt. 27:62-66).

So, it is more than likely that the three lower cross-holes were already dug out, but that through the Jewish leaders' insistence or interference a higher cross-hole was dug. In their hatred for Jesus they wanted Him to be lifted up as a star attraction onto a higher cross-hole. So a new hole was dug to display His death more prominently. Hence a prophecy was again fulfilled: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32).

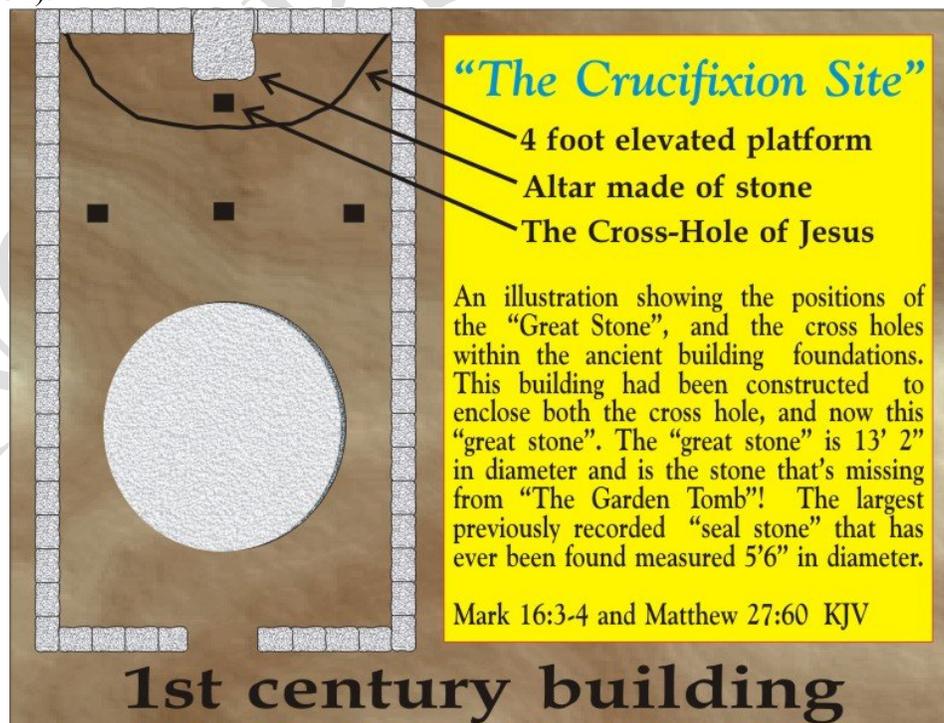


Figure 44 4 cross holes in 1st century building

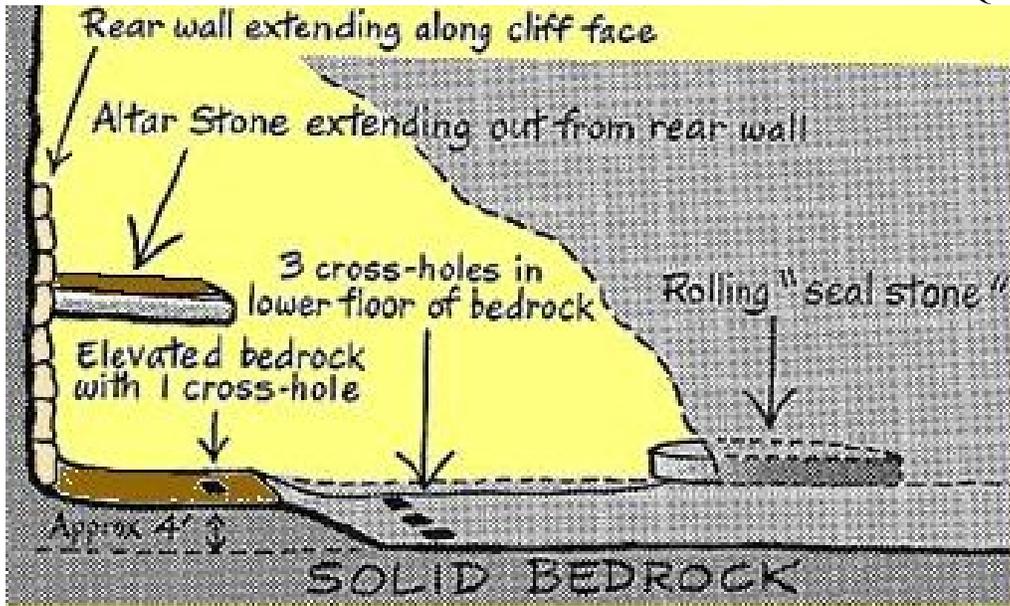


Figure 45 Depiction of cross holes and seal stone location

TEN COMMANDMENT TABLETS

54. Did Ron Wyatt touch the Ark himself?

Says Ron, "Okay, I have touched the Ark, yes. Now that doesn't make me anything special. You can touch it, but I'm saying if we ask God to forgive us of any sin, the ones we know about and the ones we don't know about, in the name of Jesus, and then humbly go about doing something that He has impressed us to do, then we are safe."

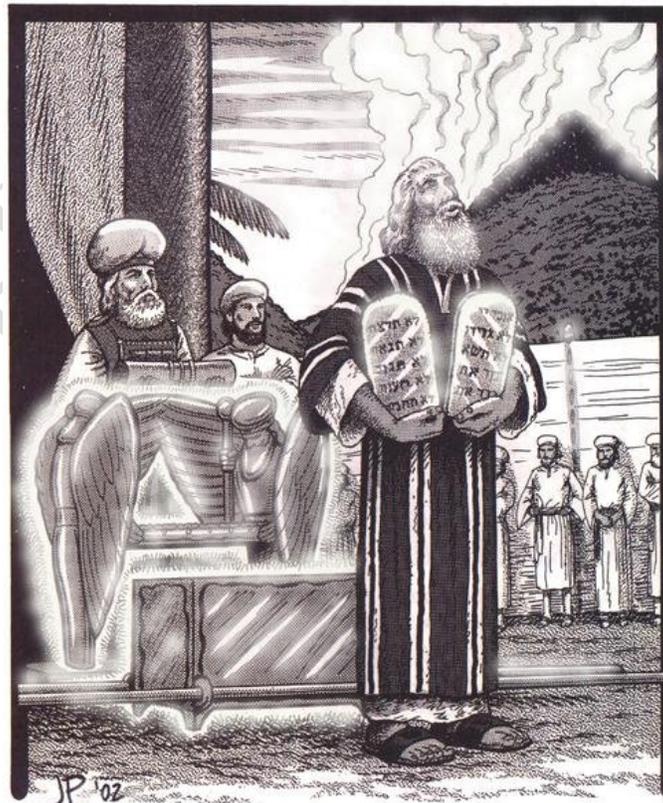


Figure 46 Moses with the ten commandments

55. Is it true that Ron took the tablets of stone away from the Ark cavern?

We shall let Ron answer: "No. This is something that has amazed me, I can talk to a whole audience and I think we have a perfect understanding of what I have said, and then somebody will misquote me. I never said that. I said that one of the four angels in the cave told me to take the tablets of stone out of the Ark of the Covenant, and the four of them took hold of the corners of the Mercy Seat and lifted it so that I could get to the tables of stone. I took them out, backed away, while they set the Mercy Seat back down on the Ark. I just stood there wondering what to do. The angel came and took the tables and put them on a stone shelf in the chamber. And that is where they are at this point in time; that is also where the video is.

56. Is it true that the tablets of stone are broken?

The original tablets of stone bearing the Ten Commandments "written with the finger of God". (Ex. 31:18) were given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai. Returning to the Israelite camp and angry at seeing the people worshipping the golden calls Moses threw down the stone tablets' and broke them (Ch. 32:19). For a report on the possible discovery of this broken set of the Ten Commandments, see our *Update International Newsletter No. 2*.

The Lord subsequently instructed Moses, "hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables..." (Ch. 34:1).

This second set was the one placed in the Ark. This second, unbroken set reposes in the Ark chamber today.

57. What language are the tablets written in?

Proto-Aramaic. It is a script that scholars can read easily. It does not have vowels or punctuation. Did you know that the Ten Commandments are called "God's ten words"? Each of the commandments is jammed together like one long word, with no punctuation or vowels.

58. What kind of stone were the Ten Commandments written on?

I am not a geologist, and we have not tested the tablets.

59. I have heard somewhere that the original tablets that Moses broke were sapphire (bluish). Is this so?

I have no knowledge of whether they were sapphire or not. That original set was broken by Moses. Then God told Moses to make another set of tablets "like unto the first" (Ex. 34:1). I would assume that if the first were sapphire that the second would have been, but they are not.

60. What do the letters look like?

They are burned in. If you can picture a tray of butter, and someone with perfect handwriting in the butter, and then it turns to stone, the letters etched as with fire, melted into the stone - then you can understand it.

61. A respected man claims Ron Wyatt has stated in the past that he carried the Ten Commandments in a blanket past Customs. Can you-comment?

We can state confidently that Ron has never at any stage anywhere in the past, at any time, ever claimed to have brought the Ten Commandments out of the cave where he found them.

In fact, all our writings and all our reports and tapes from all our meetings have, over the years, consistently stated that the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments are still inside the Ark of the Covenant in the cave near Old Jerusalem.

62. Carl Wieland of "Creation Science" ("Answers in Genesis") claims that a representative of yours in Adelaide said that Ron in a telephone conversation told him he had the Ten Commandments (in his garage?) at his home (letter from Wieland to Zelka Stark, August 5, 1998). Is this true?

Our representatives in Adelaide, Glenn and Suzanne Coopman, unequivocally affirm that no such conversation has ever taken place.

Ron Wyatt's response is:

"We have a copy of the Ten Commandments written in our hearts. We also have a copy of the Ten Commandments in English on the mantel over our fire place. And if you'd like a copy, I'll give you the address where you can buy them. As for the Ten Commandments in the cave, the person concerned will get to see it when the time is ready."

63. How do you answer the charge that Ron Wyatt's death "is proof beyond dispute that his claim to have spoken to an angel is false?"

But he has stated that the angel (in the cave) told him that he would display the Tables of Stone, the Ten Commandments, when the Sunday law is fully established."? (Russell Standish)

Ron died on August 4th, 1999.

Ron never said the angel's word was unconditional; in fact, quite the opposite. He repeated that the angel said, "If you are faithful"

We have Ron on video speaking before his biggest ever audience in Thames, New Zealand, in which, recalling the event, he used almost these exact words. As he did so, Ron was overcome with emotion and his voice broke. Those of us who know Ron well can vouch that his encounter was real. There is no doubt about that.

On the same basis, perhaps Russell should begin teaching that "beyond dispute" Jonah was a false prophet.

Jonah, at the command of God, declared, "... forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown" (Jonah 3:4). Nineveh wasn't destroyed. So is that "proof beyond dispute" that Jonah was a false prophet, and we should remove that book from the Bible? It's a shame Jesus quoted from it.

"If you are faithful..." Without doubt, Ron was faithful to the Lord; he was devoted to the work God gave him to do. Then why did he die? In the past, even with pneumonia in both lungs, he had continued work inside the

tunnel system. Such was his dedication. In his final 12 months, despite deteriorating health, Ron traveled several times across the world and worked late into the night, in order to faithfully perform the work God gave him to do. Where he failed was in not comprehending how weak his body was. The laws of health suffered. He needed a rest. And the merciful Lord gave it to him.

THE BLOOD OF JESUS

64. How do you know that the blood found on the Mercy Seat of the Ark is human, not animal, blood?

The blood went straight down into the crack at the base of the crucifixion cross-hole. It went down through that crack and splashed onto the stone lid of the case in the cave containing the Ark of the Covenant, as well as onto the Mercy Seat.

The crack has been closely examined - and it shows copious amounts of blood having flowed down into it. It is still there. And it is human blood.

Samples have been taken and laboratory tested.

65. But surely there would be lots and lots of animal blood on the Mercy Seat.

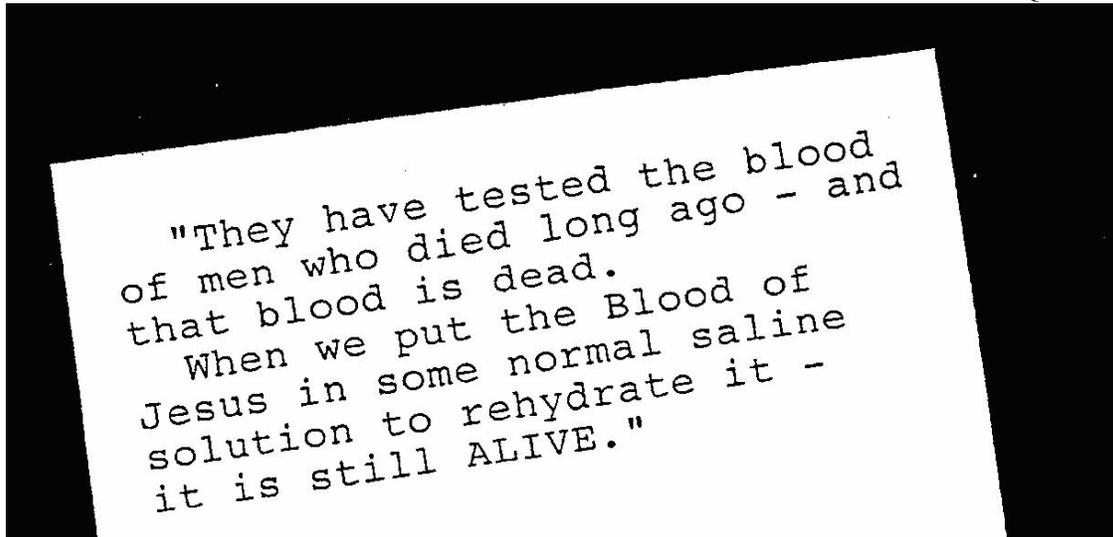
After all, for hundreds of years the blood of a bullock and of a goat was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat each year. Can you imagine the accumulation that there would have been on the Mercy Seat? How was Ron able to just scrape off the blood that belonged to Christ rather than that of the animals whose blood had been sprinkled there for hundreds and hundreds of years? (Colin Standish)

In regard to Colin's assertion that there would be lots and lots of blood on the Mercy Seat because they sprinkled it there for hundreds and hundreds of years, how does he know how blood reacts to the presence of the Shekinah Glory? The blood may have been irradiated away shortly after the high priest put it there; after all, there are no reports in the Jewish writings of how "dirty" and "caked up" with blood the Mercy Seat was getting over the years! Does Colin think he "knows it all" in regard to God's things?

Geneticist Eugene Dunkley, in an e-mail to Aaron Sen, dated August 25, 1999, confirmed the following:

... The presence of the dead blood of bulls and goats would have no effect on the culturing [and testing] of live cells. If we take it as fact that the blood of Christ is ALIVE then the only cells that could be cultured after 2,000 years would be those of Jesus Christ. It is like isolating antibiotic-resistant bacteria; only those cells capable of living in the presence of the antibiotic will survive. So it is here, that only cells capable of living would be culturable .."

Also, Colin seems not to understand that Ron took his blood sample from the stone lid of the stone box, and the ceiling crack, NOT from the Mercy Seat!



66. Could blood last so long?

Since blood deteriorates quite rapidly, especially at high temperature, Jesus' blood would have been "quickly removed by bacteria or parasites such as cockroaches, which [would] eat it up readily. It just is absolutely not feasible that blood from the cross could have survived 2,000 years" (D. Pennington, letter to Ron and Ula Cable, Sept. 7, 1996). What do you say to that?

In 1993, Professor Steve Jones published a book called *The Language of Genes*, in which he stated:

In the infancy of human genetics, 20 years ago [that is, about 1972], biologists had a childish view of what the world looks like. (p.44)

How recent, indeed, is our ability to test the chromosomal content of blood!

Again he says:

Paternity can be tested beyond the grave. DNA is tough stuff, which can persist long after the death of its owner. (Ibid., p.21)

He continues:

The Egyptian Pharaoh Tutankhamun was buried about the same time as another mummy, Smenkhare. Their blood groups can still be identified. The pattern of gene sharing suggests that the two Pharaohs were brothers. (Ibid., p.24)

How amazing, to be able to make such analyses, so long after the death of the individuals! Such tissue analyses were once thought impossible. In the light of this, who should dare pour scorn on the blood analysis that Ron had done in the laboratory?

It has been known for some time that Siberian mammoths died from suffocation by gases or drowning - A conclusion that is possible because after thousands of years their skin still remains congested with blood corpuscles.

A geneticist assured me that under certain conditions, such as freezing, blood could be preserved indefinitely.

So, could blood survive 2,000 years? We have been informed that the ancient Egyptians used "bullock's blood" as mortar - and it kept for centuries -and is still there today!

In *Ark of the Covenant*, pp. 479-483, we reassured critics that blood spilt 2,000 years ago COULD be analyzed.

This has now been further confirmed by Tom Loy, Centre for Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Queensland.

Tom writes:

"The major emphasis of my research is in protein biochemical and molecular genetic approaches to the analysis of prehistoric tool use-residues, human remains and the bones of extinct megafauna. Biochemical, molecular genetic, microscopic and forensic methods have many applications in molecular archaeology. Molecular information from ancient residues can be used to reconstruct subsistence and related cultural activities with accuracy not possible using standard archaeological methods. It has revealed past human actions ranging from individual moments in time such as the direct dating rock paintings by purifying the organic constituents including human blood to broad generalizations about such topics as the relation between human hunting and the extinction of Australian and North American megafauna .

...Stone artifacts often contain mixed blood residues. Satellite analysis, because it is specific at least to sub-Family, could be used to indicate mixed blood samples. A combination of satellite and VNTR analysis can also be used to differentiate species in mixed samples. Hemoglobin crystallization can resolve the presence of two or more species blood mixed on a tool." [\(See Appendix 15\)](#)

Key Publications:

Loy, T H. (1983) Prehistoric blood residues: detection on tool surfaces and identification of species of origin. Science 220:1269-1271.

Loy, TH. and K.I. Matthaai (1994) Species of origin determination from prehistoric blood residues using ancient genomic DNA. Australasian Biotechnology 4: 161-162.

Loy, TH. and B.G. Hardy (1992) Blood residue analysis of 90, 000 year old stone tools from Tabun Cave, Israel. Antiquity 66: 24-35.

- sinless (1 Pet. 2:22)
- incorruptible (Acts 2:31; 1 Pet. 1:18,19)
- precious (1 Pet. 1:19)
- innocent (Matt. 27:4)
- overcoming (Rev. 12:11)
- holy (Heb. 10:29).

As for the blood of the Son of God being eaten by cockroaches or whatever, let's be clear on this:

At the crucifixion site, we are speaking of a cool chamber in the bowels of the earth suddenly linked to the cross-hole by a brand-new sterile crack in the rock, which receives the blood and is then sealed tight with a stone plug. A home for cockroaches? Let's get real!

Pennington objects that it is not feasible that blood from the cross could have survived 2,000 years.

One might agree and add also that "it just is absolutely not feasible" that the Israelites' shoes would survive without wearing out for 40 years.

But remember how the Hebrews wandered in the desert all that time, their shoes not wearing out? The Bible called it one of 'those great miracles'.

One could say that "scientifically it's impossible." Yes, science does have its limitations. But God has no limitations. Cannot He preserve something if He chooses?

I recall the statement of Jesus that "things which are impossible with men are possible with God" (Luke 18:27). "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27).

It is fashionable to believe that current scientific opinion is the last word.

Yet one is reminded that in the cavern, in the back "side" of the Ark, sit four leather scrolls of the law, as fresh and supple as the day they were written upon. They show no deterioration. Amazing indeed. The blood on the Mercy Seat, and the scrolls of the law, in perfect condition. On the other hand the wooden beams and the skins which the Jews used to cover the other furniture have rotted away, degraded almost to the point of being mere dust.

The important things - precious items so valuable to the Lord - He has preserved intact.

The blood of Jesus "incorruptible"

The book of Leviticus states that *"the life of the flesh is in the blood"* (17:11). Then Psalm 16:10 says concerning the coming Messiah, *"For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."* This implies the WHOLE person - whether His soul, His flesh, His bones, or His blood. Then in 1 Pet. 1:18,19 we read, *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were NOT redeemed with CORRUPTIBLE things, as silver and gold,... But with the precious BLOOD OF CHRIST, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. "*

The blood of Jesus, therefore, is NOT CORRUPTIBLE, else were the Father's promise in Psalm 16:10 broken, which it cannot be.

This is plain Scripture: Christ's blood CANNOT be corrupted; it CANNOT DECAY. In his book *The Chemistry of the Blood*, M.R. Dettaan, M.D., speaking of Jesus' blood asks: *"Reader, do you know that blood is as fresh today as it ever was and always will be? It cannot perish. "* (p.40) Cannot the Lord preserve His Son's INCORRUPTIBLE blood, not to be devoured by insects?

Jesus' Blood "Holy"

Something else. Even though Jesus received his flesh, the body, from a sinful race (descended from Adam), His blood was His blood was never poisoned, because He never sinned. It is blood that LIVES FOREVER.

Preserved

Whether the Lord preserved this blood by freezing or simply by His WILL for 2 minutes or for 2,000 years...

In any case, from visual inspection, we now know that this blood HAS been preserved. That is a physical, historical fact.

During the microscope inspection of the blood from the cavern, there was movement in it. It was living blood.

The Messiah's body was changed into the glorious body on the third day, and his blood has remained in an uncorrupted state ever since.

A Warning

The blood of the Son of God "eaten by cockroaches"? Is this speaking disrespectfully concerning blood which is holy? If so, then Hebrews 10:29 is pertinent:

*"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and **hath counted the blood of the covenant**, wherewith he was **sanctified, an unholy thing**, and hath done despite to the spirit of grace?"*

It's worth thinking about. Aaron Sen received an e-mail from Eugene Dunkley, a Ph.D. in genetics at Oxford University, England. Aaron reported to Jonathan: "I asked him if it is sound scientifically, that the blood cells were still alive/dividing when the lab analyzed them. I was wondering if it would be any use for your book."

Dr. Dunkley, in an e-mail, dated July 27, 1999, responded:

"Dear Aaron,

"White blood cells retain the ability to divide because they do not lose their DNA. In fact, they divide more rapidly under conditions of infection and obviously leukemia.

"Cells in culture divide a limited number of times before dying. They undergo a programmed cell death called apoptosis. Otherwise, there is no reason for them to die.

"Taking the premise that Jesus' blood was divine, and therefore immortal, the cells would not degrade outside the body, but simply lie dormant. This is seen already in nature with bacteria such as Bacillus which will go into a spore stage and lie dormant until the environment around them is favorable for growth. In fact, normal cells have a cell cycle in which they can be arrested under certain conditions.

"Once the cells were re-hydrated in the PBS solution that Ron provided, then in culture they would be able to divide with the conditions of growth now favorable. The DNA from the new cultures could then be studied once the cell density was optimal."

67. Why hasn't rain washed away the blood in the cleft of the rock before now?

That rock over at the crucifixion site was cracked open. So shouldn't the blood in that crack have disappeared, by now? Surely it would only take the next shower of rain after the crucifixion, to wash that blood away!

Inserted into the top of the cross-hole was found a stone plug - tightly fitting, large and squarish. It had become coated in travertine. There were finger handles on the two sides where one could place fingers to lift it up. This stone plug was 13 inches by 14 inches in width and about 4 inches thick. The intent of the plug was probably to prevent horses or people from tripping into the hole.

But it would also prevent debris from falling in when the holes were not in use.

However, the ultimate result of this sealing of the holes - all of them - was that when the team removed the plugs, the holes were found to be empty. So the plug in the cross-hole obviously helped to preserve anything that was under it. And the plug itself was in position under several feet of debris.

Underneath that plug, everything was well protected.



Figure 47 Hole plug from Jesus' cross hole

68. How do you know the cross-hole was not used for later crucifixions - and that this is not the blood of someone else?

Let's tie all the strands of evidence together. For starters, the big earthquake split in the rock. This may well have rendered that particular cross-hole quite unsuitable for any further crucifixions. In any case, there are

writings which state that soon after Jesus' crucifixion, the method of death by crucifixion in Jerusalem was abolished.

You see, it resulted from the scenes which took place at His death. The inhuman conduct of the mob, the unexplained darkness which veiled the earth, and the agony of nature displayed in the tearing of the rocks, the lightning flashes and so on. It struck those people with such remorse and terror, that the cross, as an instrument of death, soon fell into disuse.

There was a brief, bloody interlude in AD 70, when the Romans besieged Jerusalem - a brief time when mob power seized control and crucifixion was revived. But more crucifixions on that site? I think not!

Consider also another factor - Joseph of Arimathea.

Just think about it. He had been a secret follower of Jesus and never openly supported Jesus. But now suddenly Jesus had gone... He was a rich man. Wouldn't he do everything in his power to safeguard the site... the crucifixion site? After all, he took the body and placed Jesus in his own nearby tomb! Then, now that the Lord had risen, wouldn't Joseph try to secure the site with the only remaining evidence of his beloved Lord - the cross-hole with the blood? Wouldn't it be most precious to him? A precious reminder of that awesome event?

If I were Joseph, I certainly would keep a bold and jealous protection over that crucifixion site. And we know now that some first century Christians did just that. They enclosed that very site with a stone building. It would be natural to do something like that.

Apart from that, anyone who is knowledgeable of how particular God was concerning the way the Ark of the Covenant was treated, will know that the Lord would not permit the blood of a random individual to sprinkle in such a remarkable way onto the Mercy Seat.

But there is better evidence. Real, tangible. A DNA analysis has been conducted on that blood in the crack... the blood of the last person to spill his blood at that site.

It shows that the last blood that flowed down into that split rock was most unusual blood. It was not the blood of your ordinary man.

Ron Wyatt, in his tests, was able to find the chromosomal content of the blood. The blood was found to be human, but very peculiar.

Normal human blood has a total of 46 chromosomes. When a child is conceived, 23 chromosomes come from the mother and 23 come from the father.

One of these pairs is the gender determinant. For this pair, the mother always provides an "X" chromosome (so-called on account that its shape somewhat resembles the letter "X"). And if the father provides an "X", the child will contain the chromosomes "XX" - and will always be a female. But if the father provides a "Y" chromosome (shaped to some extent like the letter "Y"), the child will have a chromosome combination of "XY" - and will be male. The other 44 chromosomes (comprising 22 pairs) are known as autosomes.

All eggs produced by the female organism will be identical, containing "X" only. For her to produce a male offspring, the addition of a "Y" is necessary.

The blood analysis from the Ark chamber showed a total of only 24 chromosomes. Of these, 23 were derived from the mother. And there was one "Y" chromosome. This indicated that the blood belonged to a male.

No human blood like this had ever been known to exist. Nowhere on the earth!

The scientific term for this is "ploidy", or "haploidy". There have been known examples of females born with only half the normal chromosome count of 23, instead of 46, but never a male child. For a male to be produced, the father HAS to provide that distinctive "Y" chromosome!

69. Where has the blood been tested, and how did the laboratory staff react?

Ron took samples of the blood from the crack in the ceiling of the cave to an Israeli laboratory and they tested it for him.

The Israelis at first would not do this since, as they said, the blood was too old and dried out. Ron asked, "Just for me." They did it to please him.

The blood was re-hydrated with a normal saline solution (0.099 per cent) at 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit (about 37 degrees Centigrade) and underwent a gentle swirling for 72 hours.

After this, it was placed in a growth medium for 48 hours. During this period it was warmed to body temperature.

Subsequently a sample was taken of white blood corpuscles. After 24 hours there was movement. The white blood cells began reproducing. It was possible, therefore, to get a chromosome count.

The laboratory technician looked astonished. "This blood has 24 chromosomes!" he reported.

Ron replied, "Are you able to tell what the blood came from - animal or human?"
The answer came back: "Human blood."

The lab staff faced Ron. "Where did you get this blood!" they exclaimed.

Then, without waiting for the answers, followed up with a flood of questions.

"Whose blood is this?"

Ron, with deep emotion, told them, "This is the blood of your Messiah!"

What followed was unforgettable. Ron never saw anyone react as they did. They "lost it". They turned white, and began to tear at their hair and cry out, beating on things in the room. They went utterly wild.

It brings to mind the prophecy made by Jesus that one day, faced with the truth, "they shall wail because of him" (Rev. 1:7).

When the men calmed down, one of them asked: "Who is the Messiah?"

And Ron said: "Jesus Christ... and I got the blood from the crucifixion site."

Samples were also taken to the United States.

Mary Nell herself was able to take a small sample, rehydrate it over a three day period, and view the red blood cells through the microscope. The examination took place on October 11, 1996.

Among a handful of witnesses to this living, moving blood as seen through the microscope, are Elizabeth and Richard Rives, David Musudole and Jonathan and Josephine Gray.

David, like the rest of us, was overwhelmed. In his slow, drawling voice he spoke... "O-oh... to see this... precious blood... the blood that has redeemed me...!"

It's pretty awesome. How we long to see that Man face to face!

70. Why don't you show the certificate of the blood test? What is the name of the lab?

Ron's arrangement is with Israeli authorities. They supervised the excavation --and when the blood was found they told him where to go to have it tested.

It is their strict orders that the above requested information cannot presently be revealed.

We have to return to Israel to work in the future and we shall not jeopardize that. We do not go against the wishes of the host government.

Should you believe what you cannot see?

Here is Ron's observation: "When I speak about the Ark of the Covenant, I am limited in what I am presently at liberty to show and say. The Lord, in His providential wisdom, has a reason for my not being able to provide you with photographs and videos at this time. Should you believe the things I tell you I've seen? There is but one answer - pray for guidance and understanding. The Holy Spirit alone can convince the hearer of Truth, or reveal that which is not Truth."

Concerning the blood test evidence, the same standard must apply for now.

71. Why won't you release the name of the lab that did the blood tests?

You say you won't give the name of the lab that did the blood tests because they don't want everyone ringing up and pestering them; yet you have supplied lab reports for other finds, along with the names and addresses of the labs. Doesn't that suggest that your "blood test" lab is fictitious? (Colin Standish)

In this instance we are dealing with something that is not ordinary - the very blood of Christ the Messiah. The other labs tested just "things".

The political and religious volatility within the land of Israel and the implications and possible repercussions of this discovery need to be understood in regard to the decision - which is by request of the authority - for now.

Each event has its own circumstance. Each situation is unique.

72. Wyatt says the blood was tested in Israel; Gray says it was tested in America. Whom do we believe?

Both are correct. However, we have endeavored to protect the privacy of personnel involved. The unique subject of these tests (the very blood of Jesus Himself) could sentence their lives (on and off-duty) to never-ending disruption by callers.

Nevertheless, it is possible that one of the doctors has now made an admission of his involvement.

Witness to such a public acknowledgement is Mr. Ray Burfield of Stephen's, Queensland, Australia. In February, 2000, he wrote to us:

"Just before Christmas 3 doctors came to the church and said that they were going to live in Brisbane. They were from the USA [Florida, actually]. ONE OF THEM SAID RON WYATT HAD HIM TEST THE BLOOD, and he found that the person whose blood it was, was male but could not have had a human father. I am sorry but I don't remember this man's name and he has not been back. "

On March 11, a Pastor Trevis White of Caboolture, Queensland, confirmed by phone:

"YES, HE WAS CALLED TO EXAMINE THE BLOOD, as a medical doctor, and it proved beyond doubt that there was no human father. He said this in front of other people. I had lunch with him and his colleagues. He was going to open a new medical centre. "

On April 15, Mr. White again testified concerning this doctor's claim:

"Ron Wyatt flew him and another doctor to have a look at the sample. It definitely was blood of a person who had no human father. "

An attempt is being made to locate the doctor involved. If he gives us permission to reveal his name publicly, we shall do so.

Footnote: We possess live video footage of (a) this blood being removed from the crack in the rock at the crucifixion site; and (b) a rehydrated sample examined through the microscope, with the live blood cells moving.

73. What about the claim that Ron could not have counted the chromosomes using an electron microscope?

"So Ron Wyatt looked down an electron microscope and saw the 23 + 1 Y from God?" sniggers Russell Standish. "You CAN'T count chromosomes with an electron microscope. Chromosomes are nearly invisible - difficult to do – Ron Wyatt did NOT count the chromosomes; the method is totally inappropriate. You count chromosomes by separating out red cells and get rid of the blood platelets (99% of blood) - white blood cells have nuclei - they must divide for you to count the chromosomes; you add a chemical; at Metaphase (the 2ndstage) the chromosomes are in the middle of the cell, then you KILL the cell with poison, and then stain it to see them, but they are still bunched - fluid is added to swell the cell - then an ordinary, can be used to do the count." What about that?

Here is the text of an e-mail sent by Dr. Dunkley, geneticist, from Oxford University, on August 11, 1999: Re Ron's findings - you must remember that Ron was NOT a scientist, he was an anesthetist. This is not to excuse mistakes in his details but to understand more accurately where he was coming from.

I sat with Ron and Derek at D's house in Oxford and Ron explained to me what was done. I filled in the details in my own mind, knowing that there were holes in what he said but not done to deceive, just a lack of knowledge.

Karyotypes are performed all the time. It is a technique in which the chromosomes are arrested in metaphase by a drug and then stained with either Giemsa or a reverse stain, and then in this stage are separated and counted and characterized. There is also a banding pattern associated with each chromosome pair so that identification of the chromosome is unmistakable.

White blood cells are the only blood cells that can be used for such an "experiment". Russell's criticism is inaccurate because he omitted what would have had to happen for the experiment to take place. First, the blood sample was scraped from the altar. The cells were re-suspended in PBS (a buffer), which allowed the cells to re-hydrate. Then, the cells were cultured. Only cells with DNA([see What is DNA in Appendix 18](#)) would be able to grow in culture, so there is no need to "separate" red blood cells, platelets, etc. because they simply wouldn't be present in a freshly growing culture. These cells were simply white blood cells in culture (a routine procedure).

Next, the cells (or some of them) would be taken, arrested when the cells were in metaphase (when the chromosomes condense and are visible by microscopy) and stained. Some of the stains allow light microscopy, but others allow fluorescent microscopy. I imagine that Ron didn't know one type of microscope from another; he could use an electron microscope to see the chromosomes but certainly not to count them or characterize them. However, that would not detract from the finding.

The karyotype would have been made, and the chromosomes placed in their proper pairs. Ron was convinced that the blood of the altar was in fact the divine blood of Jesus because the chromosome count was 24.

If Jesus was ONLY human we would expect 46. In fact, if he found 46 chromosomes I would have my doubts because the argument would be that it was simply the blood of a human being (except of course that the white blood cells were re-vitalized after almost 2000 years; this is similar to the finding about the Shroud of Turin which evidence to me supports what Ron found, but that is for another e-mail). Russell is wrong about the frequency of chromosomal diseases in humans: a number of conditions involving either 47 or 45 chromosomes have been well characterized, besides Turner's, such as Klinefelters, Down's syndrome, Patau's syndrome, Cri-de-Chat syndrome, XYY, XXY, etc. and in fact there was a case in which a young man was found alive with only 24 chromosomes.

In humans, each cell normally contains 23 pairs of chromosomes, for a total of 46. Twenty-two of these pairs, called autosomes, look the same in both males and females. The 23rd pair, the sex chromosomes, differ between males and females. Females have two copies of the X chromosome, while males have one X and one Y chromosome

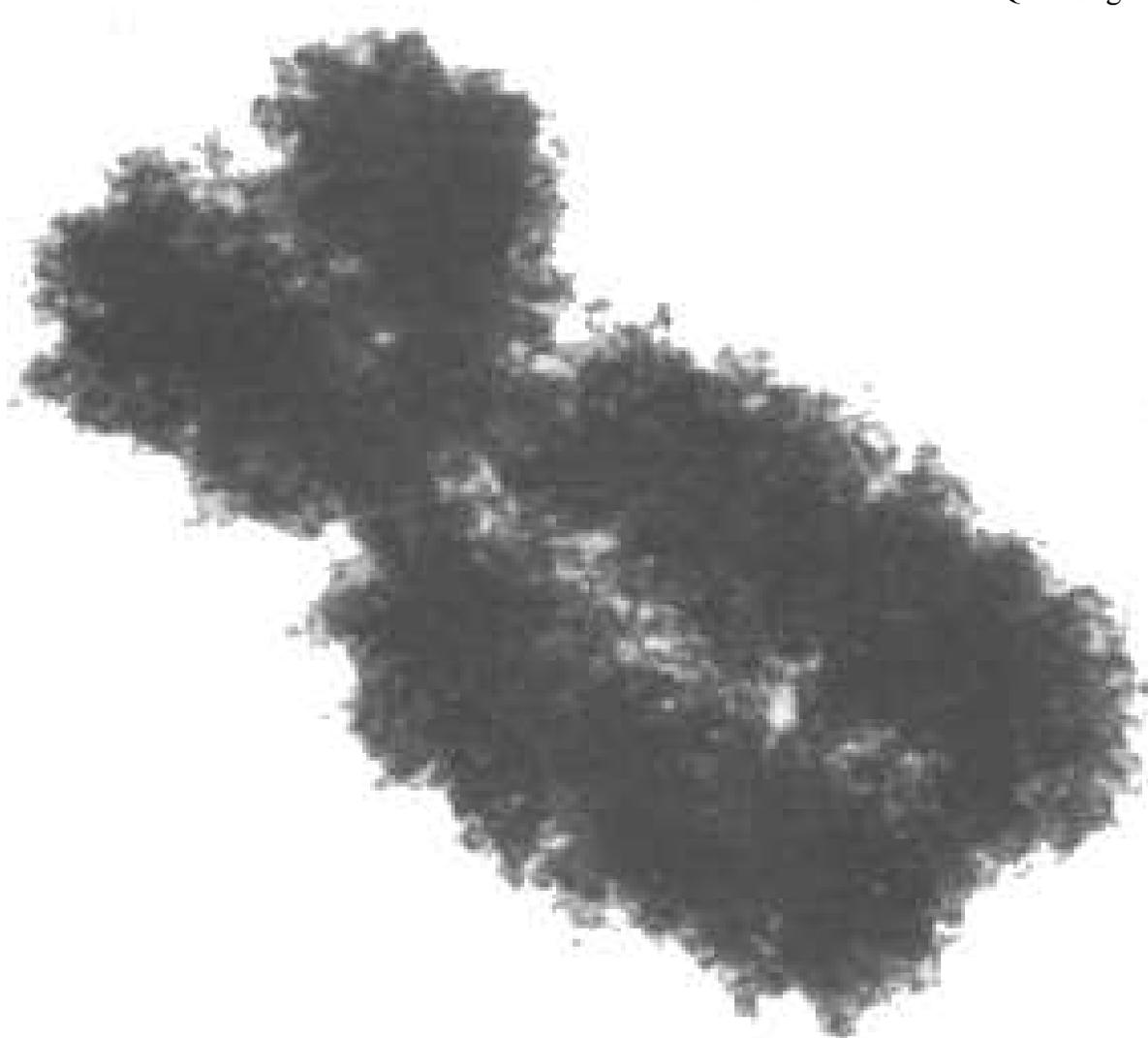


Figure 48 An electron microscopic view of a chromosome
See chromosome in next figure.

ANCHOR

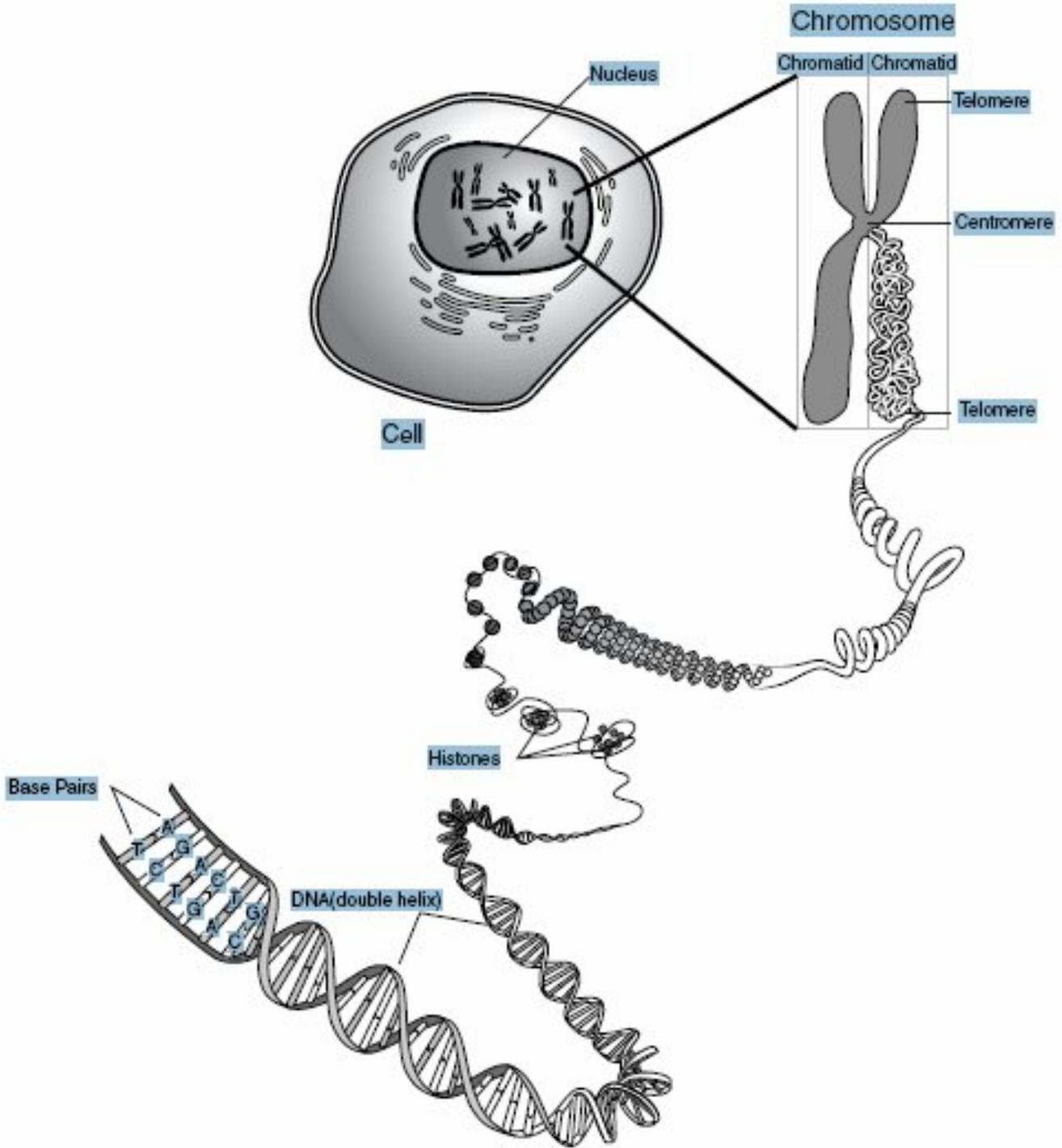


Figure 49 DNA-chromosome relationship

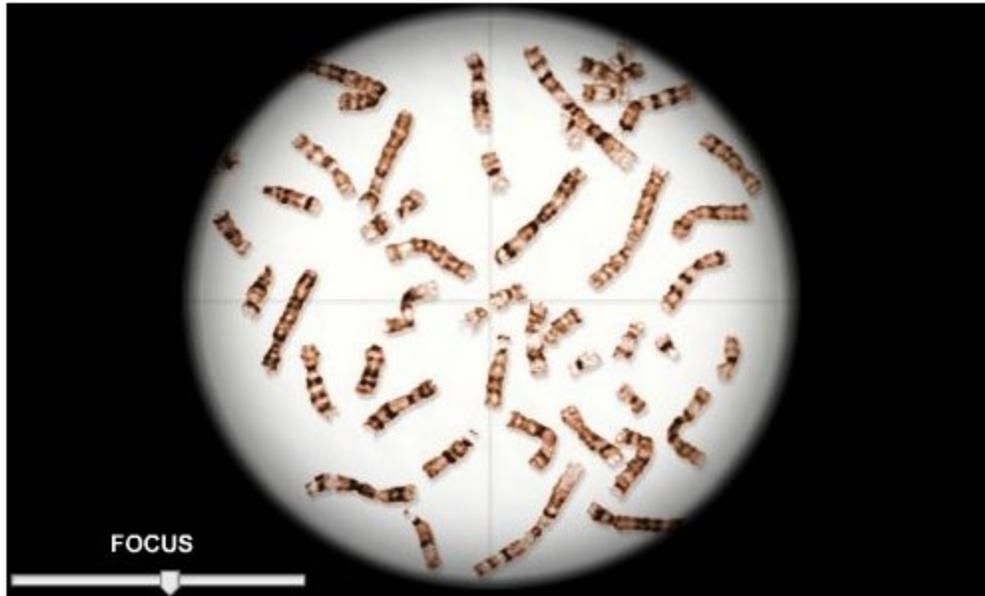
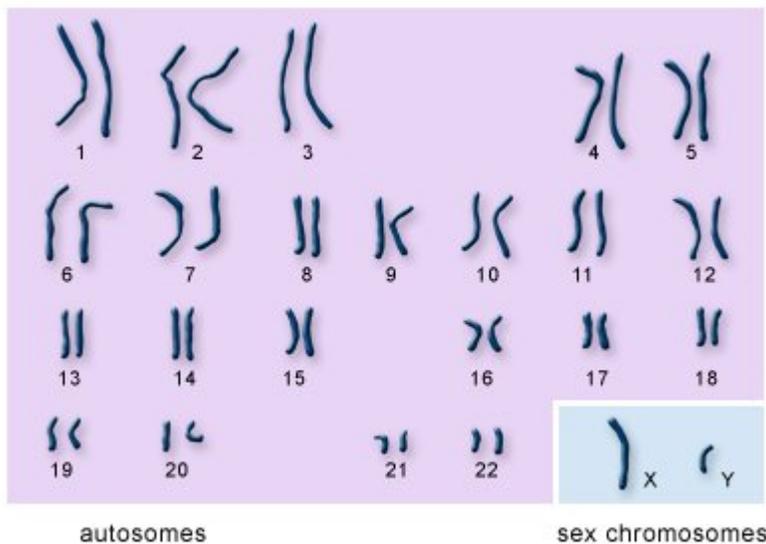


Figure 50 Actual microscope view of chromosomes
The bands on these chromosomes are genes. Chromosomes have been separated from pairs



U.S. National Library of Medicine

Figure 51 Picture of a karyotype of chromosomes

The 22 autosomes are numbered by size. The other two chromosomes, X and Y, are the sex chromosomes. This picture of the human chromosomes lined up in pairs is called a karyotype.

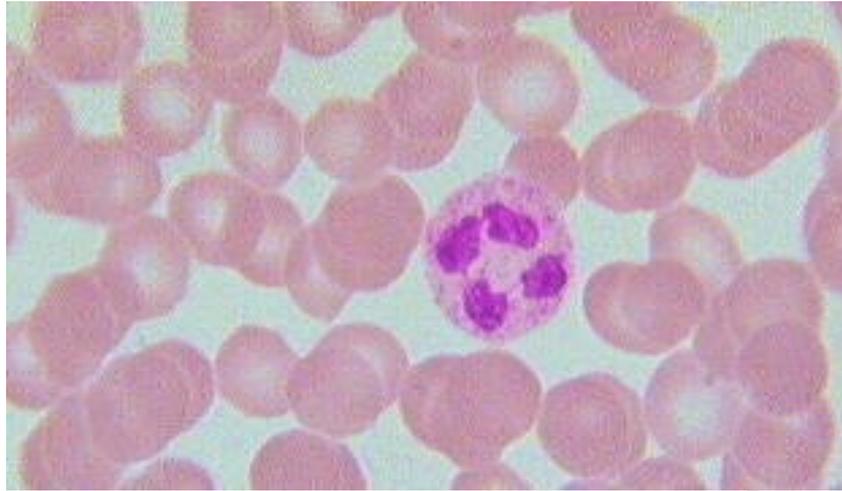


Figure 52 White blood cell (Neutrophil)

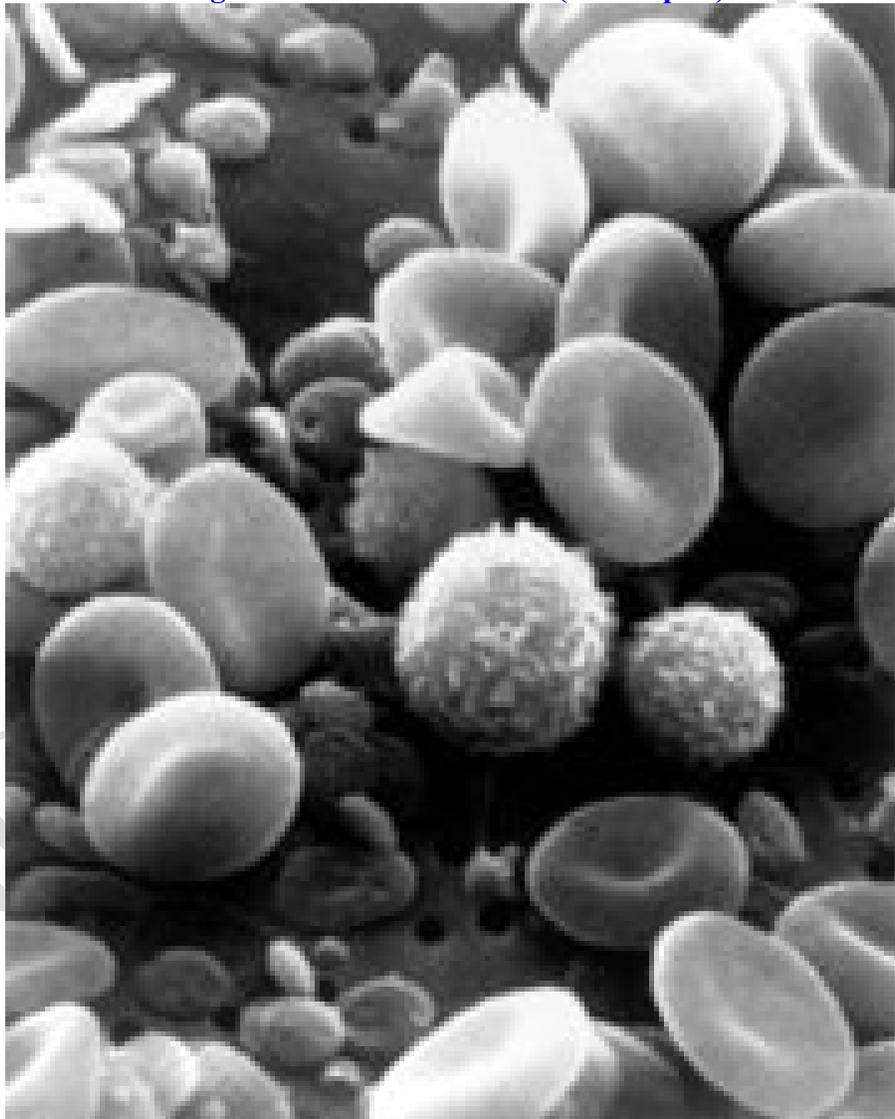


Figure 53 Scanning Electron Microscope image of human blood

[A scanning electron microscope image of normal circulating human blood. In addition to the irregularly shaped leukocytes, both red blood cells and many small disc-shaped platelets are visible.]

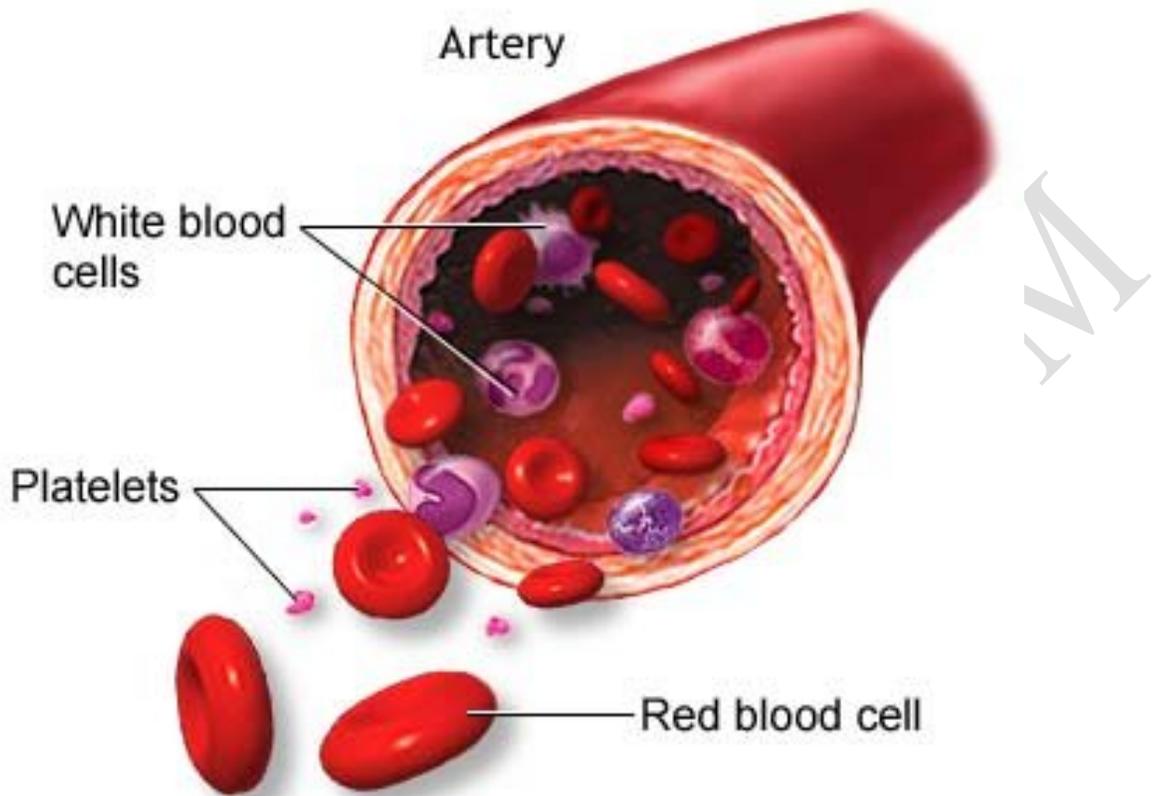


Figure 54 Realistic picture of blood components

You must remember that Ron's inaccuracies in describing this finding are due to the fact that he did not personally do the experiments or prepare the cells, because it is not his field of expertise. He simply got the data and presented it with the understanding that he had. Russell may be correct about other aspects of the research (I am not an archaeologist) but he himself is not accurate about the cells and the chromosomes, and his critique suggests that he is being subjective.

Of course, I only have the description of what Ron said to me, so I too have no hard data. However, if there is a need to explain this data I would be happy to do so in defense of the findings. In fact, there are several more experiments that could be done to further prove what Ron stated. However, I do not believe that they would be necessary and in fact would cause a few problems (especially in this age of cloning one would conceivably want to clone the divine chromosome and modify themselves). I do remember that Ron was reluctant to say anything about the finding but he felt moved during his talk at our church, having met with me earlier, to say what he had found. He knew that I would have some knowledge of the field, and if in fact he thought it was dodgy he would NOT have said anything because he knew that I would be one of the few people able to pick it apart. He said it in his sermon knowing that I would understand it, and I feel to this day that God moved on him to do so that the finding would be spoken of and would stand the test. This, and the findings of the Shroud, convince me that Ron is right (he knew very little or nothing about the molecular and biological evidence of the blood of Jesus from the Shroud).

When Colin Standish joined his brother in denouncing Ron concerning the chromosome count, geneticist Dr. Dunkley issued a second e-mail, dated August 25:

Dr. Lejeune used a broken light microscope to discover Downs syndrome in 1957! He saw 47 chromosomes. Certainly, with the much improved technology and staining techniques we have now, it is no problem to see how Ron could observe a karyotype in the 90's.

I don't believe that he used an electron microscope to see it but he may not have known the difference between an electron microscope and a fluorescent microscope, because he wasn't a scientist.

He could certainly see chromosomes but would not be able to do a karyotype from it. But that is a technical point which is easily rectifiable. The complexity of the technique, however, is not the issue. The geneticists would have prepared the cells for karyotyping. All Ron would have to do is simply observe them by microscopy, i.e. look down the microscope.

Colin is however very mistaken about culturing of blood cells. It was never stated (I hope!) that the blood cells were dividing in the blood system. The blood contains red blood cells and white blood cells. Now, mature RBCs (red blood cells) are enucleated (no chromosomes) but WBCs (white blood cells) have active nuclei and divide. The culturing of monocytes, macrophages, leukocytes, etc. is very well documented and doubling times are easily calculated. I find it incredulous that Colin would object to this point!

Colin objected to the isolation of enough WBCs to do a culture, and stated that the blood was "dead" and couldn't be separated from the blood of bulls and goats. However, again he has missed several important scientific points.

First, the blood spilled at the cross was spilled from the spear in the side of Christ which ruptured the SPLEEN, not the arteries and veins. A high concentration of WBCs are in the spleen; in fact the origin of several types of WBCs is the spleen. These cells are nucleated and capable of cell division.

Second, the presence of the dead blood of bulls and goats would have no effect on the culturing of live cells. If we take it as fact that the blood of Christ is ALIVE, then the only cells that could be cultured after 2,000 years would be those of Jesus Christ. It is like isolating antibiotic-resistant bacteria; only those cells capable of living in the presence of the antibiotic will survive. So it is here, that only cells capable of living would be culturable.

* karyotype: the classifying of a set of chromosomes by their arrangement, number, size, shape, etc.

"THE BLOOD - JUST WHAT I WOULD EXPECT" - GENETICIST

-----Original Message-----

From: Eugene Dunkley

To: Jonathon Gray

Date: Friday, 8 October 1999 02:52

Subject: Theoretical report

NORMAL CHROMOSOMES AND DEVELOPMENT

Normally, human cells have forty six chromosomes present in the nucleus. Chromosomes are actually structures which contain the vast majority of the human genes, from which we get our various traits. Chromosomes can be classified as either autosomal or sex-determining. The autosomal chromosomes are actually paired chromosomes, with twenty-two maternal chromosomes and twenty-two paternal chromosomes. These chromosomes are paired because they are homologous, that is they contain genes which code for the same functions. The two sex-determining chromosomes are the X and Y chromosomes. Females are XX; males are XY.

Because the chromosomes are in pairs, the cells containing 46 chromosomes are said to be diploid. In contrast, haploid cells are cells with unpaired chromosomes. These only have 23 chromosomes, and are normally only found in the gametes. Gametes from the male can have either an X or a Y chromosome as a sex-determinant, whereas gametes from a female will only have the X chromosome as a sex-determinant.

ABERRATIONS IN THE CHROMOSOME NUMBER

Changes in the chromosome number is often associated with disease. Aneuploidy is the addition or deletion of individual chromosomes from the normal diploid set of 46 (1). This condition arises during development of the embryo and is considered to be lethal; only a low percentage of children conceived with this condition survive till birth. Diseases associated with aneuploidy of the autosomal

chromosomes which have resulted in live birth are trisomy 13 (Patau syndrome), trisomy 18 (Edwards Syndrome) and trisomy 21 (Down's syndrome). Down's syndrome is the only trisomy of an autosomal chromosome which allows survival to adulthood. Of the sex chromosomes, however, aneuploidy is far more common (1 in 400 males and 1 in 650 females)(2). Some well-characterised aneuploidies of the sex chromosomes are 45, X (Turner Syndrome), 47, XXY (Klinefelter Syndrome) and XYY Syndrome.

CHROMOSOMAL ABERRATIONS AND CANCER

There is a growing amount of data involved with the relationship between chromosomal breakages and cancer. Many tumors are associated with deletions of DNA (3). In fact, it is believed by many that chromosomal breakage may be the cause of many types of cancer. This is believed to be the loss of function of some genes involved in the control of cell division; when the gene or genes is/are missing or inactive the cells divide without restraint and invade neighboring tissue. Even when one copy of these controller genes are present, it may not be enough because of a dependence on the gene dosage.

A VIRGIN BIRTH

So, it is generally accepted that humans require 46 chromosomes because of the need for the correct gene dosage. Too many copies of a gene will likely result in abnormalities and disease, whereas too little of a gene is considered fatal. However, this is based on the need for the correct gene dosage.

If we take the Virgin birth of Jesus Christ as an historical fact, what chromosomal number and type would we expect? Clearly, 46 chromosomes, though normal in humans, would indicate normal fertilization. However, since no human male was involved in the conception of the Christ, then one would not expect to find 46 chromosomes. However, the maternal chromosomes would be provided by the mother as the host, so we would expect at least 23.

If this is the case, what would be the nature of any genetic material provided by divine means? It would

presumably carry male-determining factors because these would not be provided by Mary. However, there would have to be provision from this “divine” DNA to be also able to compensate for the reduced gene dosage which would result from the missing 23 paternal chromosomes.

Such a mechanism could exist if we have a deep enough understanding of gene activation and expression. Genes are normally turned on and off due to various factors present; if these factors maintained a single gene copy at a maximal rate then the presence of a second gene could be completely redundant. Also, this divine DNA could also code for activators that are able not only to maintain the optimal gene dosage but also allow access to genes normally locked from activation (and presumably “lost”).

DNA and Blood

It is generally known that mature red blood cells (RBCs), which are found in the circulatory system, are enucleated, that is they have no nuclei and therefore no chromosomes. Thus, they are incapable of dividing and being cultured. However, white blood cells (WBCs), which are the mainstay of the immune system, contain DNA and are thus capable of division. In fact, cell lines of monocytes, leukocytes, and macrophages are routinely used to study the immune response and a number of biological processes. Blood samples are routinely taken to isolate DNA for a number of studies.

If it were possible to obtain a blood sample of Jesus Christ, what could a person expect to find? To be immortal, the cells would be capable of life at any stage, because apoptosis (programmed cell death) could not take place. One could culture the WBCs and study the DNA content in vivo (that is, under living conditions). Karyotypes of cultured cells could be obtained by a number of cytogenetic techniques to observe both the chromosome number and the banding pattern of the chromosomes. These would give enormous insight into the activity of the genes and the nature of the man known by many to be the “Son of God”.

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Education

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Date</u>
B.S. (Biology)	Fordham Univ. Bronx, N.Y.	1976-1980
	Long Island Univ. Graduate School	1984-1985
M. Phil (Biomedical Sci.)	Mount Sinai School of Medicine, N.Y.	1986-1989
D. Phil (Biomedical Sci.)	Mount Sinai School of Medicine, N.Y.	1989-1991

Scientific Professional Experience

<u>Title</u>	<u>Institute</u>	<u>Date</u>
Senior Research Scientist, (Molecular Biology)	Oxford Bioresearch Laboratories, Oxford	1/97-Present
Lecturer	Univ. of Maryland European Division	10/96
Postdoctoral Research Assistant	Nuffield Dept. of Orthopaedic Surg.	11/94-10/96
Postdoctoral Research Assistant	Institute of Molecular Medicine	9/91-11/97
Instructor, SETH program	Mount Sinai School of Medicine	1990
Instructor, MCAT	Long Island Univ.	1985

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October 7, 1995
NEW SCIENTIST

SCIENCE

The boy whose blood has no father

Normal
of genetics in one
researchers believe
egg self
divide

Philip Cohen

IN THE closest thing to a human virgin birth that modern science has ever recorded, British geneticists last week described the remarkable case of a young boy whose body is derived from an unfertilised egg. The discovery has provided insight into the control of development and the changes that

Partial parthenogenesis

NZ HERALD September 30 1995
Boy, 3, has blood of female

NEW YORK — First a man's sperm fertilises a woman's egg, and then the egg starts to create an embryo, right?

Yes, usually, but now scientists say they have discovered the first known human case of an egg that didn't wait for the sperm, a boy with genetically female blood.

Normally, sperm delivers a half-set of the father's genes to a half-set of the mother's genes in the egg. The embryo forms when the egg divides into two cells, each of which divides into two more cells, and so on.

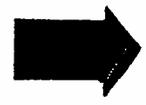
But in the case of the boy, now aged 3, scientists believe the egg started dividing before the sperm showed up, said Dr David Bonthron of the University of Edinburgh in Scotland.

However, fertilisation still occurred, perhaps even before the egg had completed its first splitting.

This meant that the father's genes did not reach all the cells in the boy's body, including those that make white blood cells. So the boy's white cells contain only doubled copies of his mother's genes.

Skin cells from the boy, who was identified only as FD, contain the normal combination of his mother's and father's genes.

— AP



News reports concerning a boy with a depleted chromosome count. We consulted the original report in Nature Genetics, but it is too technical for general readership, so we have not reproduced it here.

74. Surely no laboratory could resist instant fame through publishing such a momentous discovery, if it were true?

If a sample of blood was discovered containing a single set of chromosomes from a mother, surely this greatest of findings in the history of genetics would not be held in secret by the laboratory, since instant fame would await the discoverer who published his findings. It would be the biggest source of amazement and discussion since biology became a science, to become a cover story in Time, Newsweek and maior newspapers worldwide. So why hasn't "your" lab "spilled like beans" to the world? (Russell Standish)

Other people don't march to the beat of Russell's drum.

It is easy to overlook the fact that our country, so free and safe, is not Israel. In Israel, every minute there is danger in the air. For survival, one is obliged to respect the wishes of the authorities. And laboratories know this also.

Having said that, this is God's project and He controls and decides how it comes out. The facts have already been presented verbally.

Let's not philosophize. "The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (I Cor. 3:19).

75. Isn't it impossible for a healthy man to survive with a greatly depleted chromosome count?

What do you say to the claim by D. Pennington of the Standish family that it is "impossible for a healthy man to survive with a greatly depleted chromosome count"? That, with 24 chromosomes, the Son of God could ever survive, "is totally laughable" (letter by Pennington, September 7,1996)

In the *New Scientist* for October 7, 1995, Philip Cohen quoted an article by David Bonthron and his colleagues at Edinburgh University in *Nature Genetics (Volume 11, page 164)*, which reported that a certain three-year old boy had been found whose white blood cells contained two "X" chromosomes, the signal for a female.

To cut a long story short, they went on to explain that the probable cause was a self-activating unfertilized ovum which had subsequently (after a short time) become fertilized in the normal way. The sperm would then have entered only a PART of the divided ovum, thereby creating this most unusual effect.

Bonthron believed that the boy's remarkable genetics depended on a number of highly unusual circumstances combining together, and occurring within a very short time window. "I don't expect we'll ever see another one," he said.

This was an incredibly rare condition. Such male chromosomal depletion for a boy was something which, until this case, would be considered scientifically impossible.

For three years this child was there with "impossible" blood and science did not know it. If the child had never come to the hospital, we would never have learned it was "scientifically possible".

The child's blood cells were totally without any male chromosomal input. Of course, his chromosomal complement was very different from that of the Man who died on Skull Hill, but it did present what Cohen called "partial parthenogenesis" (the biologist's term for Virgin Birth).

What was its significance? The similarity was such that it proved the possibility of a man existing with a total depletion in his male-derived chromosomal blood count.

Medical science, with all its wonderful advances, is unable to comprehend the way in which the Creator works. Often, if men cannot understand, they will say it is not true. In such matters we come face to face with a Creator's ability to do anything - and man's inability to comprehend.

We can theorize, argue and, quibble about this, but it will not alter one whit what has been discovered in that cavern.

The most learned geneticist would be hard pressed to predict the chromosomal composition of the blood of the Son of God.

We are considering here the reality of a God devised plan for His Son to walk the planet, born of a virgin and whose blood cells would comprise a total of only 24 chromosomes... 23 from an earthly mother, and one "Y" chromosome from God.

Impossible? Then answer me: WHICH IS OMNIPOTENT - NATURAL LAW, OR THE GOD WHO CREATED NATURAL LAW and can override it to His purpose?

To this would Jesus himself reply, "Ye do err, not knowing... the power of God" (Matt. 22:29).

There will be rejection from some "learned" men, not because it's not true. But because they can't comprehend it they will not believe.

76. According to scripture, doesn't Jesus' blood have to be the same as ours?

There is no way Jesus could have a blood chromosome count different from ours, if we are to believe Hebrews 2:14. It says: "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also likewise took part of the same." Surely this means that His blood was exactly the same as ours? (C. Standish)

Short Answer

The expression "took part of the same" means simply "took part of these" (flesh and blood). Just as we are flesh and blood (meaning, real, living human beings), so Jesus took part of our physical nature.

But was His blood identical in all respects to the blood of every other person? That is not what the text says. Consider a very obvious example - His blood group. In this respect, which of us was He like... or unlike?

There have been children born with fewer chromosomes than you and I, but Hebrews 2:14 says that Jesus Christ was "the same" as they, too.

This text cannot be saying that Jesus must have a set of chromosomes from an earthly father as we do, because He did not have an earthly father. That would be impossible. Imagine the implications if the blood did have chromosomes from an earthly father, perhaps Joseph. Surely the Jewish leaders would feel justified in their assessment of Mary!

The only other option God would have had would be to give Jesus a set of chromosomes from the Holy Spirit. Whether this is possible or not, this would give a message compatible with New Theology. Jesus would then be half God and half human, thus having an unfair advantage over us, in the conquering of sin.

But this sample of blood proves that Jesus had no genetic make-up from the Holy Spirit, and therefore no advantage over us in conquering sin. All His genetic make-up, and therefore the weaknesses and tendencies to which fallen human nature is subject, came from Mary. He *"was made of the seed of David according to the flesh"* (Rom. I :3). The Holy Spirit did have to contribute the "Y" chromosome (the sex determinant), otherwise Jesus would have been female.

It will help our understanding of the above passage if we dig a little deeper into this subject of the blood.

It is the blood that gives life to the cells of the body.

Since *"the life of the flesh is in the blood"* (Lev' 17:11), then the flesh dies when the blood is poisoned.

The eating from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil by our ancestor Adam caused 'blood poisoning' and resulted in death (Read Gen. 2:16,17).

Because the blood of all men partakes of the sin of Adam, it can be cleansed only by the application of sinless blood.

As the first Adam's sin corrupted the blood of the entire human family, so the pure, sinless blood of the 'last Adam' makes atonement for the sin of 'the world'.

Even though He received His flesh, the body, from a sinful race (descended from Adam), yet Jesus' blood was sinless (1 Pet. 2:22).

But how could Jesus' blood be sinless?

It is scientifically known that the blood which flows in an unborn baby's arteries and veins is not derived from the mother, but is produced within the body of the fetus (see the amplified answer to this question).

How wonderfully God prepared for the birth of His Son by Mary who was a virgin! When He created woman He made her so that no blood would be able to pass from her to her offspring.

Now please look closer at Hebrews 2:14 cited by our questioner:

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers (Greek: koinoneo') of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part (Greek: 'metecho') of the same. "

The author of this passage, writing in Greek, uses two different words. In the Greek language these words carry a subtle difference of meaning.

Greek: 'koinoneo' means:

"to have common share in, to be associated with, to share with others, to become a sharer, to come into communion or fellowship "

Greek: 'metecho' means:

"to be or become partaker of, to share in, to partake of, take part".

'Koinoneo' has the meaning "to share fully; to have common share in", so that Adam's children share fully in Adam's flesh and blood.

And when we read the other word, that "Jesus took part of the same", in Greek, Imetecho', it means, "to take part but not all".

The children take both flesh and blood of Adam, but Jesus Christ (because He had no earthly father) took only part, that is, the "flesh" part, whereas the blood was the result of supernatural or heavenly conception.

Jesus took flesh and blood, but He was unique: "the only begotten of the Father", born of the Father.

In order for someone to say that the analysis of the blood is definitely wrong, he must say that he fully understands Divinity combined in humanity in the incarnation of Christ - something that the Bible says we cannot understand.

We cannot explain the great mystery of the plan of redemption. Jesus took upon Himself humanity that He might reach humanity; but we cannot explain

HOW divinity was clothed with humanity. In contemplating the incarnation of Christ in humanity, we stand baffled before an unfathomable mystery that the human mind cannot understand. When we approach this subject, we would do well to heed the words spoken by Christ to Moses at the burning bush, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place where on thou standest is holy ground." We should come to this study with the humility of a learner, with a contrite heart.

As the Bible says, everything about this whole event is a "mystery" (1 Tim. 3:16). Who can say that any aspect of the blood provided by God the Father is impossible?

Reference:

- *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.*

Amplified answer

I am indebted to Hans Jurgen Ossa for some of the research which follows.

The blood is the most "mysterious" of all tissues. Even in our advanced time, medical science has not yet fully discovered all the "secrets" within the blood and its system.

The blood reaches and nourishes every single cell of the body. From its many functions, let me mention just the main ones:

- nutrition and respiration of tissues;
- transportation of waste from the tissues to the excretory organs;
- chemical and thermal regulation, and co-ordination of the body;
- defense against infection caused by bacteria and viruses.

Each living cell of the body carries within its own substance all the chemical processes necessary to its existence. This duty is done throughout our bodies by the blood vascular system.

The Bible simply states, *"The life of the flesh is in the blood"* (Lev. 17:11).

Further, in Acts 17:25,26 we read as follows:

... he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth. "

All men (mankind) have a common origin in Adam; all men are blood relatives of Adam, whether of white, brown, or yellow color, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether pagan or cultured. Since "the life of the flesh is in the blood", then the flesh dies when the blood is poisoned.

The blood carries the sentence of death because of Adam's sin or transgression of God's commandment, and, consequently, all men (mankind) die a common death because there is death in the blood. The eating from the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of God's Garden caused 'blood poisoning' and resulted in death. (Read Gen. 2:16,17.)

The man sinned, and died spiritually on that "same day"; and later he died physically. Sin separates man from God; and result of this separation is death.

This 'poison' was so potent that all mankind have to die by carrying the 'poison' of Adam's sin in the blood. As one sinned, all have sinned. (Read Rom. 5:12; 6:23.)

This very fact that sin affected the blood of man necessitated the virgin birth of the Messiah if He was to be a son of Adam ("Son of Man"), and yet a sinless man ("Son of God").

Because the blood of all men partakes of the sin of Adam, it can be cleansed only by the application of sinless blood.

A thorough study of the Scriptures makes this point as clear as day. We read as follows:

"The new covenant in his blood" (Matt. 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25).

"Being justified by his blood" (Rom. 5:9).

".. through his blood we gain our freedom (redemption), the forgiveness of our sins" (Eph. 1:7).

"We are made near by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:13).

... having made peace by means of the blood" (Col. 1:20).

"the blood of Christ ... shall cleanse your conscience from works of death " (Heb. 9:14).

".. and without blood-shedding no forgiveness takes place... " (Heb. 9:22).

"through the blood of Jesus we have the right to enter the sanctuary" (Heb. 10:19).

"Jesus might sanctify the people through his own blood" (Heb. 13:12).

`... the precious blood of Christ" (1 Pet. 1:19).

"the blood of Jesus ... cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

"He has washed away our sins with his blood" (Rev. 1:5).

"Thou didst redeem us to God with thy blood" [You bought us for God] (Rev. 5:9).

"... and they overcame him through the blood of the lamb" (Rev. 12:11).

Reading chapters 9 and 10 of Hebrews, we learn that the blood of the Messiah is different from our blood. There was only one remedy for sin, namely, sinless blood.

As the first Adam's sin corrupted the blood of the entire human family, so the pure, sinless blood of the 'last Adam' makes atonement for the sin of 'the world'.

Even though He received His flesh, the body, from a sinful race (descended from Adam), yet Jesus' blood was sinless (1 Pet. 2:22). *"The innocent blood"* (Matt. 27:4) = "the sinless *blood*".

God provided a way whereby Jesus could be perfectly human according to the flesh and yet not have "sinful" blood. That was made possible by the virgin birth. (Read the inspired account in Matt. 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38.)

Jesus' Father was GOD. He was born of a woman by the HOLY SPIRIT. His Father was not a descendant of Adam.

But how could Jesus' blood be sinless?

It is scientifically known that the blood which flows in an unborn babe's arteries and veins is not derived from the mother but is produced within the body of the fetus. There is already life in an embryo, namely, the presence of blood. It is unnecessary that a single drop of blood be given to the developing embryo in the womb of the mother. The mother provides the fetus with the nutritive elements for the building of that little body in her womb, but all the blood which forms in it is formed in the embryo itself.

From the time of conception to the time of birth of the infant not one single drop of blood ever passes from the mother to child. All the blood which is in that child is produced within the child itself. The mother contributes NO BLOOD AT ALL.

The *Encyclopedia Britannica*, (1966 edition) notes that:

"Embryonic blood ... is separated from the maternal blood only by the thin walls of the embryonic capillaries and the thin layer of covering cells of the villi. Oxygen, nutritive chemical substances (carbohydrates, nitrogenous foods and mineral salts) in the mother's blood can readily pass by filtration into the embryonic blood circulation, and the waste products of the embryo (carbon dioxide, urea, etc.) can pass outward into the mother's blood to be carried away and disposed of through the mother's lungs and kidneys. The placenta is thus an organ of respiration, nutrition and excretion for the developing infant. " (Vol. 8, p.330)

"Since both fetal and maternal blood are being circulated constantly, and since the living tissue separating the fetal blood in the capillaries from the maternal blood bathing the villi is very thin, there is provided a mechanism for efficient interchange of blood constituents between the maternal and fetal bloodstreams without (normally) allowing any opportunity for the blood of one to pour across into the blood vessels of the other. Such

a mixing of the two bloods is physiologically highly undesirable; it may result in death of the baby and enlargement of the placenta.

"The placenta functions by allowing passage of nutrients, oxygen, carbon dioxide and wastes through extremely thin placental membrane separating fetal blood in capillaries of villi from maternal blood in intervillous sinuses. " (Vol. 17, pp. 1148, 1149)

As we have learnt, there are two systems and separately functioning, the fetus' and the mother's.

How wonderfully God prepared for the birth of His Son by Mary who was a virgin! When He created woman He made her so that no blood would be able to pass from her to her offspring.

In order to produce a sinless man who would yet be the "son of Adam", God provided a way whereby that man would have a human body derived from Adam but have blood from a separate source. The question of how Jesus was sinless is plainly answered in the Scriptures that He partook of human flesh without partaking of the effect of Adam's blood.

Jesus humbled Himself to man's nature (Phil. 2:68). Jesus inherited a human nature from His mother, and there was nothing from the Holy Spirit to override what He inherited. Jesus had our weakened nature (Heb. 2:16-18) - and still beat the devil in it. That's why He is an example of living a sinless life in our flesh (1 Pet. 2:21,22; 1 John 2:6; Rev. 3:21). How could it be any other way?

References:

- *MR. Dettaan, The Chemistry of the Blood*
- *Encyclopedia Britannica, 1966 edition*
- *Black's Medical Dictionary*
- *Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary*

TYPE AND ANTITYPE

77. Didn't Jesus take His blood to be sprinkled in Heaven?

Since the earthly sanctuary was patterned after the original in heaven, and since blood was sprinkled inside the earthly sanctuary, then wouldn't Jesus have taken his blood to be sprinkled in heaven?"

In heaven, Jesus does not spill His blood but He is our Advocate there. He pleads our case. He still bears the memorial wounds of His death for us on earth. It is the effectiveness of His blood shed for us on earth that qualifies Him to be our Intercessor in heaven. The blood was spilt on earth. The mediation is in heaven. *"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us" (Heb. 9:24). "There is one God, and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).*

It is the fact of His blood shed for us on earth "once for all" that qualifies Him to represent us in heaven. The blood bears "witness on earth" (1 John 5:8).

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God,-... For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Now where remission of these [sins] is, there is no more offering for sin" (Heb. 10:12, 14, 18). No blood spilt in heaven.

	The Symbol	The Fulfillment
	* Many lambs	* One lamb of God
	* Various kinds of sacrifices	* One all-embracing sacrifice
	* Many sacrificial days	* A sacrifice on one day
	* Blood shed many times	* Blood shed only once
	* Blood shed in the courtyard, outside the sanctuary	* Blood shed on earth, outside heaven

Table 1 Symbol plus fulfillment

78. Since, in the earthly sanctuary type, blood was sprinkled on the Ark only on the Day of Atonement (September/October), wouldn't Jesus' sprinkling of His blood on the Ark on Passover day (March/April) have violated the type/antitype fulfillment?

(R. Standish)

The core purpose of the Ark (with its law, Mercy Seat and blood on the Mercy Seat) was to summarize the divine plan of salvation. The Ark is the Gospel in a nutshell. It teaches us that:

1. We have broken God's law (the foundation of His Throne). We need mercy.
2. The blood of God's Son was to be shed to provide mercy.

At Calvary, God arranged for the blood of His Son to fall onto the Mercy Seat of that Ark, over that law that everyone had broken. God did that, so that even the simplest minded person could understand who it was died on that Cross that day and why He died.

"On the day of atonement the high priest, having taken an offering for the congregation, went into the most holy place with the blood, and sprinkled it upon the mercy seat, above the law. Thus the claims of the law, which demanded the life of the sinner were satisfied." (Patriarchs and Prophets, p.356)

This fulfilling of the claims of the law was done when Jesus died, spilling His blood! The blood on the Mercy Seat symbolized that!

In our theological cleverness, it is possible for us to build a neat, complex scenario of types and antitypes that closes our minds to the fact that God can do the unexpected. In our minds, we limit God's ability - and His freedom - to act outside our parameters. But it is just like our Lord to do something we don't expect.

At His death, Jesus Christ, in one *simple* physical act, demonstrated the very core of that message embodied in all the sanctuary ceremonies. Jesus' blood, shed for every sinner, spilled onto the Mercy Seat, which covered the law of God.

The Ark of the Covenant contained elements which represent the full story of the atonement, beginning to end.

The outer court ministry, the holy place ministry, and the most holy place ministry - in fact, the whole atonement story, bleeding lamb to ministering priest, shed blood to sprinkled blood - all this was summarized in the Ark of the Covenant symbol.

Blood on the altar of sacrifice; blood on the altar of incense; blood on the veil; blood on the Mercy Seat over the Ten Commandments.

Yes, the Ark of the Covenant was a composite symbol of the entire sanctuary system. It symbolized all of salvation.

As Dr- L. Hardinge puts it:

"All the sanctuary ceremonies reached their consummation at the Ark. It thus stood for Him who is 'the end of our faith' (1 Peter 1:9), the center of our devotions, and the object of our search... The blood soaked Mercy Seat was the central Throne of the Shekinah, or presence of the gracious and merciful God, and the goal and focus of His saving activity... On the many stages of Israel's journey from Egypt to the promised land 'the ark of the covenant of the Lord went before them...' (Numbers 10:33-36). The Lord provided food and water, rest and a safe haven, as long as His people cherished the Ark as the heart of their encampment. " (With Jesus in His Sanctuary, pp. 185,186, 190-192)

Now, would the types (symbols) be violated if Jesus' blood, at the time of the Passover, flowed onto the Mercy Seat of this Ark? It is true that the various feast days all had their own individual significance representing different prophetic events. Yet they all had one thing in common: sacrifices were made on each of them. The priests shed blood in sacrifices many times. But Jesus did it "ONCE" (Heb. 7:27). The one death of Jesus once and for all embraced within itself the deaths of every sacrifice slain in the entire Hebrew religious year.

In the symbol, sacrificial blood was sprinkled on the altar of burnt offering, the altar of incense and also on the Ark of the Covenant. But all these were fulfilled once for all when Jesus' blood was sprinkled on just one place - only once - the Mercy Seat.

The time of the year that Jesus' blood went onto the earthly Mercy Seat is not crucial here. Jesus was not required to spill it on the calendar Day of Atonement. The symbols of the animal blood that had been shed on all these days of the year, he had to fulfill in ONE act. It says "Christ was ONCE offered" (Hebrews 9:28).

All the detailed prophecies concerning the Savior's death had to be accomplished IN THAT ONE ACT.

Jesus died 'once for all', to fulfill all of the sacrificial symbols (including those of Passover and the Day of Atonement).

Please read the article, ["ARK OF THE TESTIMONY" - THE PLACE FOR KEEPING EVIDENCE](#) by Bill Fry in Appendix 17.



Figure 55 Jesus' blood on the mercy seat

Because our Lord knew that we might forget this, it is emphasized time and again in Scripture: "ONCE" (Heb. 7:27) "ONCE" (Heb. 9:26) "ONCE" (Heb. 9:28) "ONCE" (1 Pet. 3:18) "ONCE FOR ALL" (Heb. 10:10).

So it is that our High priest in heaven today can plead our case at the heavenly Mercy Seat by virtue of His blood spilt ONCE on earth.

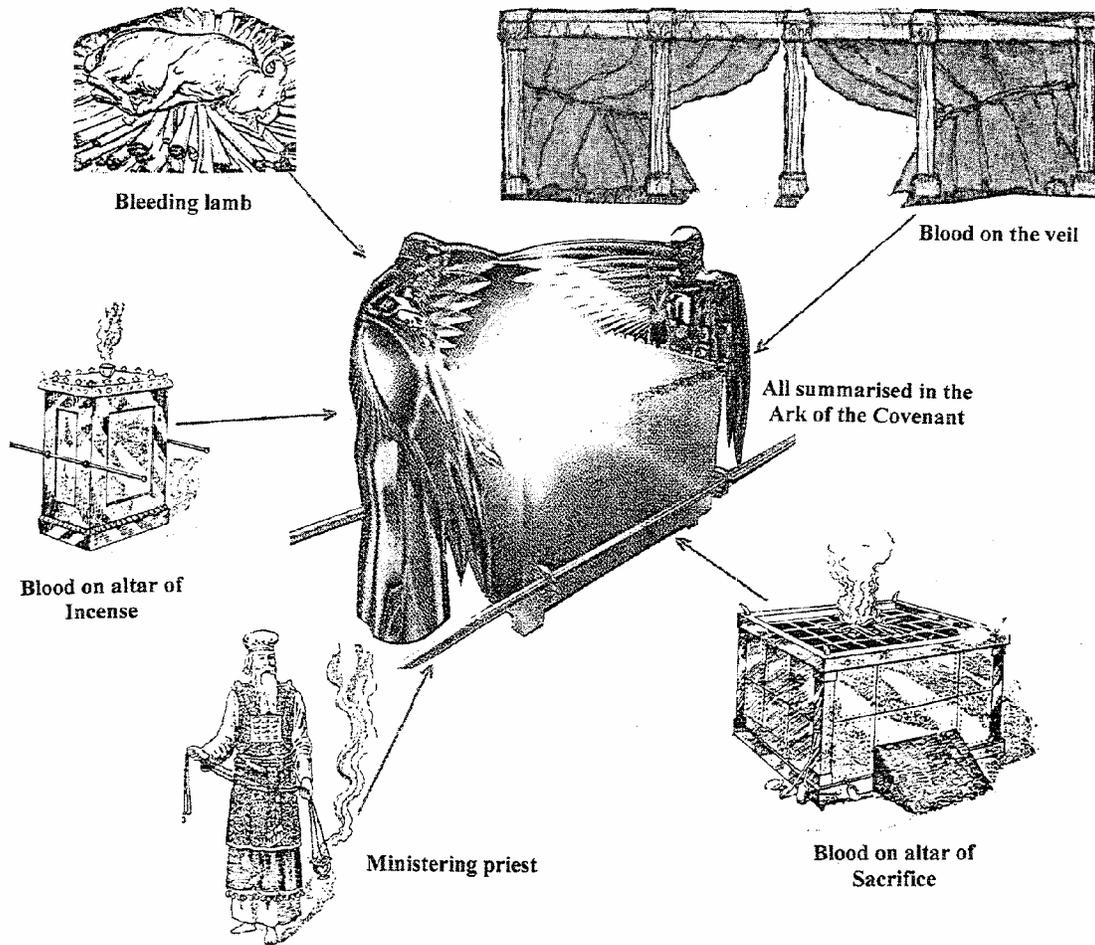


Figure 56 Application of blood in the sanctuary service

79. Shouldn't the things that Jesus Christ did on the cross - shouldn't it all have to fit the symbol of the event perfectly?

The perfection is in Christ - not in the image (symbol).

You cannot make Jesus fit every detail of the image. But you must interpret the image (symbol) according to what Jesus Himself did. The symbolism is not perfect. It is merely a "shadow" of what was to come (Col. 2:17; Heb. 8:5; 10:1).

An exact correspondence between the ancient symbol and the reality was not physically possible.

For one thing, it took two separate entities - both a lamb and a priest - to symbolize the one Messiah, first as the dying One, then as our resurrected Mediator in heaven.

Jesus could serve both as our Lamb and as our High Priest, because he returned to life after his death.

No lamb or other sacrificial animal could illustrate the resurrection. For that reason, both an animal and a human priest were required - one to symbolize his death, and the other his post-resurrection work as our Advocate.

Something else. The earthly priests were many in number, but Jesus ministers on our behalf continually, since he lives forever.

The contrast of the symbol and the fulfillment is greater than the likeness. The only way it can be made congruent is to recognize that the earthly symbol was "an example", however imperfect, of the heavenly (Hebrews 8:5). It would be an error, and unscriptural, to try to make every detail correspond precisely.

One obvious observation between what is revealed of the heavenly Most Holy Place where "the judgment was set and the books were opened" (Daniel 7:9,10) and the Most Holy Place of the earthly type is that a structural comparison is incongruent. In the earthly Tabernacle the high priest entered, on the Day of Atonement, the Most Holy Place which was but 10 cubits square. (The Most Holy Place of Solomon's Temple was a 20 cubit cubicle.) A vision given to Daniel reveals a judgment set in a vast Temple room capable of accommodating the entire angelic host.

In the earthly, while the curtains of the Tabernacle were embroidered with the symbolism of cherubs, the emphasis on the service of the high priest on the Day of Atonement was that he should enter that sacred enclosure alone (see Exodus 26:1; Leviticus 16:17).

THE CONTRAST OF THE TYPE AND ANTITYPE IS GREATER THAN THE LIKENESS and can only be made congruent if we accept the dictum of Hebrews 8:5 that the priests served "unto the example and shadow of heavenly things."

"Many times" versus "once": the Scripture tells us that in this detail the 'type' or symbol cannot fit; it is 'not the very image' of the real event it signified (Hebrews 10:1).

In the symbol, the many sacrifices of lambs, goats and bullocks all prefigured the ONE sacrifice of ONE Person, the Messiah, ONCE FOR ALL.

In the symbol, sacrificial blood was sprinkled on the altar of burnt offering, the altar of incense and also on the Ark of the Covenant's Mercy Seat. But all these were fulfilled ONCE FOR ALL when Jesus' blood was sprinkled on just ONE place, ONCE - the Mercy Seat.

We must not juggle (or deny) the positioning of the cross hole, the Ark and the blood, etc., to fit in with our own theological preconceptions.

Our theology has to fit in with what Christ actually did!

In Summary

The ceremonial law is only "a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things" (Heb. 10:1). Therefore you do not exalt the law above Jesus.

In apostolic times Satan led the Jews to exalt the ceremonial law, and to reject Christ. Let's not be guilty of exalting the ceremonial shadows above Christ, saying that He MUST fit in with them.

We are in the same error as those Jews if we say, "Jesus couldn't sprinkle His blood on the Mercy Seat when He died, BECAUSE THE CEREMONIES WOULD NOT LET THAT HAPPEN." Now, wouldn't it be silly to say that!

80. Doesn't Daniel 9:24 ("anoint the most Holy") apply to Jesus Himself being anointed at His baptism?

You refer to the messianic prophecy of Daniel, which we shall here quote:

"Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy" (Dan. 9:24).

The Hebrew phrase *qodesh qadashim*, here translated to read "most Holy", is the very same phrase as "Most Holy Place".

Variant readings of this passage say *"anoint a most holy place"* (RSV) or *"consecrate a most holy place"* (Moffatt).

The term is also used many times to denote objects in the Most Holy Place.

It is a term used freely through the book of Leviticus to characterize things and places, but is NOWHERE applied to PERSONS.

Now here are the components of our text again:

- *"to finish the transgression"*
- *"to make an end of sin "*
- *"to make reconciliation for iniquity"*
- *"to bring in everlasting righteousness "*
- *"to seal up the vision"*
- *"and to anoint the most Holy"*

By His death, the Messiah paid the penalty to potentially bring an end to "transgression", "sin" and "iniquity" - the first three items listed in this prophecy. His death would be the basis for making us right in God's eyes ("righteousness" - the fourth item in this prophecy). His death as long promised for mankind, when fulfilled, would authenticate (ratify) the prophecy.

So it will be seen that the first five particulars were FULFILLED AT JESUS' DEATH.

So why not the sixth - "anoint the most Holy"?

Anointing was symbolic of the cleansing and covering accomplished by Christ's blood. And when did He spill His blood to provide mercy for us? At His death.

Read the more complete explanation in our book *Ark of the Covenant*, pp. 430-433.

IS IT RIGHT TO JUDGE AND NAME NAMES?

81. Why did you include the "Ambush" chapter (Chapter 43) and name names, in your book Ark of the Covenant?

Jonathan replies:

During the writing of this book, we prayed over every page and chapter. Numerous times, as we prayed for certain information that was crucial to that stage of the book, in some cases not even knowing whether it existed, nor, if it did, where to find it, numerous times it would arrive in the post that very day (or week) -sometimes from the other side of the world.

Other times, someone would phone us, impressed at that exact moment to supply us with the right information.

Such experiences left us in no doubt that the Lord was controlling this project, not us.

It was just as we were nearing the completion of the project that the main events of Chapter 43 occurred quite unexpectedly. We did not plan to write about this at all. However, Josephine and I both began to receive strong impressions that it ought to be revealed. The more we tried to squash those impressions, the guiltier we felt. It was only when we promised the Lord to tell it as it was, that peace of mind came.

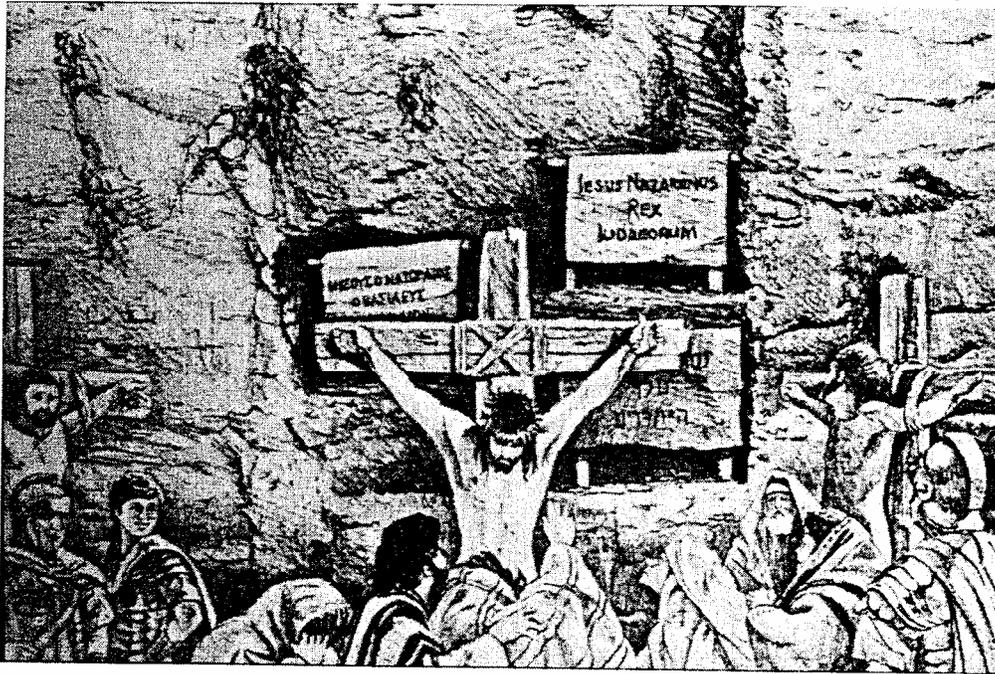
We later understood why.

Firstly, documentation of Jesus' sufferings at the hands of the religious leaders of his day - even to naming the attackers - is a biblical principle. Would one wish that Matthew, Mark, Luke and John had "covered up" these details? For purposes of credibility and accuracy, revealing of names is necessary.

Secondly, not only did Jesus suffer, but he stated that those who upheld the truth on His behalf would suffer persecution. Thus the apostles of Jesus documented their own experience of suffering - as did Christians throughout history - for the encouragement of those who should follow. People who have faced persecution report that the "Ambush" chapter has encouraged them to remain strong and endure.

Thirdly, the question arises, Why do some religious leaders ("holy men"?) oppose the news that the Ark is found - if, in fact, it is a God-given discovery? That "Ambush" chapter demonstrates that leaders are as human as the rest of us, and often have their own agendas -that one ought not to trust in man, but in God.

[See, "Is it Right to Judge and Name Names?" at the end of this section.](#)



The crucifixion scene, according to new evidence

Figure 57 Drawing of crucifixion site based on new evidence

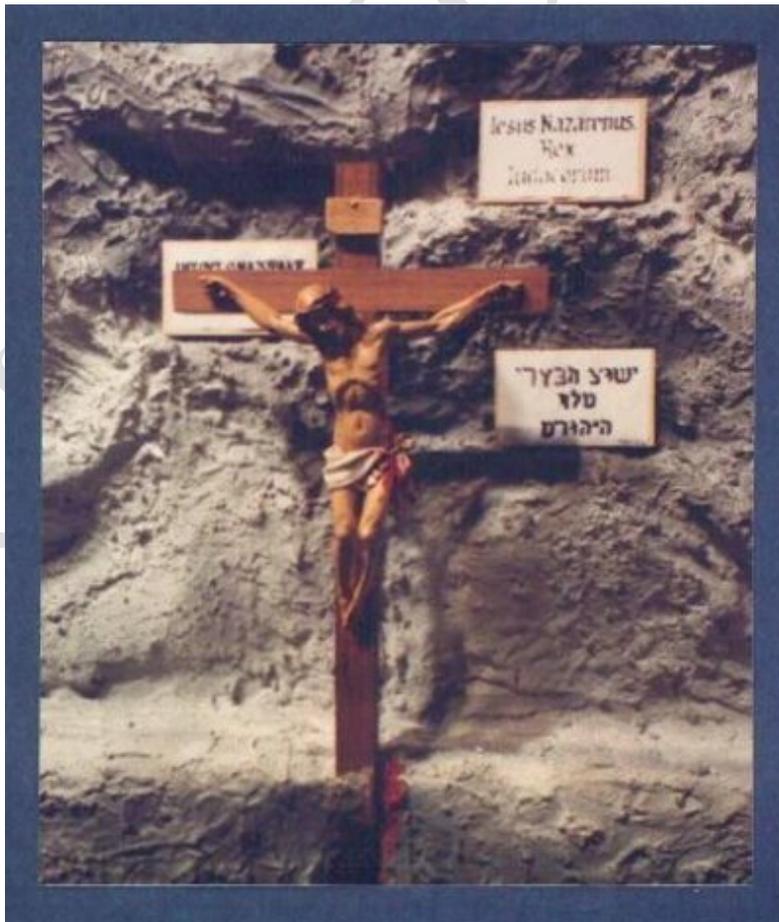


Figure 58 Crucifixion with placards in niches

APPENDIX

APPENDIX 10 Israel Antiquities reference Wyatt permit

ISRAEL
ANTIQUITIES
AUTHORITY



רשות
העתיקות

10

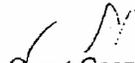
November 30, 1998

Dear :

Thank you for your faxletter dated 9.9.98, which arrived in our offices on 23.11.98, asking about Ron Wyatt . We cannot confirm his finds and have no information about them. Ron Wyatt has never received a license from the Israel Antiquities Authority to excavate in Israel. If he says he has excavated in Israel, he has committed an illegal act since every excavation in Israel must be licensed by our Authority (or our predecessor, The Israel Department of Antiquities).

Legitimate archaeological finds are published in professional journals, or by universities and other recognized scientific institutes.

Sincerely yours,


Osnat Goaz
Spokeswoman
Dept. of Education and Information

APPENDIX 11 John Baumgardner ref. Israel Antiquities involvement

13/11/99 21:44 FAX 615 781 8093

Wyatt Arch Res

1965 Camino Redondo
Los Alamos, NM 87544
December 17, 1986

11

Dear Mrs. Crickshanks,

It is snowing quietly this evening here in Los Alamos. Driving into our subdivision tonight, I was struck by the beauty of the trees being clothed in the fresh snow together with all the Christmas lights this season. There is something special about Christmas. But I wonder just how many people truly grasp what it is. I wonder how many know that a bit of heaven really came to earth. Actually, it was the lord of glory Himself--Jesus--who came. The marvelous news is that He made it possible for us to become citizens of heaven--to those who simply recognize who He is and who give Him their allegiance. 'But as many as received Him--Jesus, to them He gave the right to become children of God' (John 1:12). Being identified with the Messiah and part of His everlasting realm is more significant than anything else this life can offer. Yes, indeed there is something special about this season!

John Baumgardner

What about Ark hunting--what is the latest news? First of all our site was declared a forbidden zone--off limits even to Turkish citizens--in September, 1985, and has remained in this status to the present hour. This is the main reason there have been no sequels to our October, 1985, newsletter--namely, there was very little new information to report. This summer we were led to think there was a reasonable possibility we would be allowed to work on the site. So on July 1, a team of five including Jean and myself left for Turkey. We were gone sixteen days but unable to get to the site. Except for Jean, that is. By God's grace the local hotel owner took our translator and Jean for a brief drive near the boat-shaped formation. Jean had to leave her camera at the military checkpoint, but she did get to see the site from about fifty yards away. We have reliable information that the Turkish government has had its scientists working there and that the government is presently deliberating how to handle the situation. We continue to be close to certain the site does contain buried remains of Noah's ark, and we are cautiously optimistic and prayerful that the opportunity to conduct further research there will open to us next spring. We praise God for the exciting prospect of such an historic discovery!

If searching for one ark isn't enough, I was persuaded to join a group that spent three weeks in Israel during March and April searching for the ark of the covenant--that is, the gold-covered box containing the Ten Commandments that was in the tabernacle and later in the Holy of Holies of the temple that Solomon built. We investigated a tunnel network inside the portion of Mt. Moriah north of the old city of Jerusalem where Garden's Calvary is located. We didn't find it, but I do not discount the possibility that it is somewhere nearby. Incredibly, we worked under the authority of the Director of Antiquities for all of Jerusalem. Yes, I do believe God's plan for His children is full of adventure and surprises and blessing.

Vince

As of April--Turks have recovered some artifacts at the site. They say it most certainly is the Ark. The Area has been declared a National Park--but no visitors allowed as yet...

In Dr. John Baumgardner's own handwriting

APPENDIX 12 Bob Murrell ref. Israel Antiquities involvement

12

From: Bobn4zna@aol.com <Bobn4zna@aol.com>
To: midnight.oil@bigfoot.com <midnight.oil@bigfoot.com>
Date: Friday, 15 January 1999 15:06
Subject: Ark of Covenant dig

Dear Jonathan, will try sending this again. It was in early Jan. 1989 we went back for our second dig on the Ark of COvenant. We needed more help so Ron gave the okay for me to invite some friends..John Rauch, Dale Earnsburger, (both worked with me on the Florida Conference Executive Committee), Dr. Fenton Froom, Frank Sheffield and Randy Osborne. John, Dale and Dr. Froom were skeptical of the whole thing but came back as believers. We also had about 5 or 6 other people helping us. After digging for several days removing overburden of rock and debri (pottery, bones, etc) about 20 feet under the present ground level, we had to pass through a small opening below where you and I stood when we took the photo that you have in your book. After getting in this small hole came into a small chamber then we had to pass through second hole down about 15 feet more holding onto a rope. Now we dropped into a larger chamber that had two lower holes going down even farther, one of which Ron claims to have gone into..a very small water duct going down and turning at bottom towards the cave where the Ark of Cov. is located. This water duct is the same one that was blocked off by the Jews when the Syrian invasion so they would not have water outside the city wall. Ron says he took the plug out of the hole. Randy, the smallest of the team, at 140 lbs. went into this msall hole and I worked with him one half day trying to get dirt out of this tube of a hole. This hole is the one that Ron claims to have filled back up with dirt after he made his discovery to keep anybody from getting in there. If we could have gone in this way, it would not have helped us for it was too small to get anything big back out. At the time we were digging in two locations. The other group was jackhammering large rocks that we though encompassed a wall in front of the cave. These large rocks were mortared together with red clay instead of cement that we use today. The red clay was still moist or pliable after all these years. This layer of rocks was about 5 feet thick. We worked on this for several days before we broke through only to find we were too high. We dug through what appeared to be a wall. Ron thinks this wall was put there to camouflage the cave. Must have been the back of a pottery factory as we found 3 bushels of broken pottery that was taken back to the hotel and later turned over to the antiquities department. They said it dated back to the time period we were looking at. We didn't only find pottery but chicken and goat bones, etc. mixed in with the above. As we were digging down we came in contact with layers of strata which had traces of where fire nad been. Could this have been the cave that Jeremiah loved in at one time? Our time had run out on this dig as we were alloted just so much time. We closed things up and came back a year later..this time with a radar Ron had borrowed. Ron took radar scans at ground level where you and I stood for the photo. I was inside and moved the transmitter back and forth to see what was behind rock wall that we thought was the entrance to the cave and cisterns where first temple things were stored. Don't forget Solomon made 10 of everything..candlesticks, table of showbread, etc. I went up to look at the graft pictures and could see the cave below us with contents in it. ALso the two other chambers that was a cistern at one tiem..now filled with sand and very large clay jars, some of which may contain coins. That's what it

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looked like to us. The frequency generator was set for gold and I watched this work several times and it crossed directly over the spot I was stooping. According to this there was definitely gold below us. We were probably standover the cave at this point. I laid out a hold 2 feet x 3 feet in very hard sandstone..we dug there 3 days and only managed to dig down 2 feet..extremely hard. By this time we were on our ninth day and we were only given 10 days. We had some workers with us that were not SDA and Ron thought it best not to try and go any farther at that time. This terminated my third and last dig. We sealed the hold and no one has been back since. By the way, as we were getting the debris off the drill bit, the sandstone seemed to change color probably indicating we were breaking through the top of cave below us. We think the cave is below that hole. We are about 45 feet from where Ron originally went down that water duct shaft. Hopefully someday soon we can finish this work. Ron thinks maybe when the Sunday Law is passed, it will be brought out. Could very well be the start of World War III as you well know. As you can tell, I am not a writer and hope you can make sense of this. Thanks for your call..enjoyed talking to you. Hope this makes it thought..if not, will put in the mail. Best regards to you, Bob Murrell

CONFIRMING THE ARK OF THE COVENANT EXCAVATION

Peter W. Reed, of Mount Isa, Queensland, reports that, after hearing an audio tape (recorded about 1987):

"I wanted if possible to verify this or otherwise. At the Garden Tomb I was stone-walled by the Director, Peter Wells. He knew a lot more than he was prepared to let on. Ron (Wyatt) had left 10 days before. Peter Wells had just returned from Britain. Is there a connection? Was Ron's dig in the bottom of their garden of such interest that Peter Wells had to fly to Britain to talk to his Board?

"Ron would not comment on this year's dig except to say that it was successful."

APPENDIX 13 Dr. Bill Shea ref. Wyatt permit

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Feb 19, 1999

John Paige
Sabbath House
Box 30, Serpentine
Victoria, Australia

Dear John,

Thanks very much for your inquiry about Ron Wyatts permit to work in the Garden Tomb area. Yes, he did have a permit from the department of antiquities to work there for several years. He also had permission from the Garden Tomb authority. I contacted Rudolph Cohen who at the time (1986) was supervisor for the Dept. of Antiquities to get Ron's permit extended. Cohen said that he had to set up a supervisory board of three qualified archaeologists. I don't think that Ron ever did that so his permit lapsed. The same can be said for the Garden Tomb people. In other words, although he did have permits at one time, I don't believe that they are any longer current.

Hope this helps.

Best regards,

ANCH

APPENDIX 14 Dr. Bill Shea ref. Israel Antiquities involvement

03/11/99 21:44 FAX 615 781 8093

Wyatt Arch Res

11671 RedBud Trail
Berreïn Springs, MI 49103
July 20, 1996
(note new address: P. O. changed addresses but we live in same house)

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Dear Ron,

Have arrived back from Israel after conducting all of my business there in 3-4 days. I did get over to see Dan Bahat at the Rockefeller Museum but it was hard to catch him. They say there that he does not like to sit at a desk but prefers to be out in the field or doing something, but I finally did catch up with him after the third try. The results were not too encouraging for your project. Of the four points you wanted me to ask him about:

1. With regards to your use of the radar screening device on your candidate for Kadesh-Barnea, he says the man to contact about that is named Rudolph Cohen. He said he did not think that it would be much trouble as long as no excavation permit is requested, just a radar screen should not be a problem.

2. With regards to the aerial photos of Jebel el Laws, he said that he tried to get the aerial photograph people to do it for him and he knows them from his military service but they declined to do so for him so he does not have any of those photographs.

3. The main point that he covered was what you wanted to know from his letter. He had not written the letter but he told me the story more or less. The points he covered were these:

a. In the first place the supervisorship of the Garden tomb propherty has changed and for further work in the area you would need permission of the new proprietors. The old man (Rev. White?) has retired and you will have to work with the new poeple there now

b. Bahat himself does not want you to do any more tunneling as he says this is not sound archaeological technique and if you found something it would not be demonstrated so in proper relations because of a lack of stratigraphic digging. So the way the site has to be approached according to his instructions is to dig a series of 5 meter squares up to the face of the cliff and inwards, that way you will have stratigraphic control over your findings.

c. The problem this poses in one direction is that he does not know whether the Garden Tomb people want any digging on this scale on their property. He says you will have to negotiate with them and see what you can work out.

d. on the other hand he wants some scientific controls over your project. He want s you to set up a scientific archaeological committee to oversee and supervise the digging that is done there.

4. He did report on the pottery that you brought to him and he says that it is "Second temple period to Medieval" and he said this was a suprise to him because he expected only the later period to be represented. I didn't ask him what he meant by 2nd temple period pottery, i. e., whether it could go back to Perisshian period, but it certainly would include Greco-Roman.

Thats the gist of what I got out of him, which is not too much solid progress for you. He felt that for you to come back in August to work would be too soon before these other bases have been touched. At any rate I hope this information is of some use to you. Best regards,

Bill

APPENDIX 15 Tom Loy on the blood of Jesus**15**

Tom Loy:
Molecular Archaeology

The major emphasis of my research is in protein biochemical and molecular genetic approaches to the analysis of prehistoric tool use-residues, human remains and the bones of extinct megafauna. Biochemical, molecular genetic, microscopic and forensic methods have many applications in molecular archaeology. Molecular information from ancient residues can be used to reconstruct subsistence and related cultural activities with an accuracy not possible using standard archaeological methods. It has revealed past human actions ranging from individual moments in time such as the direct dating rock paintings by purifying the organic constituents including human blood to broad generalisations about such topics as the relation between human hunting and the extinction Australian and North American megafauna.

Current research emphasises the identification of the species of origin of the organic residues, refining and exploring methods based upon genomic DNA and documentation of the preservation of organic residues by analysis of increasingly old artefacts from a variety of site localities and environments.

Methodological areas include:

- (a) increasingly efficient extraction and purification of proteins and genomic DNA from residues based upon a better understanding of the preservation processes;
- (b) continuation of research leading to the repair of damaged ancient DNA using incubation with polymerase enzymes which have proofreading and repair abilities;
- (c) the use of random amplification methods to produce \hat{O} library samples \hat{O} of the total DNA contained in a sample (whether contaminant or not) from which multiple samples can be withdrawn for different analytical purposes (eg. satellite identification);
- (d) evaluation of strategies for the identification of animal origin at a variety of taxonomic levels which bypass the need to perform sequence analysis of each sample of ancient DNA (e.g. satellites and variant number tandem repeats(VNTR)). Stone artefacts often contain mixed blood residues. Satellite analysis, because it is specific at least to sub-Family, could be used to indicate mixed blood samples. A combination of satellite and VNTR analysis can also be used to differentiate species in mixed samples. Hemoglobin crystallisation can resolve the presence of two or more species blood mixed on a tool;
- (e) investigation of the longevity and preservation of both ancient DNA and proteins through analysis of ancient residues themselves using electrophoretic analysis of changes in molecular weight and fragmentation of DNA, laser/ion desorption mass spectrometry and nuclear magnetic resonance to investigate other changes at the molecular level.

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Projects Include:

Analysis of the tools of the Alpine Iceman.

Phylogenetic analysis of extinct giant marsupials.

The history of human genetic diseases (eg. β thalassaemia).

The genetic history of the domestication of sheep, goats and cattle in central Europe and central Turkey.

Key Publications

Loy, T.H. (1983) Prehistoric blood residues: detection on tool surfaces and identification of species of origin. *Science* 220: 1269-1271.

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Loy, T.H. and K.I. Matthaeci (1994) Species of origin determination from prehistoric blood residues using ancient genomic DNA. *Australasian Biotechnology* 4: 161-162.

Loy, T.H. and B.G. Hardy (1992) Blood residue analysis of 90,000 year old stone tools from Tabun Cave, Israel. *Antiquity* 66: 24-35.

You are welcome to email Tom for more information about his research, collaborations or postgraduate study in his lab.

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APPENDIX 16 IS IT RIGHT TO JUDGE AND NAME NAMES ARTICLE?

TO JUDGE, TO EXPOSE ERROR & TO NAME NAMES

From time to time we get letters taking us to task for being critical and naming names. This article shows that we have good Biblical precedents for doing this...

Many today believe that it is wrong to expose error and to name names. Liberals have always seemed to believe this, but in recent times it has been widely espoused by evangelicals and charismatics. Now we are seeing the same fatal error being declared by those who profess to be Bible believing fundamentalists. Those who are faithful in exposing error according to the Bible are now being widely denounced and are accused of being unloving and unkind. In this article we intend to present the teaching of the Bible on this vital subject.

IS IT RIGHT TO PRACTICE BIBLICAL JUDGMENT

One of the most misused verses in the Bible is 'Judge not, that ye be not *judged*.' (Matt. 7:1). Every scripture verse should be read in its context, if we are to properly understand the true meaning. In vs. 2-5 of this same chapter it is evident that v1 is referring to hypocritical judgment. A brother who has a beam in his own eye should not be judging the brother who may have a mote in his eye. The lesson is plain, you cannot judge another for his sin if you are guilty of the same sin.

Those, who cling to 'Judge not, that ye be not judged' to condemn those who expose error should read the entire chapter. Jesus said, 'Beware of *false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing...*' (v15). How can we know false prophets unless we judge them by the Word of God? If we know the false prophets, how can we fail to warn the sheep of these ravening *wolves*? All through the Bible we find proof that they should be identified and exposed.

"Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes or thorns, or figs or thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit' (vs. 16,17;. Did the Lord mean that we could not judge the tree(person), by the fruit of their life and doctrine? Certainly not, for you cannot know without judging. All judgment should be on the basis of Bible teaching, not according to whims or prejudices.

IS IT RIGHT TO EXPOSE FALSE TEACHERS

False teachers are free to spread their poisonous doctrines today because there is a conspiracy of silence among many Bible believers. Wolves in sheep's clothing are thus enabled to ravage the flock, thereby destroying many.

John the Baptist called the Pharisees and Sadducees(the religious leaders of his day) 'a generation of vipers' (Matt. 3:7). Today, he would be accused of being unkind and unchristian.

Jesus said to the religious Pharisees, 'O generation of vipers, how can ye, *being evil* speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh!(Matt. 12:34).

To many evangelicals and some fundamentalists this would be unacceptable language today, but it is Biblical language and it came from the mouth of the son of God.

Standing face to face with these false teachers Jesus Christ, the Son of God, called them, 'hypocrites.' *'blind guides.'* *'whited sepulchres,'* 'serpents' and, 'ye generation of vipers' (Matt. 23:23-34) Yet we are today told that we are to fellowship with men whose doctrines are just as unscriptural as those of the Pharisees. Some who say they are Bible believing Christians insist on working with Roman Catholics and other assorted heretics. Yet, according to many, we are not supposed to rebuke them for their compromise.

In our day these false teachers have come into the churches with their books, literature, movies, psychology, and seminars, and have turned the Father's house into a den of thieves. It is time that men of God stood up and expose their errors for all to see.

THE BIBLE ADMONISHES US TO EXPOSE ERROR

We are to TRY them, '*Beloved believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, whether they be of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*' (I John 4:1).

We are to MARK them and AVOID them, '*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; avoid them*' (Romans 16:17).

We are to REBUKE them '*Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith*' (Titus 1:13).

We are to have NO FELLOWSHIP with them. '*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them!*' (Eph. 5:11)

We are to WITHDRAW from them '*Now we command you, brethren, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly and not after the tradition which ye received of us.*' (II Thiers. 3:6).

We are to TURN AWAY from them. Concerning the last days, he says that some will have '*a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away*' for such people are '*never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*' (I Tim. 3:5-7).

We are NOT TO RECEIVE them into our house, '*if there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine. receive him not into your house. neither bid him Godspeed, for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds*' (John 10:11).

We are to REJECT them, '*A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject*' (Titus 3:10).

We are to SEPARATE from them, '*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing and I will receive you:*' (II Cor. 6:7).

IS IT RIGHT TO NAME NAMES

Many mistakenly believe that it is wrong to expose error and to name the guilty teachers, but they are wrong according to the Bible.

Paul named Peter publicly. Peter was guilty of unscriptural practice, '*But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed....*' But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, '*If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of the Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?*' (Gal. 2:11-14). The whole issue revolved around salvation by the law or by grace. When the integrity and purity of the gospel is at stake then we have no choice when it comes to the matter of exposing error and naming names.

Paul named Demas for loving the world, '*For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world*' (2 Tim. 4:10). Those who forsake the cause of Christ for the worldly living and pleasures should be named and exposed.

Paul named Hymenaeus and Alexander, Paul told Timothy to '*war a good warfare: Holding faith and a good conscience; which some have put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.*' (1Tim.1: 18-20). God's true servants should war a good warfare and name those who have departed from the faith that was once delivered to the saints. Paul is not here discussing the faith of salvation by the faith as a system of doctrine. These men had made shipwreck of it and Paul exposed it and called their names.

John named Diotrephes, '*I wrote unto the church; but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, received us not*' (3 John 9). He related how this man had prattled against him '*with malicious words*' (v.10). He further said. '*Be loved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of*

God, but he that *doeth evil* hath not seen God.' (v.11). It is not wrong to name those whose doctrine and practice is contrary to the Word of God.

All this modern day talk about love, used as an excuse for not exposing error is not really Biblical love but is really sloppy agape.

Moses called the name of Balaam. Numbers 22-25. Peter exposed 'the *way of Balaam.... who loved the wages of unrighteousness*' (II Peter 2:15). Balaam was a prophet that was in the work for money, just like some of the TV false prophets today. They beg for money and live like kings while multitudes of innocent people send them their hard earned money. They are always building colleges, hospitals TV network satellites, and amusement parks that have a water slide for Jesus. And then we are supposed to keep our mouth shut about these religious charlatans. How can we be silent and be true to God?

Yes it is right to expose error and name those who are in error. It is right to 'earnestly *contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints*' (Jude 3). It was once delivered and has never been recalled for revision. We had better beware of false teachers..... who privily shall *bring in damnable heresies*' (I Peter 2:1). Faithful messengers will warn the sheep of these heretics, and identify them by name. It is not enough to broadly hint of their identity, for the young lambs will not understand and will be destroyed by the wolves.

- *The Revivalist Nov. 1989*

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APPENDIX 17 "ARK OF THE TESTIMONY" - THE PLACE FOR KEEPING EVIDENCE

Adapted from an article, "Christ's blood on the Mercy Seat -What does it mean?" by Bill Fry

The Ark of the Covenant was called also "ARK OF THE TESTIMONY" (Ex. 25:22). It appears that this was not merely because of the "tables of testimony" inside it. We suggest that it goes much deeper than this. Something will be "testified"

In 1 Timothy 2:5,6 we read the following: *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be TESTIFIED in due time ."*

When did Jesus Christ give Himself as a ransom? AT HIS DEATH.

It is important to notice the tense of this expression, "to be testified in due time". So there was a "testimony" about something relating to Christ's death THAT HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE at the time this was written. THE TESTIFYING WAS STILL FUTURE!

Now we know that the first letter to Timothy (quoted above) was written many years after the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

"To be testified in due time. " The Greek word that is translated "due time" means, literally, "at the appropriate occasion". This means that there was something about Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for sinful man (that is, something about the RANSOM) that, at a later, more appropriate time, was going to be used as a TESTIMONY to the world.

Where did Jesus give Himself as a ransom? At Calvary (Skull Hill). Could we ask, Where will it be testified? At Calvary (Skull Hill).

We put it to you that the TESTIMONY (the evidence) is to come from the scene of the event!

We believe that this TESTIMONY is the revealing of the blood of the "ransom" on the Ark of the Covenant.

The blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has been found on the Mercy Seat (the gold lid) of the Ark of the Covenant that once sat in the Most Holy Place of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. That Ark still contained the tables of stone on which God Himself inscribed the ten commandments (1 Kings 8:9). It was hidden in a cave chamber underneath the Calvary escarpment on or about 586 BC, just prior to the destruction of the old city of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Babylonian army. That chamber was directly under the spot where, approximately 615 years later, Jesus was crucified.

When Jesus died at Calvary there was a great earthquake, and the "rocks were rent" (Matthew 27:50,51). The rending of that rock created a fissure that communicated between the bottom of the cross hole that held the cross of Jesus and the top of the cave chamber where the Ark of the Covenant was hidden. Shortly after His death (and the rending of the rock) a soldier stuck a spear into Jesus' side to determine whether He was dead. When that happened (the apostle John records), blood and water flowed from His side.

"But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe" (John 19:34,35).

John was impressed to "record" specifically this event and to draw attention to it, to declare that it was true that it really happened just as he wrote it.

It was recorded to assist our belief.

We now know that the blood and water travelled down through the crack in the rock and was deposited on the top of the Ark, onto the Mercy Seat.

Blood and water are a "WITNESS"

Later, in his first epistle, the same writer, John, recalls this incident with the water and the blood and talks of its significance to the believer. The same apostle John who recorded the blood and water, speaks of this blood and water again:

"This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself he that believeth not God hath made him a liar: because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son " (1 John 5:6-11).

John tells us that the witness (record, or testimony) of the water and the blood are God's "witness" of His Son to men... and that this "witness" is greater than the "witness of men". The witness of the blood and the water, through the Holy Spirit, testifies "that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

The Ark: a place for evidence

To understand the significance of this, it will be helpful to understand what the Ark of the Covenant is and how God has used it in the past.

According to Exodus 25, the Ark of the Covenant was commissioned by God, through Moses, who was shown a "pattern" which he was to use (Ex. 25:9,10; Heb. 8:5).

The Ark of the Covenant was specifically made to house the TABLES OF TESTIMONY, i.e. the tablets of stone on which God with His own finger wrote the ten commandments. It was also used to house the "law of Moses", which was placed in the "side of the Ark" (Deuteronomy 31:26). The Shekinah glory, i.e. the Presence of God, also rested on the Mercy Seat of the Ark between the cherubim after it was installed in the wilderness sanctuary.

The Ark was dedicated for use in the wilderness tabernacle, as were the rest of the furnishings. Then it became a part of the sanctuary service that God gave to Israel. However, its only function in that service was on one day of the year, the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur), when the high priest of Israel sprinkled the blood of a bull and a goat on the Mercy Seat in order to make final atonement for the high priest and for Israel; to cleanse the sanctuary of the accumulated sins of the nation over that past year (Leviticus 16). In doing this the high priest was bringing "before the Lord" the evidence that an atoning sacrifice had been made. That the price for

sin ("the wages of sin is death" - Romans 6:23) had been paid. On the strength of the acceptance of this sacrifice, Israel and the sanctuary were cleansed of sin. (Lev. 16:19,30).

So the Ark was a place where EVIDENCE was placed - evidence that a death had taken place to "cleanse" people from sin.

In the Old Testament prophetic ceremony, the evidence that a death had taken place, was the animal 's blood on the Ark.

Today, the evidence of the death that has taken place for us, is the blood of Jesus on the Ark. God the Father is the witness, and His proof to us that His Son died for us, is the dried blood and serum of His Son on the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant.

Did the Ark's significance pass away? ...No!

Because the Ark was fabricated at the same time as the other furnishings of the tabernacle and because it was a part of the sanctuary service of the Levitical priesthood, many have assumed that it lost its significance at the same time that the Levitical priesthood passed away in favor of the priesthood of Melchisedec (Hebrews 7:11,12). However this is not the case. The proof of this is seen in the very nature of the object that the Ark was made to preserve; the eternal, immutable Law of God.

The law of God inside the Ark DID NOT PASS AWAY; so why should the Ark that was built to enclose it, pass away?

A place for keeping evidence for the future

The only other use that we see God making of the Ark is demonstrated in two separate incidents.

In the wilderness, shortly after their deliverance from Egypt, God told Moses to place a pot of manna with the Ark to be "kept for your generations". It was placed there to be PRESERVED FOR A LATER TIME WHEN IT WOULD BE USED AS A TESTIMONY of how God provided for them in the wilderness (Ex. 16:32-34). It was deposited with the Ark as a testimony, a reminder of how He used to look after them.

The other occasion was when there was a dispute in Israel as to who should take care of the sanctuary and its service. God caused a rod from a prince of each of the other eleven tribes to be placed before the Lord along with Aaron's rod. The next day Aaron's rod was found to have budded, blossomed and borne almonds. This was God's sign to Israel that the tribe of Levi was to be the keeper of the sanctuary. God then instructed Moses to place Aaron's rod with the Ark to be PRESERVED AS EVIDENCE (TESTIMONY) "against the rebels", i.e. as a "token" or sign as to who were the priests in Israel (Num. 17:1-11).

So the Ark of the testimony was a TESTIMONY FOR THE FUTURE, concerning events that happened in the past.

The pattern that emerges from God's use of the Ark in these two instances, along with the stated purpose for which it was originally made, illustrates that the Ark was a place for the SAFEKEEPING OF EVIDENCE,, i.e. a TESTIMONY OR WITNESS TO BE USED BY GOD AT A LATER TIME. In fact, the original name given to the Ark of the Covenant, the "*Ark of the Testimony*", means in the literal Hebrew, "the gathering place of evidence". It was to be the place where the evidence was gathered together.

This being the case, it was most appropriate that God would place the Ark of the Testimony underneath the crucifixion site and cause Christ's blood to be sprinkled on the Mercy Seat. In so doing, God was "recording" the only physical evidence that exists today that proved His Son gave His life, that He paid the ransom for sin.

One thing that stands out clearly in the symbolic Jewish service of blood sacrifice is this: that the sacrifice was of no value unless the blood was brought before the Lord in some manner. It was sprinkled and/or applied to various pieces of the sanctuary furniture depending on the specific requirements of the ceremony being performed. However, it was always displayed in some manner "before the Lord" as evidence that a sacrifice had been made. Therefore when Christ in heaven now pleads His blood on our behalf, He does so by pointing to the places where the evidence of His sacrifice is still displayed... His hands, His feet, His side, and the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant located at Calvary.

Will the Ark be removed?

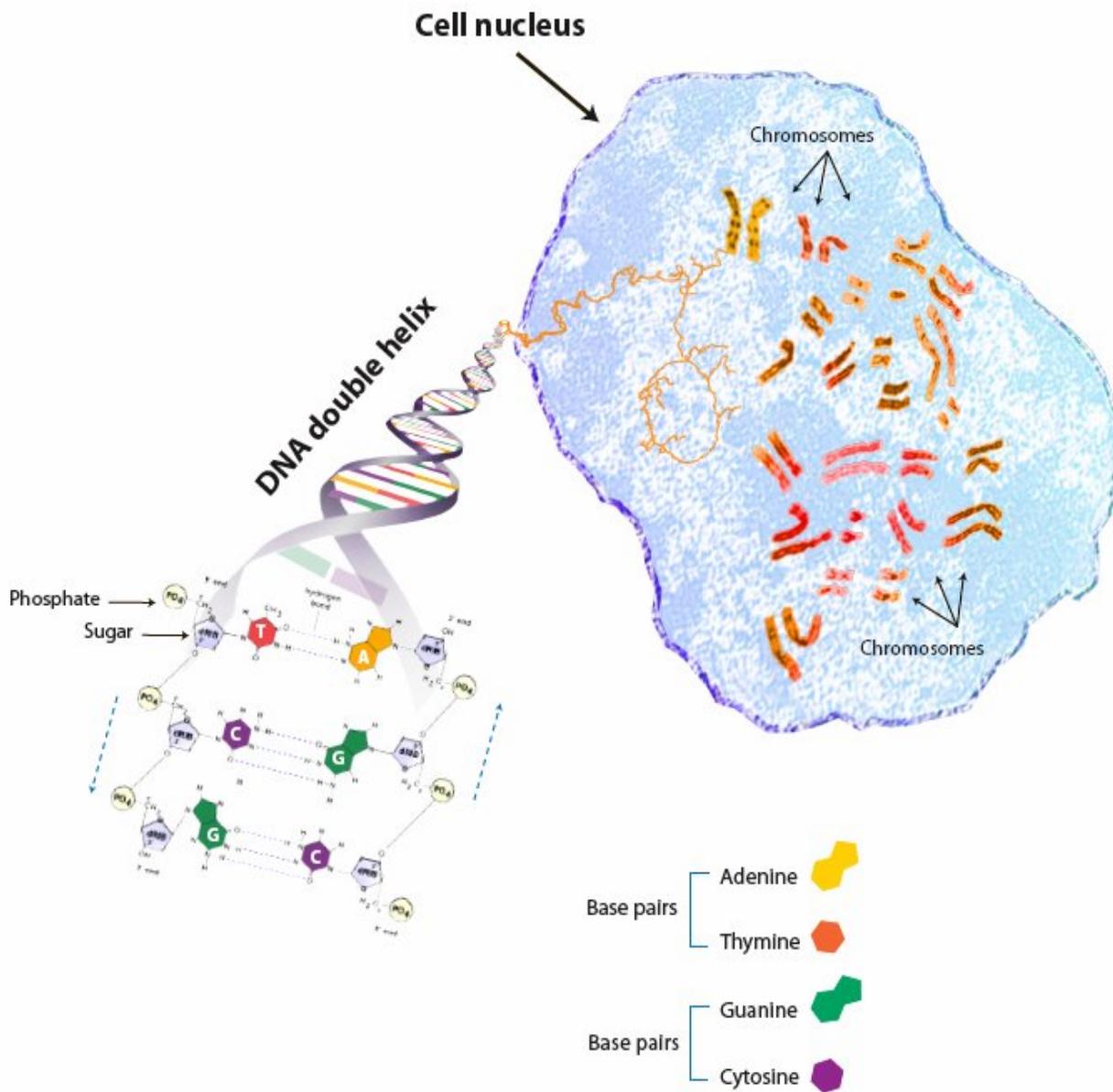
This brings us to the subject of the bringing out of the Ark of the Covenant so that it can be displayed to the world. There is no doubt in my mind that the Ark will be revealed to the world, yet I am confident that it will not be removed from its current location. We believe that the tablets of stone will be brought out of the cave chamber and displayed to the world. However, the Ark will not be moved.

Why won't the Ark itself come out?

The reason for this is found in the very manner that God has used it at Calvary. The Ark of the Covenant has "recorded" on it the PHYSICAL EVIDENCE that God will use to witness to the world THAT HIS SON DIED to give us eternal life (1 John 5:6-11). To move the Ark from its present location would invalidate the testimony of that evidence. It would destroy the TESTIMONY THAT THE TWO WERE TOGETHER. It is location evidence of what happened here.

It is much like what we know of modern crime scene techniques. When an event takes place that the authorities want to document, the first thing they do is rope off the area, restricting access to it. No one is allowed to move or disturb the evidence because to do so would contaminate it. The same is true with the evidence on the Ark. Christ's blood on the Ark in that location establishes the fact that a sacrifice took place at this location and who it was that was sacrificed. To move the Ark would invalidate that evidence.

APPENDIX 18 WHAT IS DNA?



DNA's Double Helix. DNA molecules are found inside the cell's nucleus, tightly packed into chromosomes. Scientists use the term "double helix" to describe DNA's winding, two-stranded chemical structure. Alternating sugar and phosphate groups form the helix's two parallel strands, which run in opposite directions. Nitrogen bases on the two strands chemically pair together to form the interior, or the backbone of the helix. The base adenine (A) always pairs with thymine (T), while guanine (G) always pairs with cytosine (C).

What is DNA?

We all know that elephants only give birth to little elephants, giraffes to giraffes, dogs to dogs and so on for every type of living creature. But why is this so?

The answer lies in a molecule called deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), which contains the biological instructions that make each species unique. DNA, along with the instructions it contains, is passed from adult organisms to their offspring during reproduction.

Where is DNA found?

DNA is found inside a special area of the cell called the nucleus. Because the cell is very small, and because organisms have many DNA molecules per cell, each DNA molecule must be tightly packaged. This packaged form of the DNA is called a chromosome.

DNA spends a lot of time in its chromosome form. But during cell division, DNA unwinds so it can be copied and the copies transferred to new cells. DNA also unwinds so that its instructions can be used to make proteins and for other biological processes.

Researchers refer to DNA found in the cell's nucleus as nuclear DNA. An organism's complete set of nuclear DNA is called its genome.

Besides the DNA located in the nucleus, humans and other complex organisms also have a small amount of DNA in cell structures known as mitochondria. Mitochondria generate the energy the cell needs to function properly.

In sexual reproduction, organisms inherit half of their nuclear DNA from the male parent and half from the female parent. However, organisms inherit all of their mitochondrial DNA from the female parent. This occurs because only egg cells, and not sperm cells, keep their mitochondria during fertilization.

What is DNA made of?

DNA is made of chemical building blocks called nucleotides. These building blocks are made of three parts: a phosphate group, a sugar group and one of four types of nitrogen bases. To form a strand of DNA, nucleotides are linked into chains, with the phosphate and sugar groups alternating.

The four types of nitrogen bases found in nucleotides are: adenine (A), thymine (T), guanine (G) and cytosine (C). The order, or sequence, of these bases determines what biological instructions are contained in a strand of DNA. For example, the sequence ATCGTT might instruct for blue eyes, while ATCGCT might instruct for brown.

Each DNA sequence that contains instructions to make a protein is known as a gene. The size of a gene may vary greatly, ranging from about 1,000 bases to 1 million bases in humans.

The complete DNA instruction book, or genome, for a human contains about 3 billion bases and about 20,000 genes on 23 pairs of chromosomes.

What does DNA do?

DNA contains the instructions needed for an organism to develop, survive and reproduce. To carry out these functions, DNA sequences must be converted into messages that can be used to produce proteins, which are the complex molecules that do most of the work in our bodies.

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