

The Blessing of the ARK

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BROTHER JAMES BRONNER: Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because, Brother, you need the Word!

I want you to stay tuned and open your physical and your spiritual ears today. You don't want to miss this message. Out of all of the sermons that I have preached, this might not come out as the greatest and might not cause the most shouting and the most laughter; but I can tell you in my preparation of it that the anointing felt the strongest of any message that I have ever preached. I would sit at my computer and would write a paragraph, and then I would just have to get up and walk bent over in the spirit and just pray in the spirit, and I could only finish a part at a time. So I can tell you that God has something that He has anointed that He wants you to hear on this day. So stay tuned and open your spiritual ears unto what He has to say unto you today.

Normally, I am a very humorous minister or have jokes starting out. But in this message, there are no jokes, because God wants this message to be serious and consecrated before you. So take it in a serious manner this day.

I have so much to cover, I won't have time to wait for you to turn to the Scripture; so we're just going to have to keep moving to get it all in today.

We are going to start in II Samuel, Chapter 6, and I will read it to you. The Word of the Lord reads: *“Again, David gathered together all of the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand. And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the Ark of God, Whose Name is called by the name of the Lord of Hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims. And they set the Ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart. And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the Ark of God: and Ahio went before the Ark. And David and all of the house of Israel played before the Lord on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on coronets, and on cymbals. And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the Ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the Ark of God. And David was displeased, because the Lord had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day. And David was afraid of the Lord that day, and said, How shall the Ark of the Lord come to me? So David would not remove the Ark of the Lord unto him into the city of David: but David carried it aside into the house of Obbedom the Gittite. And the Ark of the Lord continued in the house of the Obbedom the Gittite three months: and the Lord blessed Obbedom, and all his household. And it was told King David, saying, The Lord hath blessed the house of Obbedom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because*

of the Ark of God. So David went and brought up the Ark of God from the house of Obededom into the city of David with gladness.” You can read that same account again over in the Book of I Chronicles, Chapter 13.

I entitled this message today “The Blessing of the ARK.” Turn to your neighbor and say, “The Blessing of the ARK.”

Turn to the other side and repeat it: “The Blessing of the ARK.”

This message is significant, because we are in an Ark today. It is a different type of Ark, but it is still an Ark. I will teach you today how to get the blessing of the Ark of the Covenant into your own household.

Obededom was blessed in the city when he went out, and he was blessed in his field. He was blessed when he went into the boardroom; he was blessed in the bedroom. His children were blessed. His wife was blessed. Every day when they went out and they talked with people, his words were blessed. When he went in his prayer clothes and then prayed, it seemed like his prayers just got through to God; his prayers were blessed. His thinking was blessed. Everything that his hands touched just seemed to click and to work out. Some of you may have days like that; but I’ll tell you, Obededom had it like that for three months, that everything went just spiffy in his life. Everything he touched was blessed.

David saw this blessing, and he ordered that Ark from him. He said, “Man, this man is getting blessed in everything. I better get this Ark back into my own house.”

But before I can teach you how to get the blessings of God from the Ark, I must first give you a strong warning. That warning is, just as the post office says on a package, handle with care.

The Book of Numbers, Chapter 4, Verse 15, in the NIV version says: *“After Aaron and his sons have finished covering the Holy furnishings and all the Holy articles, and when the camp is ready to move, the Kohathites are to come to do the carrying. But they must not touch the Holy things or they will die. The Kohathites are to carry those things that are in the Tent of Meeting.”*

I had never seen this before or heard this before studying this, and here David, the great king, adopted the practice of the very Philistines that he had beaten in battle, and he ordered the Ark carried out on a new cart by the sons of Obededom. But God had given specific instructions: “Don’t put My Holy thing on a cart. Let the children of Kohath carry My Ark upon their shoulders.” This was the instruction, and this was the way the Ark always was carried in the days of Moses.

But things got modern and they were in a rush to move the Ark faster, and men were weary in their bodies. They figured, "With technology, we'll just do things our way, because they did not have carts back then; but now we've got fancy carts. So we'll just put it on this cart and carry it."

But little did they know that God wanted it carried by Holy men. They put it on a cart and let oxen carry it. But God knew that oxen were animals, and He did not want His Holy things carried by an animal nature. He knew that oxen would walk even though they were strong; but sooner or later, those oxen would stumble, and it would cause them to touch what God had declared Holy and not to touch.

I tell you, doing things your own way when God is giving specific instructions, is the problem even with the church today. There are those who are carrying the Word of God, and they are carrying it with an animal nature on the inside, letting that animal nature ruin their lives and take over their flesh. They are carrying what God has called His Holy Word, and it's causing men to stumble and to die an early death.

God is calling for Holiness in His house. I can imagine during that whole time when those oxen were carrying it, God was crying out to them, "Handle it with care! Handle My Holy Ark with care! Don't let just anything carry My Ark of the Covenant."

Even in the movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark" starring Harrison Ford, there was a modern dramatization of what would happen if anyone touched that Ark of the Covenant and fooled with what God had declared as Holy.

I tell you, the devil has turned many of our very houses into war zones today. He's turned husbands against wives, children against their parents and brothers against sisters. Just as the Israelites would always go into battle with the Ark of the Covenant preceding them, I tell you today, the battle has come in our own homes, and we've got to carry that Ark now into that battle before us so that the Lord will be on our side. Whenever they did not have it, there was a difference in the battle outcome.

I just want to read to you a letter from my brother Bishop Dale that he wrote unto my mother as he gave her a gift of the Ark of the Covenant, and I'm going to set the very gift before you so that you can see it. This is the first time this has left my mother's house since it was placed there, so I told her that I would handle it with care. It's a letter dated February 26th, 2002, and it reads, "Mother, I was awakened at 4:00 a.m. today with this mandate: 'Give your mother this Word from Me.'

'The Lord did not set His love upon you nor choose you because you were more in number than any peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. But because the Lord

loves you and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn to your fathers hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty Hand and redeemed you out of the house of bondage. Know, therefore, that the Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keeps covenant and mercy with them that love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations.'

“The Ark of the Covenant symbolizes the very Presence of God Himself. God’s Prophets no longer speak from the judgment seat, but from the mercy seat of God. This Ark will serve as a visible reminder that God’s Presence will never leave your household. It was Israel’s most Holy relic. Now, it conserveth that which speaks of God’s covenant to you and your seed.

“I ordered this over a year ago. When it was first shipped, it came in broken pieces with the priest’s head and hands broken off. It came from Jerusalem. The company has since changed ownership, and this time it arrived safely. While it cost about \$2,000, its intrinsic spiritual significance is incalculable. May you continue to be blessed and you maintain the covenant of God. God’s servant and your son, Dale.”

Amen, amen. After this same example, I have an Ark of the Covenant replica in my own home. I advise all of you to get one and put it in your home, because it was Israel’s most sacred, Holy and important relic out of all of the things that they had.

The Book of Hebrews, Chapter 9, Verses 1 through 5, says: *“Then verily the first Covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and of worldly sanctuary. For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the showbread; which is called the sanctuary. And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; which had the golden censer, and the Ark of the Covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercy seat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.”*

Now, I am going to walk you through the contents of that Ark of the Covenant, and we’ll study how to get these things into your own house.

That first things that were in there were the two tables written by the very Finger of God, the Word of God, the Law of God. Those tables represented His Law in the Earth and how society was supposed to run.

In the church today, I tell you, if you ask most Christians to stand up right now and call off all Ten Commandments, it will probably be a shame how many could not do all ten. But we’ve got to put the Word of God back in our heads and hearts, and our children need the Word of God. I tell you, they’re getting more of the television and more of the internet. They know more about MySpace and uTube than they do

about the Word of God today. They know more about the Xbox and Nintendo than they do about the Word of God today. We've got to teach them the Word of God, that which was written by the very Finger of God.

The First Commandment is to have no other god before you. Just honor Him first. Put nothing else before Him.

The Second Commandment is to have no idols or graven images. There's no representation of God Himself that would do Him justice; no animal, no rock, no wooden thing, that can take the place of the One true Living God, and He does not want to be compared with stick or stone, because there is nothing like Him in all of the universe.

The Third Commandment is not to use the Lord's Name in vain. It's a Name not to be taken lightly, and it applies not only to cursing, but also going on behalf of the Lord and telling somebody something and saying it is from the Lord when it is really your own words. He does not want you to represent Him with your own words. God can speak for Himself. That which He said is enough. He doesn't want you to add to it or subtract from it.

The Fourth Commandment is to rest on the Sabbath Day and to keep it Holy. God was looking out for you and your body, and He made that Commandment for you.

The Fifth Commandment is to honor thy father and mother, that their days may be long upon the Earth. The only Commandment with a promise beckons to you.

The Sixth Commandment is you shall not kill. I tell you, there are so many murders going on today in our nation.

The Seventh Commandment is you shall not commit adultery. A lot of adultery is causing some of the murders today. I tell you, if folks would just stop that, it would keep so many homes together.

The Eighth Commandment is you shall not steal.

The Ninth one is you shall not speak falsely against others. I tell you, there are so many lies going on today, you don't know what to believe.

The Tenth Commandment is you shall not covet anything of your neighbor's house.

We need to teach our children the Word of God and the Law of God. How can they do the Law of God if they don't even know the Law of God? Not just our children, but our adults, too; most of the adults don't even know the Law of God.

The Jews even put the Law and Word of God in a box on their forehead and over the doorpost, and we're to put the Word of God first in our heads and then in our hearts.

I John, Chapter 2, Verse 3, from the NIV Version says: *"We know that we have come to know Him if we obey His commands. The man who says, 'I know Him,' but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But if anyone obeys His Word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in Him: whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did. Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard."*

John, Chapter 14, Verse 15, from the NIV says. Jesus said: *"If you love Me, you will obey what I command."*

And you know the place in the Bible where there were many that came calling "Jesus, Jesus, Lord, Lord" and doing all of these things in His Name. But He said, *"Depart from me, ye workers of iniquity, for I knew you not."*

But He said that if you know Him, you will keep His commands. That's how you know if you are really with Him, if you keep what He's told you to do.

This was a part of God that He didn't even trust man to convey; but He wrote it with His own Finger, so that it would not get twisted. He knew that men sometimes can add their own stuff to it. He didn't want the media to get ahold of it, because He knew they would only show a snippet of it just to fulfill ratings; but He said, "This Law shall I write with My own Hand," carved by the very Finger of God. From the beginning of time, God had an order, a law set up to run society, and He did not want His Law tampered with. He said: *"Not one jot or tittle shall pass away until the fulfillment of all things."*

I tell you, man will always try to put their hands on something. We're living in a day where judges want to take the Law of God out of the courtroom, and schools want to take it out of the classroom, and parents don't want to put it in their homes.

But I tell you, you better have the Law of God in your life if you want the blessings of the Ark. That was the first thing put in that Ark of the Covenant, and so much power was in that Ark that you couldn't even touch it. Man would try to touch God's Law and change it and say, "It doesn't quite sound right for today's modern times; we need to modernize it." They will go to touch it; but I say, "Beware!"

As I was preparing for this message, God struck something in my spirit, and I had to walk back and forth, bent over to the floor. After I finished speaking in tongues, all I could come out with was, "Don't touch it!" He had me saying it about 100 times.

I tell you, it doesn't matter who you are; if you are President Bush, God is saying, "Don't touch it!" It doesn't matter who you are; if you are a Supreme Court Justice, God is saying, "Don't touch it! That which I've made Holy, that which I've sanctified, that which I've written with My own Finger, don't touch it! If you value your life, don't touch it!"

God has spoken, and He's written what He is going to write. Nobody can add unto it, nobody can take away from it. Don't touch it!

It's no accident that even the Fourth Command concerns the Sabbath. It's no accident that the Seventh Day Adventists are the longest-living Christian denomination: because they rest their bodies when God told them to rest. He didn't say argue with it; He said, "Don't touch it."

The second thing that was in the Ark of the Covenant was a golden jar of manna from the wilderness. This manna represents trusting God for your daily provisions and Christ, the Bread of Heaven, the Word made flesh. Just as your stomach has to eat every day, your spirit needs spiritual food every day. You should have daily communion with Christ.

Jesus said in John, Chapter 6, Verse 32: *"I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the Bread from Heaven, but it is My Father Who gives you the True Bread from Heaven. For the Bread of God is He Who comes down from Heaven and gives life to the world."*

This is the Bread that came down from Heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died. But he who feeds on this Bread will live forever.

The third and final thing that was in the Ark was Aaron's rod that budded. Many of you may know about Moses' rod, but you might not know about Aaron's rod. It represented Authority. Even when they went before Pharaoh, it was Aaron's rod that they threw down, and it turned into a serpent. Then Pharaoh said, "We've got tricks, too," and the magicians threw theirs down. But the Authority of God was present: His snake ate the others, and Authority was established.

While I'm out of time for our television audience, I tell you, you need to hear the remainder of this message; that's not all that God has to say to you if you'll just go to AirJesus.com and put in Sermon No. 8212 and finish listening to this message free of charge. You can send it to a friend. Make sure you get everything that's meant for you to get the blessings of God upon your household. God bless you.

We thank you for joining Brothers of the Word, because, Brother, you need the Word.

Aaron's rod, the second instance in the Bible was with the people of Israel. There were 250 people. They were led by a man named Korah. They began to get prideful and say, "Who made Moses and Aaron leaders over us? Why is it just them that get to say what God says and tell us what to do?"

But little did they know Who they were fooling with. God had set up an Authority system in His camp. You can maybe sometimes fool with worldly authority; but I tell you, you can't fool with God's Authority, because He is the Supreme Being of all of the universe, all power in His Hands.

He set up Moses and Aaron as the leaders. They came and murmured unto Moses and Aaron, saying, "We think you ought to share this authority, that you shouldn't just be the only two leading the people."

So Moses said, "All right. Then we'll just see if God is saying we're the leaders." He told all the other people, "Step back from these people here that are saying this." And the next thing they knew, the Earth opened and swallowed all 250 whole, and it shut the mouths of those who were looking at it and saw.

But still there were others. Even after seeing that, they still were murmuring, saying, "Why did you have to kill these good men?" Again, God had to step in and say, "Some are hard learners; some heads are harder than others." A plague hit the people, and almost 15,000 people died because they were murmuring against the Authority of God.

So finally after the second experience, God said, "I am going to settle this once and for all. Gather staffs from the leaders of all of the 12 Tribes of Israel. Put your staffs down, and in the morning the one that buds is the one I've called to lead My people."

When the morning came, glory in the morning time, they came out and looked at them and the first one said, "There are no buds on mine." The second one said, "Just as I laid it down." But when they got to Aaron's rod, there were buds and omens all over it, and they knew from that day forward that God had set up the Authority of His Priesthood going through the Levites, the children of Abraham.

I tell you, this is important for our households today, because so many of our houses are just out of order. There is so much murmuring in the households against leadership. But God's order wasn't based on who was the smartest. It wasn't based on who was the most aggressive. It wasn't based on who was the best arguer. It was based on the one chosen to lead by Him.

If the country were run by the Vice-President, no matter how talented he may be, if he overran the President of the United States, other nations of the world would look

at us as a weak nation, and it would harm the image. We would be divided from within, and we would lose power.

So it is in our households. God has called the man to be the head and Christ to be his head, and the man to be the head of the wife, and the parents to be the head of the children. But I tell you, we're living in a day when the women are running the men and the children are telling mothers what to do and what they're not going to do.

But God has set up an order, and when you get outside of that order, you won't have the full blessing of the Ark of the Covenant in your household. You must have the staff of Authority running over your household for God to bless it to the fullest.

The last component of this Ark of the Covenant was on the very top, and if you'll notice there, there are two angelic beings that are called cherubim of gold.

In Exodus, Chapter 25, Verse 18, says: "And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. 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. And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. And thou shalt put the mercy seat above the Ark; and in the Ark thou shalt put the Testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims, which are upon the Ark of the Testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel."

On the top of that Ark, there are these two cherubims, angels of praise and worship. They cover that Ark. Praise and worship needs to cover your obedience to His Commands, and they should cover that daily provision and thanksgiving, and they should cover your entire household.

You ought to be praising God through your house on a regular basis. If you'll notice on that Ark, that mercy seat was right between those angels of praise and worship, and God came and sat. His seat was right there, and His Presence was right in the midst of the praise.

I tell you, if you'll begin to make a place for God in your home and sanctify that place, fill that place with praise and worship, God will come; and He'll hear the praises, hear His Name, and He'll come and sit to hear the praises being sent up unto Him. He will sit and dwell in your house. We need God in our homes just to sit and dwell.

If God is not in your home, how much have you been praising Him? If He is not sitting there, He has nothing to listen to; nobody is praising Him. We are complaining about the very blessed things that He's given us and not praising Him! I tell you, if you'll just praise Him as those angels, He'll come and sit and have His abode upon the mercy seat.

We want mercy, but no praise. We want mercy, but no obeying the Commandments on which it is sitting. We want Him to supply our daily bread, but there has got to be covenant and praise and thanksgiving for His Presence. It will be as incense throughout your house the praises of God and His Presence.

That's all I have for you today.

MRS. ROBBIE BRONNER: Father, we just thank You so much for this day. Hallelujah! Thank You so much that I heard so loud and clear that women will get back in their places; and, men, you better take your roles. You better do what God has called you to do. Hallelujah.

God is going to hold us responsible. We have got to go to God one by one. Hallelujah! We can't depend upon anyone else with any excuses.

Lord, we thank You that You have given blessings unto each and every one of us. You have given women special gifting to uplift, to build up and to not tear down! Hallelujah. You've given men leadership -- hallelujah -- priesthood, priest in the home, priest, priest, priest; covering, covering over their wives, covering over those children, covering, covering, covering. Hallelujah.

But the evil one can come not nigh that dwelling place. Thank You, Lord. Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Lord, for Words, God, of power that will be spoken over every household every morning, God, when they wake up, God. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

Let them learn how to bless their homes, God. Hallelujah. Let them learn how to bless their children. Hallelujah, hallelujah. Let them learn how to get that Word on the inside of them while they are growing up, God, hallelujah, and when they are old, they will not depart from it.

Thank You, Lord Jesus. Thank You for the Ark. Thank You for the Ark of Salvation. Thank You! Thank You for the new thing you're doing here today, God. Thank You! Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Lord. We praise You for it, Jesus. We praise You.

We thank You for the pastor, God, hallelujah. Restore him, God, even as he is away, God -- hallelujah -- even on another mission; but, God, we also pray You pass Your

blessing, God, to be upon Pastor Charles -- hallelujah, hallelujah -- as he is seated at another place, God. Hallelujah.

Thank You, Jesus. Thank You, Lord. Thank You for what You did with Brother James today, God, hallelujah. Thank You, ha! Oh, God, thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Thank You, thank You! Thank You for speaking on his life early, hallelujah. This is just a sample of how he is going to come forth, God, for Your people, oh, God.

Everyone, say thank You. Thank You for this sainted life, God, that they know how to blend and work it together, God. We want to say thank You, God. Hallelujah for the two working together, for the two as one, thank You, Jesus.

Thank You, Lord, that even as we leave this place today, Lord, but not from Your Presence. God, we thank You that we will go out with a renewed determination; hallelujah, a renewed determination to "Don't touch it!"; a renewed determination to live this life that we've confessed. And, Father, we will be so careful to give You the glory, to give You the praise and to give You the honor in Jesus' Name, amen.