

Movements of the Ark of the Covenant

TABERNACLE

[set up and functional]

Wilderness, Jordan, Josh 3.3
Gilgal, possibly 7 yrs, Josh 4.19
Shiloh, I Sam 1.3, glory departs, I Sam 4.7, Ark stolen
Some rabbis say 369 yrs
Kireath-Jearim, I Sam 7.1, 20yrs ?
Nob, I Sam 21.1-6, David & shew bread, without Ark?
Some Rabbis say 76 years
Gibeon, I Kg 3.4, in Benjamin, without Ark?, Sol offered 1,000 sacr, I Chr 16.39,40
Jerusalem, David's tent, I Chr 1.4-6, future Temple site, "Old Tab" still in Gibeon? Isa 16.5, - Amos 9.11,12 Tab fell down

ARK

[Ark was not always in the Tabernacle]

Crossed Jordan, Josh 4.16
Jericho, Josh 6.13
Gilgal, yes, 7 yrs, Josh 4.19
Shiloh, taken by Saul to battle, I Sam 4.3
Philistia, 7 mos, captured by Philistines, I Sam 4.22 came back on cart, I Sam 5.6,7
Beth-Shemesh, 20 yr, without Tab? I Sam 6.13-16, prior to Saul's kingship
Kiriath-jearim, without Tab, I Sam 6.24, 7.1,2 prior to Saul's kingship??, II Chron 21.29 [1-29], Abinadab's house
Nob, [with Tab ?], I Sam 21.1-6
Gibeon, [with Tab ?]
Toward Jerusalem, II Sam 24.25, Uzzah, I Chron 13.5-14, moved to Obed-Edom's house
Obed-Edom's house, II Sam 6.10,11, at Gath-Rimmon, 3 mos.
Jerusalem, II Sam 24.25, David builds Tab, II Sam 6.2-17
Jerusalem, Solomon builds Temple, he retrieves Tab furniture (?) from Gibeon I Kgs 8.4

Estimate

- 24 men could erect the Tabernacle in one morning.
- Wood = 3,000 lbs
- Metal = 1,400 lbs
- 4 layers of coverings
- 6 carts could carry all the materials, Num 7.1-9

SHILOH

Talmud says the Tab rested in Shiloh for 369 years

- 20 miles from Samuel's hometown of Ramah, 30+ miles NNW of Jerusalem.
- Talmud states that the Tabernacle stayed at Shiloh for 369 year, and that it was destroyed along with the town after the Ark was captured by the Philistines. I Sam 3.2 Joshua 18.1
- The Tabernacle's possible abandonment seems to be alluded to in Jeremiah 7.1,12-15 as well as Psalm 8.58-60.
- Heb 9.4,5 speaks of the Ark as though it still existed in Jerusalem in 64 AD.
- Rabbinic folklore of the "empty Holy of Holies" seems to have started with Tacitus' writing in 230 AD speaking of Pompey's destruction of the Temple. Maybe Pompey lies.
- Last mention of Ark, II Chr 35.3, Josiah 36.19 "destroyed all its valuable articles"

JERUSALEM

The Ark resides in David's Tabernacle until Solomon finishes the Temple.

- 30 years after Shiloh lost the Ark David goes to Nob for shewbread [from the table in Holy Place]. I Sam 21.1-6
- A functional reassembled Tab later appears at Gibeon [I Chron 16.39,40].
- Furthermore, David pitches a tent for the Ark and builds a [sacrificial] altar at Ornan's floor. Since Ornan is a Jebusite, many have assumed he also lived in Jebus [i.e. Jerusalem].
- David brings the Ark to Jerusalem & pitches the Tabernacle [tent, KJV] there, probably with new furniture. *pjm*
* II Chron 1.3,4 "David had prepared in the threshing floor of Ornan [also called Araunah, II Sam 24.18] the Jebusite"
* I Chron 21.26,28 "David built altar [at Ornan's farm] and [God] answered by fire upon the altar of burnt offering."
* see also: II Sam 3.7 I Chron 15.1,26 II Sam 24.25
- Solomon goes to Gibeon and offers 1,000 sacrifices on [idolatrous?] high places. I Kgs 3.4
- Solomon eventually brings the tent and its furniture (?) from Gibeon to Jerusalem, I Kgs 8.4.
* Solomon's "silence ordinance" upon the building of the Temple was most certainly due to the fact that the Tabernacle had already stood on the same spot where Sol chose for the Temple. *pjm*
- It seems that Ezra would have constructed a new Ark to go in the new Temple, if necessary, though it is not recorded in Scripture. There is a myth that the Ark was "lost" or destroyed. II Chron 12.9 = last mention Ezek 7.14 Ark is among "gold...articles" Neb took. Jer 2.17ff
- Dr. Gary Cohen postulates that the large space above the Holy of Holies in Solomon's Temple may have been the resting place of the old Tabernacle. It certainly seems large enough.
- The "tent of meeting" [often called a Tabernacle, KJV] was Moses' Oval Office, and was set up prior to the construction of the Tabernacle and was located "outside the camp." The cloud hovered over it while Moses was inside. Exod 33.7,9
* Anyone "inquiring of the Lord" could go into this tent of meeting outside the camp. They sometimes stored stuff in it. It seems Joshua slept in it sometimes.

Rope around High Priest's leg has no support in rabbinic literature. Myth originated after destruction of the Temple.

