



Biblical Lit Egyptian Period

Mark Fredette Study Questions



The Ark of the Covenant

has been one of the most mysterious elements of Jewish and Old Testament history. It is not mentioned in the Bible after the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonian conquerors some 587 years before Christ's birth. It was not in the Temple in Jesus' time. Modern archaeologists have found the foundation stone which held the Ark in place where the Holy of Holies once stood (the inner most and most sacred part of the Temple.) There are grooves cut into this stone that once held kept the Ark secure. This stone is protected by a Moslem Mosque, called the "Dome of the Rock." The dimensions of the carved grooves match exactly the dimensions of the Ark; there is little doubt it once rested there. A look at a few passages of the Bible and, perhaps, a mouse click or two will help catch you up to "Indiana Jones" level of expertise. Where is the Ark?

Exodus 37:

1. What are its dimensions? Note: a "cubit" is approximately 18'
2. What materials was it made from? (Note the word "*Propitiatory*" = "*Throne*.")
3. How was it to be carried?

Exodus 40

1. What was kept inside the Ark?
2. What covered the "meeting tent" where the Ark was?

1 Samuel 5

What happened to the Philistines when they captured it? (Note: "Dagon" is a Philistine Idol)

1 Kings 6 : 14-24

How was the Ark housed and who built the place for the Ark?

2 Maccabees 2

1. Who hid the Ark and where did he hide it?

Where is the Ark today? (From Lecture and Film)

Explain each of the following theories and what is wrong with it?

1. The Shishak theory

2. The Babylonian Booty theory

3. The Temple Mount theory.

Finally, explain how, when and why the Ark went from Jerusalem to Axum (Aksum) in Ethiopia.