

Intro

~ The ark of the covenant of the Lord is referenced 12 times in 1 Samuel 4. In this chapter we've seen the ark captured by the Philistines. The ark serves as a visible spectacle for the people to relate to the Lord. It becomes a conscience per se for the people. The tabernacle was in the center of the formation of the people. There's symbolism in all of the articles of the tabernacle. The tabernacle was about maintaining Israel's fellowship with God

~ The word Shiloh means rest and tranquility. How fitting as the ark which represent fellowship with God is resting in a place of rest. Christ is our ultimate rest. The use of it in Genesis 49:10 is a reference to Christ as Messiah.

~ Shiloh was the name given to the Messiah in dying Jacob's prophecy (John Wesley)

~ It was twenty or twenty-five miles north of Jerusalem, twelve north of Beth-el, and ten south of Shechem. It remained in Shiloh for more than three hundred years (1Sa_4:1-11)

~ The tabernacle would be there for about 300 years until it's taken in 1 Samuel 4

~ We've seen in 1 Samuel 4 the ark of the covenant of the Lord treated as a "good luck charm" because Israel failed in their fellowship with God. The ark was in Shiloh before it was taken. This gives the jumping off point to consider

The ark in Shiloh teaches us different things about fellowship

There's Four Examples from the Ark in Shiloh

1 A Fellowship Rest (Gen 49:10)

2 A Fellowship Centered (Joshua 18:1)

3 A Fellowship Failure (1 Samuel 4)

4 A Fellowship Warning (Jeremiah 7:9-16; 26:6-9)

Body**1 A Fellowship Rest (Gen 49:10)**

Genesis 49:8-10 Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. 9 Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? 10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

- The first reference is in Genesis 49:10 and it's a fulfillment of Joshua 18:1
- The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord was set up in Gilgal before it was moved to Shiloh
- Context here is Jacob blessing his sons before he dies
- Jesus comes through the line of Judah
 - Matt 1:2,3 Matthew's genealogy
 - Rev 5:5 Jesus is the lion of the tribe of Judah
- The word Shiloh means rest but it can also mean Messiah as the reference here is to a one with a scepter, a lawgiver and the Messiah who will gather people to himself
- Shiloh is a fellowship of rest
- Christ is our resting place
- *Matt 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*
- *Mat 11:30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*
- Do we need rest in this difficult, weary and exhausting world? Christ is the rest our soul needs
- Shiloh – a fellowship of rest

2 A Fellowship Centered (Joshua 18:1)

Joshua 18:1 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them.

~ It was moved to Shiloh. Shiloh was the center of the Promised Land. Being in the center of the Promised Land it illustrates that the worship of the Lord should be the center of our life

~ "Its choice as the national sanctuary may indeed have been determined by Joshua, no doubt under divine direction (Deut 12:11), because of its insignificance, in order to avoid local jealousies, as well as because of its position in the very center of the whole land, and perhaps also because of its seclusion. Its very name ("rest") was probably bestowed at this juncture when God had given the people rest from their enemies." (Barnes)

~ The fundamental importance of the sanctuary is illustrated by its central position among the tribes (in the central hill country) and by its position in the midst of the allotments of Joshua 13-21. Christians are also called upon to see the worship of God as central to their lives

~ Shiloh was in the center of the Promised Land. Centrally located for all the tribes to come to for worship

~ This speaks to the importance of God, his word and worshipping him being at the center of our lives

~ We know the Lord is our priority but we must safeguard that

~ There's a bird in New Guinea called Carola Parotia. The male has to go through a series of dances to attract a mate. This show we were watching showed the male doing his dance to attract a female Carola. In the course of his dance with a female watching a number of male birds start coming near and it's almost a distraction for the male Carola but he goes and picks up a leaf (it must be a custom) and he brings it to the center of the court where he does his dance and all the other male birds leave. The male Carola continued his dance and wins the female because he was focused

~ There's many distractions to our affection for Christ – we have to tune them out

~ *Col 3:1,2 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.*

- Affections = thinking and interests

3 A Fellowship Failure (1 Samuel 4)

~ The ark was taken by the Philistines in Shiloh (1 Sam 4) because Israel neglected the God of the ark and as a sign they treated the ark as a "good luck" charm

~ The ark is taken because there was a failure of fellowship

~ Fellowship became formal, forsaken, and forgotten

~ Jeremiah references the a look back at the Ark being taken away in Shiloh (Jer 7:9-16; 26:6-9)

~ This is to serve as a reminder to the Israel as to what neglecting fellowship with God costs

4 A Fellowship Warning (Jeremiah 7:9-16; 26:6-9)

~ The ark referenced here in Jeremiah is an example

~ Jeremiah references the a look back at the Ark being taken away in Shiloh (Jer 7:9-16; 26:6-9)

~ Contextually in Jeremiah, Jeremiah warned Israel to return to the Lord

~ Jeremiah warns Israel that if they don't heed the word of God and stop worshipping false idols God would make Solomon's temple disappear just as he did the ark in Shiloh

Jer 7:9-15 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; 10 And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? 11 Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD. 12 But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel. 13 And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; 14 Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. 15 And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim.

- In Jer 7:1-9 Jeremiah stands in the gate of the Lord's house and warns the people to turn from their wickedness. If they won't turn the Lord invites them to go back to Shiloh and see what God did to it for the people's wickedness (v12)
- V14 – the Lord will do to Solomon's temple the same as he did to Shiloh

Jer 26:4-11 And thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; If ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you, 5 To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending them, but ye have not hearkened; 6 Then will I make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth. 7 So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. 8 Now it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die. 9 Why hast thou prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate without an inhabitant? And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. 10 When the princes of Judah heard these things, then they came up from the king's house unto the house of the LORD, and sat down in the entry of the new gate of the LORD'S house. 11 Then spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, This man is worthy to die; for he hath prophesied against this city, as ye have heard with your ears.

- In the reign of Jehoakim Jeremiah was to go to the house of the Lord when the people come to worship Jeremiah is to give a warning message to the people. If the people won't hearken and walk in the law of God then the Lord will do to Solomon's temple as he did to the temple in Shiloh
- The people then gathered against Jeremiah for prophesying against the people. The priests and prophets said Jeremiah should be put to death

Conclusion

~ Rom15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

~ 1 Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

~ The O.T. serves as an example to us in the N.T.

~ Ps 78:58-61 For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images. 59 When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel: 60 So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men; 61 And delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy's hand.

- Here the Lord forsook his tabernacle because of Israel's disobedience and worship of idols
- The Lord was jealous for fellowship with his people

~ 1 Cor 1:9 – we've been called to the fellowship of the Lord Jesus Christ

~ Fellowship is the key to maintaining a healthy relationship with the Lord

~ What do we do with the opportunities to fellowship?

~ Rev 3:20 (to the church of Laodicea) Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me

~ This is a fellowship passage

~ Let's go forth in fellowship with our creator and savior

- 1 It's a place of fellowship that points to the Messiah (Gen 49:10)
- 2 It's the center of worship (Joshua 18:1)
- 3 It's a failure of fellowship because Israel's fellowship became formal, forsaken and forgotten (1 Samuel 4)
- 4 It serves as a warning and example (Jer 7 and 26)

"For the Christian, the establishment of a sanctuary and centre at Shiloh testifies to how God fulfils his promises. God has given his people the blessing of his presence among them. They must respond in obedience by occupying the land and living according to the divine covenant. The fundamental importance of the sanctuary is illustrated by its central position among the tribes (in the central hill country) and by its position in the midst of the allotments of Joshua 13-21. Christians are also called upon to see the worship of God as central to their lives."

JFB – "It was twenty or twenty-five miles north of Jerusalem, twelve north of Beth-el, and ten south of Shechem, and embosomed in a rugged and romantic glen. This sequestered spot in the heart of the country might have been recommended by the dictates of convenience. There the allotment of the territory could be most conveniently made, north, south, east, and west, to the different tribes. But "the tabernacle of the congregation was also set up there," and its removal therefore must have been made or sanctioned by divine intimation (Deu_12:11). It remained in Shiloh for more than three hundred years (1Sa_4:1-11). "

Barnes – "Its choice as the national sanctuary may indeed have been determined by Joshua, no doubt under divine direction Deu_12:11, because of its insignificance, in order to avoid local jealousies, as well as because of its position in the very center of the whole land, and perhaps also because of its seclusion. Its very name ("rest") was probably bestowed at this juncture when God had given the people rest from their enemies. The tabernacle with its contents continued at Shiloh during the whole period of the Judges, until its capture by the Philistines. Shiloh 1Sa_4:3-4 seems to have fallen into desolation at an early date Jer_7:12; Jer_26:6."

Wesley – "Set up the tabernacle - By God's appointment. It was removed from Gilgal, partly for the honour and conveniency of Joshua, that he being of the tribe of Ephraim, and seating himself there, might have the opportunity of consulting with God as often as he needed; and partly for the conveniency of all the tribes, that being in the center of them, they might more easily resort to it from all places. Here the tabernacle continued for above three hundred years, even 'till Samuel's days, 1Sa 1:3. Shiloh was the name given to the Messiah in dying Jacob's prophecy."

The point of the ark in Shiloh:

- 1 A rest of fellowship (Gen 49:10)
- 2 A Center of fellowship (Joshua 1:8)
- 3 A failure of fellowship (1 Samuel 4)
- 4 A warning of fellowship (Jeremiah 6 and 26)

Summary of the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord in Shiloh

- 1 The first reference is in Genesis 49:10 and it's a fulfillment of this verse
- 2 The second reference is in Joshua 18:1
- 3 The Ark of the Covenant of the Lord was set up in Gilgal before it was moved to Shiloh
- 4 It was moved to Shiloh. Shiloh was the center of the Promised Land. Being in the center of the Promised land it illustrates that the worship of the Lord should be the center of our life
- 5 This is a fulfillment of Gen 49:10

6 The word Shiloh means rest and tranquility. How fitting as the ark which represent fellowship with God is resting in a place of rest. Christ is our ultimate rest. The use of it in Genesis 49:10 is a reference to Christ as Messiah.

- Shiloh was the name given to the Messiah in dying Jacob's prophecy (John Wesley)
- It was twenty or twenty-five miles north of Jerusalem, twelve north of Beth-el, and ten south of Shechem. It remained in Shiloh for more than three hundred years (1Sa_4:1-11)

7 The tabernacle would be there for about 300 years until it's taken in 1 Samuel 4

8 Another key reference is in Jeremiah 7:12-14 and 26:6-9