

Zahakiel: Let's begin. Pastor, please offer an opening prayer.

Pastor Chick: Dear Heavenly Father. We come before You for this sacred refreshing and praying for Your Spirit to teach us what we need individually. In Yahshua's holy name, Amen.

Zahakiel: Happy Sabbath to everyone.

I am calling this study "Covered in Gold." If you have been to the CSDA Ministry Facebook page recently, you may have noticed a couple of images that Giselle has posted: a re-make of the Church seal, and the Ark of the Covenant. I have been working on some projects with a 3D graphical creation program, and I put together those models a few days ago, as well as the 2300 day prophecy key that I posted earlier today. These were made to update the diagrams in some of my articles on Binary Angel, and for any other use that they might serve. While working on the Ark model, I wanted to get the relative proportions right, and so I looked up the verses in Exodus that describe it, and something struck me that I am actually surprised that I never noticed before. Here is the passage... It is a lengthy one, but important to the observation I wish to discuss:

"And they shall make an ark of shittim wood. Two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof, and a cubit and a half the height thereof. And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, within and without shalt thou overlay it, and shalt make upon it a crown of gold round about. And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. The staves shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee. And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold. Two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. And thou shalt make two cherubim 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 cherubim on the two ends thereof. And the cherubim 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 cherubim be. And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee." (Exo 25:10-21)



Pastor Chick: F

Lucan: F

Naraiel: F

nat bailey: F

Adriel777: F

Peter_Jr_18: F

Barb: F

daphna dee: F

Elyna: F

Zahakiel: Leaving the stones on which the Law was written aside for the moment, we find that the Ark was constructed of only two kinds of components. Looking at this sacred object it would outwardly appear to be uniform in material; however, each part was made of either pure gold, or wood covered in gold. We know, of course, what gold symbolizes in the Scriptures. It represents purity, royalty and faith. It represents the end-result of sanctification, perfection and character of the highest value. It is therefore the most fitting metal for the world's most sacred object.

We also know that the decision to make certain parts of the Ark from wood, and not pure gold, was not the result of any practical considerations. By this I mean that wood was not used in order to save on the amount of gold required, for we know that it was based on a perfectly designed pattern for which Yah would have provided whatsoever material was needed. In fact He did so, for we read, "But every woman shall borrow of her neighbor, and of her that sojourneth in her house, jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment. And ye shall put them upon your sons, and upon your daughters; and ye shall spoil the Egyptians." (Exo 3:22)

At the beginning of their journey into the wilderness, the Israelites were instructed to take as much gold and other precious materials as they could carry. When it came time to actually create the items of the tabernacle we read, "And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold; and every man that offered, offered an offering of gold unto Yahweh." (Exo 35:22)

"And Moses gave commandment, and they caused it to be proclaimed throughout the camp, saying, 'Let neither man nor woman make any more work for the offering of the sanctuary.' So the people were restrained from bringing, for the stuff they had was sufficient for all the work to make it, and too much." (Exo 36:6, 7)

In addition, when the Children of Israel were camped at the foot of Sinai, they had enough gold remaining to them that they were able to cast an entire idol, the golden calf...

Quite a study could be made, and I am sure it has been, about the willingness with which the Israelites contributed their worldly goods to the construction of Yah's sacred items. The Chosen People were traveling through a wilderness in which material possessions would do them little good (for Yah supplied all their needs) and the people eagerly surrendered what they had brought from Egypt in order to glorify the Creator's name.

We might find many parallels here that would apply currently. The point tonight, though, is that gold was in no short supply for the travelers, and had Yah wished the entire ark to be made of pure gold all the way through and in every particular, this would have been an easy requirement to fulfill. Why, then, was wood used in the construction of certain parts? Let us briefly consider what was made of what.

From the passage above, we note that the following were made of pure gold: the crown at the top of the ark, four rings, the mercy seat and the cherubim. The following were made of wood, and then covered in gold: the main body of the ark itself, and the poles used to transport the ark when the tabernacle was to be moved.

It should take no great insight to realize why the pure-gold items were made without any other material. They represent pure, spiritual concepts. The angels are spirit, and the crown represents Yah's sovereignty. The mercy seat is the glory of Yah that "covers" the Law and shows the power of forgiveness that leads to atonement. The rings were used to allow the poles to carry the ark, the place at which the divine touches the earthly and human.

Consider, then, the wooden items. They were covered in gold. Outwardly, they look no different than the purely spiritual components, and yet they are of this earth.

They are grown, and they have lines and dark spots that (while they cannot be seen) exist beneath the gold that forms their perfect appearance, or we might say, their perfect testimony. Yahshua says that the Kingdom of His Father "is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof." (Mat 13:31, 32)

We have described faith according to another parable: "For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear." (Mark 4:28)

The course of sanctification is like the growth of a plant; it begins with a single seed, and grows into a mighty tree. Along the way, however, it gets twists. It gets knots, and sometimes branches grow out at strange angles. Yah calls His people Israel a vine, one that He protects, and keeps, and dresses and, at times, prunes. The correction of Yah keeps us growing "straight;" however, the process may leave scars and marks. Pastor "Chick" has spoken at times of a dream in which the sanctification of Yah was represented to him as a careful surgery – a sharp knife removing bruised spots from a peeled banana. Even the finest wood has lines and marks. This actually contributes to its unique beauty; however, the ark was designed to serve as a representation of Yah's presence in the world, and must have no marks of imperfection.

What we find, then, is that human growth, and the process of developing character, makes us the right "shape" to serve in the Eternal Kingdom – however, no matter how pure and refined, flesh and blood alone cannot inherit the Kingdom of Yah. Even the most sanctified must be "changed" before they can enter the Kingdom. We know that Enoch, Elijah and others, along with the 144,000 have or will have perfected character in this life; however, when they are taken they are transformed. Paul writes, "...the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." (1 Cor 15:52) In the next verse he writes, "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." (1 Cor 15:53)

In that day, the perfectly shaped wood, our character, will "put on" the perfection of the spirit, and our faith will be made manifest in a visible way. This will be the new bodies we

possess, those that are perfect and spiritual. By faith we have this golden covering now, and all of its blessings and benefits, and await only the outward manifestation of this shining spiritual surface. However, whether we consider the future manifestation or the current spiritual reality, it is noteworthy that the shape, the character, is not changed by this transformation, and this is critical to our understanding.

The gold is a cover; it is a "reward" or "result" so that the testimony to the universe is of pure, spiritual perfection, indistinguishable from the cherubim, the crown, the rings and the mercy seat. Nevertheless, if the wood had not first been grown and then carved into the right shape, it could not be used; covering it with gold would not make a misshapen ark, or gnarled wooden poles, any more suitable to represent Yah's glory.

Those who believe that when Yahshua returns, then their characters will be perfected, err greatly. They believe they can take a twisted stick and, by pouring gold over it, be made suitable for bearing the Ark. They believe they can take a cracked and bent box and, by covering it with gold, hold the Law as a good testimony to the universe of the Father's divinity. They greatly err. The workman first takes the wood and, through a combined process of growth, carving, and scraping, creates the ark and the poles. Then, when they are perfect, the gold finishes the testimony.

Jeremiah says that the redemption of property, in this case human destiny, requires two deeds: an open deed and a sealed deed. We have said that we are like the open deed, which is then placed in vessels of clay that it may last a long time. (Jer. 32) Yah says through the same prophet that He will place the Law in our hearts. (Jer. 31:33)

We see, then, that in a sense we are the Ark of the Covenant in this generation, holding the Law, and giving a testimony of Yah's glory to the world. We are the evidence of Yah's salvation, covered by His mercy, subject to His authority, and attended by angels. All the pure-gold elements of the Ark are upon us, even though we ourselves were "grown," not created in the right shape initially (for all have sinned and come short). We are evangelists by Yah's grace, but also our own efforts in His service, willingly offering our time, talents, and so on for His glory (the wooden poles in rings of gold).

When the people of the world see us, shaped by our experiences, Yah does not invite them to reflect on the twists, the knots, and the dark lines. We read, "And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am Yahweh your God, and none else; and my people shall never be ashamed." (Joel 2:27)

Because of the glory of Yah, His people shall never be ashamed. We have all had experiences in this world that have left their mark on us; we have lines that show where we have been shaped and scraped. And yet, because of our faith, the "gold" that Yah has

poured on us, and because He has revealed His glory over us, the world shall see this testimony.

Let none say, "I am not enough" to be the testimony of Yah to the world. Let none say, "I am ashamed of my past," or "I do not know how to reflect the light of Heaven while carrying the Law within." All that matters is our "shape," our character, our willingness to give ourselves to the work of our Father... to show Him to the world, and He will cover us with His gold, He will cause our faith to be manifest as His glory, so that their spiritual eyes will see no difference between us and the very angels of Heaven. Let the world behold the glory of Yah in His people in this generation.

Adriel777: Amen!

Zahakiel: Those that love us do so because they see the bright beauty of the Father and Son. Those that hate us do so because their own hearts are turned to darkness, and they cannot love either the Law that we carry or the faith that causes us to shine. But none shall turn from Heaven because of the wood that lies under the covering of gold; none that truly hunger and thirst after righteousness will be offended by the messengers, for if they truly seek the Kingdom, the message itself will capture their hearts, and lead them to worship the Savior in His Sanctuary, before His most Holy Place.

May we bear the Law proudly, and shine in the light of Yah's glory, that the people will come, and know the Father and Son, and worship, and receive from Them an everlasting life.

Are there any questions or comments about tonight's study?

Lucan: Q

Zahakiel: Go ahead.

Adriel777: C

Lucan: I notice that some elements are described as "gold," whereas others are "pure gold..." I expect there is some practicality there, given the softness of pure gold and the need for stability when moving a heavy object. I wonder what the spiritual applications of the difference, if any, might be. <End.>

Zahakiel: The two items that specifically use the phrase "pure gold" are the overlay of the body of the ark and the mercy seat. These are in a sense the two most significant portions of the object, the first to hold the law, and the second to represent mercy. They are the "point" of the visual display, and so they would be made of the most precious metal.

Go ahead, Jody.

Adriel777: Beautiful Study. Pastor had shared the picture you created on FB, but I didn't realize that you had made it. Very nice. End.

Pastor Chick: (That was not David's.)

Zahakiel: I have a few more projects in mind, and I will put them on the Ministry page. If you're working on any documentation yourselves, feel free to make use of them.

Adriel777: (Oh)

Zahakiel: I am not sure which ones pastor is sharing, but the ones I made will be posted on the CSDA Ministry page. Are there any others with thoughts to share?

Adriel777: (ok)

Zahakiel: The ones I "make" in the future, I mean. The ones I made are already there. If there are none others, then, I will ask Bro. Luke to offer a closing prayer.

Lucan: Dear heavenly Father. We are thankful that you have covered us in the perfect righteousness of Yahshua before the watching universe. More than this, we are thankful for the perfect righteousness of Yahshua formed within us. As you have cleansed our cups from within, may that which is without also shine in perfect harmony with your Law and Mercy. In Yahshua's name we pray, amen.

Zahakiel: Amen.

Pastor Chick: Amen.

Adriel777: Amen

nat bailey: Amen.

Peter_Jr_18: Amen.

Barb: Amen

daphna dee: Amen

Elyna: Amen.