



# Welcome To The Killeen Church of Christ!

*"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."-Ecclesiastes 12:13*



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***SHEPHERDS***

*Lee Fisher  
Zachary Petties*

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***DEACONS***

*Roger Deem  
Paul Portley  
Gaylen Williams*

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***PREACHER***

*Phil McIntosh*

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***TREASURER***

*Gaylen Williams*

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***MONTHLY SUPPORT:***

*Cherokee Home  
For Children  
Cherokee, TX*

*Christian Homes &  
Family Services  
Abilene, TX*

*Foster's Home  
For Children  
Stephenville, TX*

*Sunny Glen  
Children's Home  
San Benito, TX*

**SERVICE SCHEDULE**

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS - 9:30 AM  
SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30 AM  
WEDNESDAY - 7:00 PM



## Where is the Ark?

By Phil McIntosh

One of the more mysterious and fascinating artifacts discussed in scripture is the Ark of the Covenant. I doubt there are many individuals who have not heard of this gold-covered box. Whether it is from reading their Bible, hearing about it in a Near Eastern history class, or merely from the Indiana Jones movie, surely an overwhelming majority of people have at least *heard of* the Ark. Many might be interested to learn the details of its lifespan and location. I am convinced that, if the world knew where it was, mass hysteria would ensue, with inordinate and improper attention being directed toward this ancient vessel. But I'm getting ahead of myself, more on that later.

No doubt Christians are aware of the Ark of the Covenant and likely are interested in a multitude of aspects related to its history, meaning, and location. The Bible reveals a great deal in regard to what it looked like, its importance, its resting place during the Israelite inhabitation of the land of Canaan, and how it was to be treated. God's faithful servant, Moses, was given specific instructions as to how to construct and cover it; the specifics of which are recorded in the book of Exodus. The dimensions for the Ark were as follows (**Ex. 25:10-20**): 2.5 cubits long (approx. 3 feet, 9 inches), 1.5 cubits wide (approx. 2 feet, 3 inches), and 1.5 cubits high (approx. 2 feet, 3 inches). It was to be made of a specific type of wood (acacia), it was to be made with a ring in each corner for it to be carried (only by the Levites), and it was to have a mercy seat placed on its top, with cherubim adorning it. Furthermore, the importance of the Ark was related to Israel as the resting place for God's commandments (**Ex. 25:21**) and as the place where the presence of God would converse with man (**Ex. 25:22**).

The children of Israel held the Ark in great respect. They knew it represented the presence of God. Even people who weren't God's nation understood the power associated with the Ark (**1 Sam. 4:5-9**). Did you know that the Ark didn't always live with the Israelites? In fact, the Philistines captured and stole the Ark of the Covenant; though they quickly regretted it, as God inflicted great judgement upon them while it was in their possession (**1 Sam. 5:6-9**). God's Ark was again disrespected, but this time by His own people, when, in the process of bringing it back into their possession, someone unauthorized reached out and touched the Ark, resulting in his immediate death (**2 Sam. 6:6-8**). Between the time of the Philistines' capturing of the Ark and David's eventual accomplishment of its return, there was a period of at least twenty years where the Ark was not with God's people (**1 Sam. 7:2**). That did not mark the end of the Ark's story. Although it was returned to the midst of God's people, it did not stay there permanently. So where did it go? What happened to it? Something so marvelous and bathed in the majesty of God's communion with His people cannot simply go missing, can it?

The story of the Ark's travel and final resting place is under great debate. There have been a wide variety of opinions, conjecture, assumptions, and educated guesses through the years as to where the Ark of the Covenant is today. Since there is no mention of it following the captivity of the Southern Kingdom (Judah), it is assumed that, at the latest, King Nebuchadnezzar stole it when Jerusalem was conquered in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. Some have suggested that it was taken by Pharaoh Shishak during the reign of Solomon's son, Rehoboam. Some have suggested an illicit relationship between a king and a queen, which resulted in the birth of an illegitimate

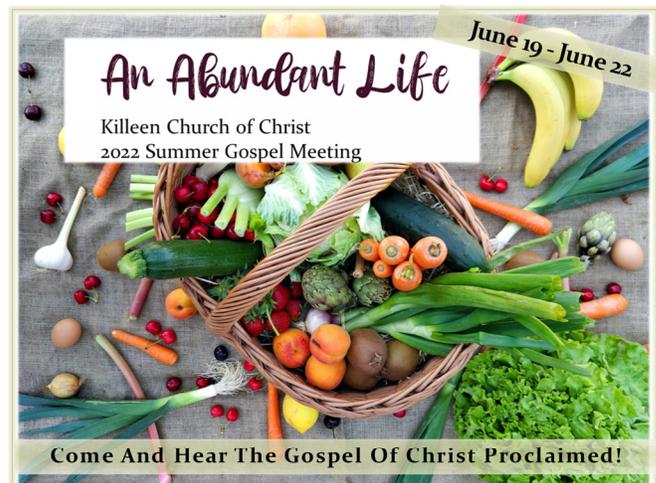
child who eventually returned and stole the Ark, then deposited it into Ethiopia. The best and simplest answer is that mankind does not presently know, with any certainty whatsoever, the true location of the Ark of the Covenant or the story as to how it got wherever it is. Count me in the group who thinks that is a positive and permanent reality.

Mankind has worshipped idols for millennia. Mankind has exhibited a proclivity to see hints or representations of God (or what they think of as being a god) in a variety of receptacles and objects in this world. Man has worshipped celestial bodies, terrestrial creations, at shrines, at tombs, and at the feet of those who claim to be closer to God than others. Some even claim they have even “seen” images of God in things like trees, windows, and tortillas (yes, tortillas)! While some of this may seem far-fetched, mankind’s propensity to worship things other than Jehovah God is well documented. The Bible tells of an event when people took something that was made to extend the grace and power of God toward His people, and they eventually turned that inanimate object into an idol. In **2 Kings 18:4-5**, we read of Hezekiah’s destruction of idols. Included in that group of foul creations was the bronze serpent which God had, hundreds of years prior, instructed Moses to make for the people who sinned, so they could gaze upon it and be healed (**Num. 21:9**). No human being could convince me that, if the Ark of the Covenant were to be found today, it would immediately become an immeasurably fierce fascination of the world and an object for millions to worship. The dangerous possibility of worshipping the Ark of the Covenant is not the only reason why it is a positive that we do not know its whereabouts.

One grand reason is...we don’t need it. Not that one at least.

Let me suggest to you an alternate way to think about the Ark. Perhaps we can view the Ark through the lenses of typology and connect the OT and the NT. The importance of the Ark was to hold certain things God commanded it to hold, and to serve as a representation of His presence among men. As per the contents, the Hebrews writer said it contained the “golden pot of manna, Aaron’s rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant” (**Hebrews 9:4**). Therefore, the Ark of the Covenant housed a rod to lead and guide, food to nourish

and give life, and instructions that came directly from God. Where might one possibly find such today? Jesus is the Word of God, come down from Heaven to become flesh, God among us, instructing us in the way of salvation and delivering to us the words of God (**Jn. 1:1-3, 14; 6:68; 12:48-50**). Jesus is the “bread of life” which can give man a sustenance and life found nowhere else (**Jn. 6:33-51; Matt. 4:4**). Jesus is the Great Shepherd who leads us in the paths of righteousness and directs our way into the will of God (**Matt. 7:21; Jn. 8:31-32; 10:11, 16**). All the contents of the ancient Ark of the Covenant, along with the incomparable importance of God’s presence being announced as abiding with man, exists in Jesus (**1 Jn. 3:24; Jn. 14:23**). Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end (**Rev. 22:13**). He is the fullness of all that God ever wanted to provide for us and offer to us. Through such a textual journey, Jesus could be viewed as having a wonderful correlation to the Ark, that ancient construction that housed God’s law and presence, perhaps pointing toward the ultimate object of God’s presence to be adored, His Son.



#### Scheduled Speakers

- Sunday, June 19, 9:30 A.M. - "Reinforce My Foundation"  
- Cody Westbrook
- 10:30 A.M. - "Restore My Spirit" - Cody Westbrook
- Monday, June 20, 7:00 P.M. - "There’s Nothing Wrong With My Church"- John Haffner
- Tuesday, June 21, 7:00 P.M. - "What Is Truth"  
- Al Washington
- Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 P.M. - "Blueprint for Church Growth" - Patrick Hammack

# YOUTH DEVOTIONAL

Join us at the Youth Devotional today, at 5:00 pm, in the fellowship hall. Please bring hotdogs & fixins', potato salad, watermelon, & desserts. Following the devotional, there will be a kickball game in the back field behind the fellowship hall.

**JOIN US!**  
**P.E.P. NIGHT**  
 HOLY BIBLE  
 (Personal Evangelism & Pizza)

Our next P.E.P. Night is May 20th, at 6:00 pm, in the fellowship hall. No money is needed for this month. Thanks!

### MAY CLEANING CALENDAR

- May be done any time before the next Sunday.
- Please consult with your team leader for further questions.

**THANK YOU!**

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| <b>April 24-TEAM LEE</b><br>Lee<br>Natalie<br>Rufus<br>Derek<br>Ken<br>Tim<br><br><b>May 1-TEAM ZACK</b><br>Zack<br>Amanda<br>Diedre<br>Paul<br>Rubye<br><br><b>8-TEAM ROGER</b><br>Patrick<br>Brenda<br>Roger<br>Linda | <b>15-TEAM JAMES S.</b><br>Kim-Marie<br>Xavier<br>Jaden<br>Kingsford<br><br><b>22-TEAM PHIL</b><br>Michelle<br>Beverly<br>Donna<br>Josephine<br>Yvonne<br>Lois<br>Marcella<br><br><b>29-TEAM LEE</b><br>Lee<br>Natalie<br>Rufus<br>Derek<br>Ken<br>Tim |
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### ORDER OF SERVICE

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022:

- ◆ ANNOUNCEMENTS: ANDRÉ PETTAWAY
- ◆ 1ST PRAYER: GAYLEN WILLIAMS
- ◆ SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ◆ SCRIPTURE READING: BILL RAWLINGS
- ◆ SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ◆ SERMON: JON MCCORMACK
- ◆ INVITATION SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ◆ SONG BEFORE COMMUNION: REGGIE BASS
- ◆ COMMUNION: TIM MATTER & KINGSFORD ASARE
- ◆ SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ◆ OFFERING: TIM MATTER & KINGSFORD ASARE
- ◆ CLOSING SONG: REGGIE BASS
- ◆ CLOSING PRAYER: SCOTT DAVIS
- ◆ AUDIO/VISUAL: PATRICK SELLERS
- ◆ SECURITY: RUFUS BROWN & ROGER DEEM

### SCRIPTURE READING

**Nehemiah 8:8**

*“<sup>8</sup> So they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading.”*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAYS BIRTHDAY!**

- 2 - PATRICK SELLERS
- 14 - MICHAEL ROGERS
- 23 - GWEN MATTHEWS
- 24 - WILLARD JACK DUNN
- 24 - ROYAL WILLIAMS

