

The School of Biblical Law

Introduction to Law and Grace

Lesson Eight: “God’s Testimony in The Ten Commandments”

God brings forth a testimony or a witness of Himself, His throne, and His ways to man to reveal the eternal realm. The Hebrew word for testimony is *eduwth* (Strong’s #5715), meaning a witness, recorder, to duplicate or repeat.

The five things found in the earthly witness are: (#1) The manifest presence of God’s glory, (#2) Communion, (#3) Source of Life, (#4) Law and Judgment, and (#5) Covenantal Agents.

1. The Ten Commandments were called tablets of Testimony. “And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God” (Ex. 31:18). (also referred to as tablets of Testimony in Ex. 32:15)
2. These tablets of Testimony (The Law) were placed within the Ark. “And thou shalt put into the ark the testimony which I shall give thee. **17** 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. **18** And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. **19** 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 cherubims on the two ends thereof. **20** And the cherubims 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 cherubims be. **21** 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. **22** And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel. (Ex. 25:16-22)

The Ark began to be called the Ark of Testimony (verse 22).

The Ark was God’s Earth-Throne where He manifested His presence (#1).

At God’s Earth-Throne, God declared He would commune with man (#2).

- Meet (*ya’ad*) – to summon, to engage, to gather and assemble
- Commune (*dabar*) – to speak, answer, declare, promise, pronounce

From His Earth-Throne, God would dispense mercy (#3) and judgment (#4).

Sculpted golden angels were positioned to cover the mercy (#5).

3. The Ark was placed inside the Tabernacle of Moses (Ex. 40:20-21), which was called the Tabernacle of Testimony. “This is the sum of the tabernacle, even of the Tabernacle of Testimony, as it was counted, according to the commandment of Moses, for the service of the Levites, by the hand of Ithamar, son to Aaron the priest” (Ex. 38:21)

In the Law, which was placed in the Ark that was placed in the Tabernacle, was a witness to the heavenly patterns: God’s presence and glory, His meeting place, His mercy and judgment, and His covenantal agents. Hebrews 8:5 confirms the presence of God’s *eduwth*. “They serve as a copy and shadow of the heavenly things. For when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, “See that you make everything according to the pattern that was shown you on the mountain.” (ESV) (Ex. 25:9)