

## “Who am I” bible study

### I am Free

Gal 5: 1. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

The churches at Galatia were birthed out of faith in the finished work of Jesus. Their christian lives were running the right path. They were discovering the freedom they had before God through their faith in Christs sacrifice. But shortly after starting off their journey by FAITH, they began to run into difficulty. Certain people were coming in among them and teaching that if they wanted to become all that God wanted them to be, and if they were going to inherit Gods promises, then they had to start living according to certain rules. they were told that if they didn't come under these rules, these regulations, then they would not be worthy of Gods blessing and they would come under the curse of the law.

Some blessings we may desire as christians.

The peace of God in our life.

The promises of God for our life.

The sense of Gods presence in our life.

The purposes of God achieved in and through our life.

These blessings are to be received and walked in on a daily basis. Our greatest enemy, to us ever experiencing any of these blessings in our lives, is us. How? When we fall into the trap of trying to EARN THEM or DESERVE THEM by keeping Gods commands.

### Seeing the gospel through the old testament symbols of Christ.

We will briefly look at a few of the symbolisms contained in and around the Ark of the covenant that point to the finished work of Christ and why we can live in freedom from the need to work for and earn Gods blessing and experience everything that he has already provided for.

The Ark of the Covenant.

Exodus 25: 10"Have them make a chest of acacia wood--two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. 11Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold moulding around it. 12Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. 13Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. 14Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the chest to carry it. 15The poles are to remain in the rings of this ark; they are not to be removed. 16Then put in the ark the Testimony, which I will give you. 17"Make a mercy seat of pure gold--two and a half cubits long and a cubit



and a half wide. 18And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the mercy seat. 19Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat, at the two ends. 20The cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the mercy seat with them. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the mercy seat. 21Place the mercy seat on top of the ark and put in the ark the Testimony, which I will give you. 22There, above the mercy seat between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites.

1./ Christ as The God man.

What the ark was made from.

10"Have them make a chest of acacia wood--two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. 11Overlay it with pure gold, both inside and out, and make a gold moulding around it.

**Acacia wood.**

Speaks of Christ's humanity. Wood is that which grows up out of the ground. Just as man came from the earth, so too did Jesus take on human form. Acacia wood was known for its durability and strength. Jesus in his humanity endured hardship as a man.

**Over laid with Gold.**

Gold speaks of divinity. Gold is not man made, it is precious, the metal of Kings. Jesus was not only fully man but also fully God. He was God in the flesh.

We too, are now Arks. We are human vessels carrying the divine Spirit and presence of Christ.

2/. Christ and the cross upon which He was carried.

12Cast four gold rings for it and fasten them to its four feet, with two rings on one side and two rings on the other. 13Then make poles of acacia wood and overlay them with gold. 14Insert the poles into the rings on the sides of the chest to carry it. 15The poles are to remain in the rings of this ark; they are not to be removed.

Four rings, one on each of its four corners. On the outer edges of the Ark. These rings were to have 2 poles driven through the holes in the rings upon which the Ark would be lifted up from the earth and carried. The poles were to remain in the holes, they were not to be removed.

Jesus, one hand outstretched to the right, one out to the left. and both his feet. Four places in which holes were created, in the divine yet human vessel that carried the presence of God, as nails were driven through him into two pieces of divinely appointed wood. Upon these pieces of wood, the divine yet human, heavenly yet earthly, Son of man and also the Son of God was lifted up and carried.



### 3/. Christ as the seat of mercy.

17"Make a mercy seat of pure gold--two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide. 18And make two cherubim out of hammered gold at the ends of the mercy seat. 19Make one cherub on one end and the second cherub on the other; make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat, at the two ends. 20The cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the mercy seat with them. The cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the mercy seat.

1 John 2: 2. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

The word propitiation means the agency through which mercy is received. Jesus, through His sacrifice, allows God to show mercy to the sinner.

The Mercy seat with its cherubim was made of hammered Gold. Jesus was beaten and hammered, moulded into shape according to the will of God, in the garden of gethsemane as He surrendered to the pre-ordained agonising death on the cross. Overlooked by angels who could do nothing to save Him, they watched in amazement as He walked towards His death. God allowed Him to go through it all in order that He would become the means through which we may receive His mercy.

### 4/. Christ and His blood.

Under the old covenant offerings for sin, an animal would have the sins of Israel transferred onto it and then it was slain. It was as the blood of the sacrificed animal was poured out onto the mercy seat that Gods presence would manifest in the Holy of Holies above the mercy seat and forgiveness was extended to Israel for the year.

22 There, above the mercy seat between the two cherubim that are over the ark of the Testimony, I will meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites

In the garden, as Jesus said, "if it's possible, let this cup pass by me, but nevertheless, not my will, but your will be done", and He began to sweat drops of blood as he was beaten and hammered. Now the work of the cross had begun. Mercy had started its mission in the garden, and was to end on the cross. Here God met with Jesus, and gave Him the commands for the Israelites. Mercy for Gods people could only come one way. WHEN His will was done, through the shedding of blood. For without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin.

Hebrews 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Question : While we have been looking at the different aspects of the Ark in relation to Christ, what has stood out to you the most? Make some notes to remind you of this at a later date.



## JESUS IS THE ARK.

Jesus is the ark, He is the lamb of God, He is the mercy of God etc. Jesus is all things to all mankind. He is all and everything we have ever needed and will ever need.

### Now Lets look at what was in the ark:

#### 1/. The Law.

The ten commandments were placed into the ark. These stone tablets were a reminder to Israel of their inability to keep His laws. Gods laws that mankind's' sinful nature constantly broke time and time again. A reminder of our utter hopelessness in ever becoming a Holy people and having peace with God through our own efforts, due to our constant rebellion towards His laws and the breaking of His commands. We are all guilty of breaking His commands.

#### 2/. The manner.

Israel had to live on manna for 40 years in the wilderness due to their failure to enter the promised land because of their rebellion against Gods word of promise. (Not the commandments, but the promises)

The manner was a reminder of Israels constant complaining against Gods provision. They called the manna "worthless bread." and also a reminder of their inability to enter into the land of Promise because of their lack of faith in His word. They were promised a land flowing with milk and honey. The manna represents our complaining against Gods provision as a result of our rebellion caused by unbelief in Gods promises.

#### 3/. The Rod.

Moses was the one who was chosen to give the law to Israel. He was the one presenting them with Gods word. Moses was known for His meekness, his teachable spirit. The people rebelled against the one who was leading them. The one who gave them Gods word. The one who taught them Gods ways.

When the people rose up against Moses regarding Aaron being called to be the High priest, God told Moses to collect a rod from all the heads of the tribes of Israel. The only one who could enter into Gods presence was the one whose rod budded showing that God had accepted him and chosen him. That person became the high priest who could enter into Gods presence for them. Only Jesus, could enter Gods presence because He was accepted, chosen and appointed as High priest and lead by the Spirit right into the presence of God in the Holy of Holies.

The Rod represents Israels rebellion against Moses's leadership, the leading and guiding voice of the Spirit of God. Therefore they were rejected as priests and unable to enter Gods presence.



Jesus said, " He who keeps my commands, my father and I will love them and come and make our home with them".

We have all at some point failed to submit to and follow the leading of the Spirit or rebelled against His appointed leadership.

#### 4/. The "budding" rod.

Num 17:10 And the LORD said to Moses, "Bring Aaron's rod back before the Testimony, to be kept as a sign against the rebels, that you may put their complaints away from Me, lest they die."

Not only have we been predestined, appointed and called into His presence. But we have also been called into His service in order to bare fruit that will bring praise and glory to his name. Jesus said, not only have I chosen you, but I have also appointed you to go and bare fruit, and that your fruit should remain.

The budding Rod represents our inability to produce the fruit of the Spirit. We are all sinful by nature without Christ. Unable to produce Godly fruit, only rotten fruit. We rebel against the desires of the Spirit and walk after the desires of our flesh.

The gospel of Jesus Christ preached in the Ark.

Question: Have we ever felt guilt or condemnation because we haven't kept Gods laws, complained about His provision, doubted Gods promises, rebelled against the leading of His Spirit or failed to allow God to develop His fruit in our lives and resorted to fleshly behaviour?

Well, haven't we all. But there is good news to come.

#### The great cover up.

Under the old testament sin offerings, an animal would have been selected to impart Israels sin onto them through the laying in of hands. Then the animal was to be sacrificed and its blood poured onto the mercy seat of the Ark by the high priest in order to make atonement for their sin. This was all symbolic of the beautiful work to be carried out by Jesus Christ Himself through His sacrificial death. The following passage of scripture shows the incredible fulfilment of this symbolic picture.

Hebrews 9:3-15 and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, 4 which had the golden censer and the ark of the covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; 5 and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. 6 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. 7 But into the



second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; 8 the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing. 9 It was symbolic for the present time in which both gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot make him who performed the service perfect in regard to the conscience 10 concerned only with foods and drinks, various washings, and fleshly ordinances imposed until the time of reformation. 11 But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Galatians 3: 26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise

His Blood was placed on the mercy seat. Through faith in His blood we :  
Enter into His peace. The Law is covered.  
Enter into His provision. The manna is covered.  
Enter into His presence. The rod is covered.  
Enter into His purpose. The budding Rod is covered.

Our rebellion against HIS TEN COMMANDMENTS, HIS LEADING OF THE SPIRIT, HIS PROVISION THROUGH HIS PROMISES, HIS PURPOSE FOR OUR LIVES.

God says, " I GOT IT ALL COVERED, BY THE BLOOD OF MY SON". No more do I need to worry about whether God forgives me or not. No longer do I need to worry about whether God accepts me, will still provide for me, will still use me. The Blood of Jesus has covered all my sin, past, present and future.

1 Peter 2: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone, 8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message--which is also what they were destined for. 9 But you are a chosen people, a royal



priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Romans 11: 29 for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

The Miphkad gate. Will always be there.

Miphkad means, Assignment, mandate, designated spot.

The Miphkad gate is all about our designated assignment. Our place in the body. Our function in the temple. It's about what we are called to do, what we are being raised to be. Our reason for living, our purpose for existing.

The Miphkad gate, like some of the other gates, needed no repairs to it. It was already established. It was in place and in complete working order before they got near it. It needed no extra work on it. We are not meant to add to it or take away from it. Just leave it be. Leave it alone. Stay away from it. It's not going anywhere. It has been there all along and it will remain there for us to use at our leisure. Nothing we do will change what it is and nothing we can do will make it go away. It is just there and that's where it is going to stay. Before we were born it was already there waiting for us to use. After we are dead it will remain on earth. Our God given assignment will be left as a monument to our life when we are gone.

Finish

Gal 5: 1. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

