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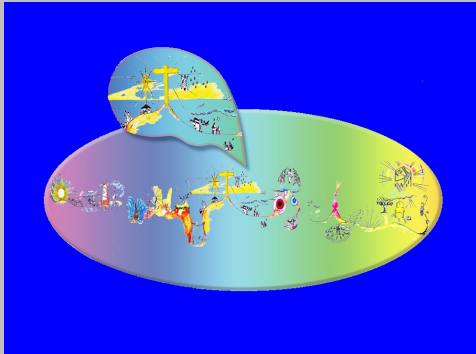
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We believe in one GOD, in three persons; FATHER, SON and HOLY SPIRIT. We regard the Bible (both Hebrew Bible and New Testament) as the only infallible authoritative WORD OF GOD.

HULDAH MINISTRY aims to return to the Word Of God, founded on Hebrew background and to interpret it from Hebraic perspective, acknowledging that Jesus is a Jew and the Jewish-ness of His teaching as a continuation from the Hebrew Bible. The Ministry also aims to put His teaching into practice, to have a closer relationship with the Lord, Jesus Christ, and to regularly have a Christian fellowship so that this-worldly kingdom of God will materialise in the midst of the followers of Jesus here and now, as well as earnestly seeking Christ's Return to establish the otherworldly Kingdom of God on earth.

All activities are free of charge and no obligation whatever. Just enjoy our fellowship!

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HULDAH MINISTRY

LETTER TO THE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

【 ARK OF THE COVENANT 】

Josiah celebrated the Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem, and the Passover lamb was slaughtered on the fourteenth day of the first month. He appointed the priests to their duties and encouraged them in the service of the LORD's temple. He said to the Levites, who instructed all Israel and who had been consecrated to the LORD: "put the sacred ark in the temple that Solomon son of David king of Israel built. It is not to be carried about on your shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and his people Israel. Prepare yourselves by families in your divisions, according to the directions written by David king of Israel and by his son Solomon.....Slaughter the Passover lambs, consecrate yourselves and prepare the lambs for your fellow country men, doing what the LORD commanded through Moses.".....So at that time the entire service of the LORD was carried out for the celebration of the Passover and the offering of burnt offerings on the altar of the LORD, as King Josiah had ordered. The Israelites who were present celebrated the Passover at that time and observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days. The Passover had not been observed like this in Israel since the days of the prophet Samuel; and none of the kings of Israel had ever celebrated such a Passover as did Josiah, with the priests, the Levites and all Judah and Israel who were there with the people of Jerusalem. This Passover was celebrated in the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign.

2 CHRONICLES 35:1-19.

"However, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when men will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' but they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' For I will restore them to the land I gave to their forefathers.....O LORD, my strength and my fortress, my refuge in time of distress, to you the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, "Our fathers possessed

nothing but false gods, worthless idols that did them no good. Do men make their own gods? Yes, but they are not gods!” “Therefore I will teach them—this time I will teach them my power and might. Then they will know that my name is the LORD. JEREMIAH 16:14-21.

On Wednesday, 24th June, the exciting news that the “Ark of the Covenant” would be unveiled was reported by World Net Daily (WND). WND put it: The patriarch of the Orthodox Church of Ethiopia says he will announce to the world the unveiling of the Ark of the Covenant, perhaps the world's most prized archaeological and spiritual artifact, which he says has been hidden away in a church in his country for millennia, according to the Italian news agency Adnkronos. Abuna Paulos, in Italy for a meeting with Pope Benedict XVI this week, told the news agency, "Soon the world will be able to admire the Ark of the Covenant described in the Bible as the container of the tablets of the law that God delivered to Moses and the center of searches and studies for centuries.".....According to Paulos, the actual Ark has been kept in one church, but to defend the treasure, a copy was placed in every single church in Ethiopia. He said a museum is being built in Axum, Ethiopia, where the Ark will be displayed. A foundation of D'Acosta will fund the project. The Ark of the Covenant is the sacred container of the Ten Commandments as well as Aaron's rod and a sample of manna, the mysterious food that kept the Israelites alive while wandering in the wilderness during their journey to the promised land.....The idea that the Ark is presently in Ethiopia is a well-documented, albeit disputed, tradition dating back to at least 642 B.C. The tradition says it was moved to Elephantine Island in Egypt, then to Tana Kirkos Island in Ethiopia and finally to its present site at St. Mary's of Zion Church in Axum. Ethiopians believe it is destined to be delivered to the Messiah when He reigns on Mount Zion – the Temple Mount in Jerusalem..... The Book of Revelation says the Ark is in the temple of God in heaven (Rev. 11:19). Muslim scholars say it will be found near the end of times by the Mahdi – a messianic figure in Islam.

However, the prescribed time has now passed without any word. There seems to have been considerable confusion when the leaders of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church apparently told an Italian news agency of an upcoming announcement about the possible public display of the “Ark of the Covenant.” Since the Ark disappeared in times of the prophet Jeremiah around 2600 years ago, there have been many theories about its ultimate fate; was it hidden in an unknown location, or destroyed by Israelites’ enemies, or taken by Egyptian invaders to Egypt, or removed by divine intervention? According to Bob Cornuke who participated in many expeditions around the world searching for lost locations of the Ark described in the Bible, and who often travelled to Ethiopia, it is possible that Ethiopia could have the real artefact or a replica that she has believed to be the Ark of the Covenant for two thousand years. He claims that the Ark could have been taken out of the temple during the time of the atrocities of Manasseh to Egypt, remaining in an island called Elephantine Island for a couple hundred years, and then, the Ark was transferred over to Lake Tana in Ethiopia where it stayed on Tana Qirqos Island for eight hundred years before it was taken to Axum, where it is enshrined in a temple up to this day. In Ethiopia, the whole culture is centred around worshipping the holy Ark and it would never be allowed to be taken from the custody of the public display. According to Cornuke, a special guardian lives inside the church where the Ark has reportedly been held and he will stay there unto death, when another man will replace him. In Ethiopian history, there have been thirty guardians who have never left that enclosure. The Ethiopians’ Ark is kept in a large stone sarcophagus lined in ornately hammered silver. On the other hand, Grant Jeffrey claims that the Ark was taken to Ethiopia by Menelik (purported son of the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon), leaving a replica behind in Israel when Menelik became emperor after King Solomon slipped into apostasy. The Ethiopian royal chronicles, knowing that it should eventually go back to Israel, suggest that they had been guarding the Ark for three thousand years, and at last in 1991, after the Ethiopian civil war, the Ark was brought back to Israel by plane. According to Jeffrey, since then it has been held secretly until it will be brought into the rebuilt Jerusalem temple.

While these claims lend unequivocal support to the possibility that the Ethiopians might have been guarding the Ark, when it comes to the biblical basis of both the Menelik account and the manner in which it was taken outside Israel, such claims cannot be clearly explained. Richard Rives, who has searched for the Ark and participated in excavations beneath Mount Moriah outside the walls of ancient Jerusalem, is one of those who has tried to verify Ron Wyatt’s claim that he found the Ark

in an underground cavern in ancient Biblical lands several decades ago after tunnelling through a small passageway. Although Rives and his group were unsuccessful in confirming Wyatt's account, he does not believe in the Menelik account, nor the Ethiopians' claim of keeping the real Ark. Instead, he believes the claims by Ron Wyatt, because he is just not persuaded to believe that God would have dwelt on an ark replica in Jerusalem.

The Bible's final mention of the Ark is seen in the context of King Josiah's Passover celebration, where Josiah ordered the priests and the Levites to return the Ark to Jerusalem temple and to prepare themselves to serve the Lord and His people Israel. Josiah's order implies that the Ark had been removed for protection during the evil reigns of King Manasseh and King Amon, who preceded Josiah. The eighteenth year of Josiah's reign is 622BCE, the same year that Hilkiah the high priest found the Book of the Law of the LORD in the temple when he was collecting funds for the restoration of the temple. It was the prophet Jeremiah that highly esteemed King Josiah and composed laments for his sudden death in battle at Carchemish against Neco king of Egypt as a result of his disobedience to God's warning. During the reign of King Josiah, Jeremiah had prophesied the day of the Messiah when the Ark of the Covenant would be irrelevant: ***In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land," declares the LORD, "men will no longer say, 'The ark of the covenant of the LORD.' It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made. At that time they will call Jerusalem the Throne of the LORD, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honour the name of the LORD. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts. In those days the house of Judah will join the house of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your forefathers as an inheritance (Jeremiah 3:16-18).*** This interesting passage referring to the Ark was given as a conclusive distant hope for a new era after the destruction of the kingdom of Judah beyond the near horizon of Jeremiah's day. In other words, the unfaithfulness of Judah, whose response to the last good and godly king Josiah's spiritual reformation and renewal ended up being superficial and hypocritical, would inevitably bring her God's judgment, in that Jerusalem would be besieged, plundered, and burned, and God's chosen people would be taken to Babylonian exiles.

However, God's judgment upon His people and also the nations was not to be the last word. Israel would be ultimately restored and the house of David would rule the whole nations in righteousness and justice, which would be fulfilled by the coming messiah. The Ark of the Covenant, formerly symbolising God's royal presence, above which the Lord had been enthroned between the Cherubim would be replaced by Jerusalem, the city of God because Jerusalem itself would be His throne by the presence of the Messiah. In the messianic age, the divided Davidic kingdom would be united again. Jeremiah who had prophesied in Jerusalem up to the last moment of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonian army, witnessed how they set fire to the temple, the royal palace, and all the house of Jerusalem, and also how they carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple, both large and small in three time exiles. After that, no reference was made to the Ark by the post-exile authors, Ezra and Nehemiah or even Jewish historian Josephus. Accordingly, it is believed that there was no Ark in the second Jerusalem temple and that the Holy of Holies stood empty.

Throughout history, efforts to locate the Ark have continued up to this day. While some believe that the Ark has been kept in northern Ethiopia (for more than three thousand years by some claim) or other countries (Spain, Canada, America near Utah, Elephantine Island in Egypt, the Baltic Sea island of Borholm, and even in Japan), or destroyed and replaced by a replica, there are still many who believe that it is hidden under the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. In light of what is written in **2 Maccabees 2:4-8** ***'It was also in the writing that the prophet, having received an oracle, ordered that the tent and the ark should follow with him, and that he went out to the mountain where Moses had gone up and had seen the inheritance of God. And Jeremiah came and found a cave, and he brought there the tent and the ark and the altar of incense, and he sealed up the entrance. Some of those who followed him came up to mark the way, but could not find it. When Jeremiah learned of it, he rebuked them and declared: "The place shall be unknown until God gathers his people together again and shows his mercy. And then the Lord will disclose these things, and the glory of the Lord and the cloud will appear, as they were shown in the case of Moses, and as***

Solomon asked that the place should be specially consecrated," it would be natural to believe that God has hidden the Ark somewhere in or not so far from Jerusalem until the day comes when unbelievers will come to see the discoveries and know His mighty name from all over the world as seen in Jeremiah's prophecy quoted at the beginning. In the end of human history all nations' eyes and ears will be fully opened to the only true God "Yahweh".

Despite all the criticisms raised against it, from a biblical standpoint, Ron Wyatt's claim about the Ark is very logical and persuasive. His amazing findings would be worth mentioning here. Wyatt, a Seventh-day Adventist Christian came across holy furniture overlaid with gold (from Solomon's temple) while he was exploring caves in the rear corner of the Garden Tomb in East Jerusalem. He also claimed to have found the Ark there, although in 1984, when two teams accompanied Wyatt and excavated their way down into the same cave system that Wyatt had explored two years before, they ended up empty-handed and they could not even find the connecting channel through which Wyatt had claimed to see the holy furniture. It was not only those who accepted Wyatt's invitation to the expedition but also Wyatt himself that felt disappointed, puzzled, disillusioned and confused. According to a personal account of someone who joined the expedition, and who felt an obligation to help people hear a balanced first-hand report about Wyatt, Wyatt's response after the unsuccessful excavations, was 'It's not the same; it's changed. It's not the way I remember it,' and not a word of apology nor of explanation from him. While to this day, he cannot give a rational account for the extreme misguidedness caused by Wyatt, he concludes that the late Wyatt, who died of cancer in 1999, was not a deliberate liar or a fraud. He seemed to have had two faces; he was an ardent Bible-believing Christian and a persuasive talker. At the same time he had a quirk of mental dysfunction that he came himself to believe as true certain facts and stories that were his own inventions. Indeed, Bernard Brahdstater's personal account helps us to shape our understanding of such a controversial person, Ron Wyatt, and his style and trustworthiness as relic hunter and observer. This would be why the majority of scholars would dismiss Wyatt's views as unsupported and undeserved for serious consideration, and Wyatt himself as a charlatan.

A fraudster or not, Wyatt's theory concerning the discovery of the Ark is outstanding. When he found an earthquake crack directly below the place where the wood on which Christ was crucified would have been, he was struck by the idea that the cleft which extended down through the rock could have reached the resting place of the Mercy Seat of the Ark, symbolising God's throne. If this was true, the blood of Christ would have flowed through that crevice after His side was pierced by a roman soldier's spear. On 6th January, 1982, when Wyatt first entered the chamber containing the Ark, he found on the Mercy Seat what looked to him to be dried blood. Reminded of Daniel's prophecy of the Seventy Weeks: ***"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy (Daniel 9:14, Emphases added)***, Wyatt questioned why the sixth one was not yet fulfilled while all of first five particulars were fulfilled on earth at Christ's death. If Daniel 9:24 were linguistically a statement of an end times application of the "Yom Kippur" symbolism, the last particular would be accomplished by the high priest dropping physical blood onto the Mercy Seat. In the light of his discovery under the crucifixion site, he was hit by an insight that Christ's anointing of the Mercy Seat under the cross-hole is possible and reasonable. Thus, the fulfilment of Daniel's prophetic phrase ***'anoint the most holy'*** was accomplished by Christ's own blood. At His death the anointed One, i.e., the Messiah actually anointed the Mercy Seat with His own blood. Wyatt believed that the Ark would stay in its current location until God allows the laws of God inside the Ark to be finally displayed as a testimony to the world.

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This month, a money gift of \$**** has been sent to Mary Jane in the Philippines to assist her ministry to poor children and mountain tribes, and also to buy an Off-Road Motorcycle for Pastor Christopher who has been a co-worker of Mary Jane. May the Lord efficiently boost their out-reach to the disadvantaged.