

# The Psalms of Ascents

Week 8 – Wednesday

Matt. 22:37-39

Hebrews tells us of the three items that were in the ark. One was the Ten Commandments written on the two tablets of stone that God had written with His own hand. Five of the commandments were written on one of the tablets and the other five on the other. These two tablets were in the ark with Aaron's budding rod and the golden pot with the hidden manna. Why were these two tablets called the tablets of the testimony? Because the ten commandments show us who God is. Commandments testify of the type of the person who wrote those commandments. A robber's commandments would reflect the person of the robber. An American's commandments would reflect the kind of people in America. A Russian's commandments would be different. Each kind of person would make the kind of laws that they want. Thus, the Ten Commandments show us who God is. One of the Pharisees asked the Lord, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" (Matt. 22:36). The Lord answered, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (vv. 38-39). This is the center, the cream, of the law because it tells us who God is; He is a God of love, light, holiness and righteousness. When we come to God's presence, we will touch these aspects of God.

We also will touch the power of resurrection. Previously, Aaron's rod was dry and dead. How can a dead rod, bud, blossom and bear fruit? This is resurrection. The budding rod represents the power of Christ's resurrection. Hidden manna represents the supply of life to us. According to the book of revelation, the Lord promised this to the overcomers (Rev. 2:17). When we come to the Lord Jesus Christ in the church life as represented by the ark in the tabernacle, the power of resurrection will be operating in us and the hidden manna will be our supply. This is the Christ that we can experience in the church life.

We hope that we can all have the same prayer as this mature psalmist and say, "Oh Lord, I do not go up into my bed, nor do I give slumber to mine eyelids. I will fight to see Christ as the only center and aim in order to bring in the reality of the church life. Therefore, there is nothing else in the church but this resurrected Christ."

Psalm 132:3 says, "Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house." Verse 7 says, "Let us go into His tabernacle; Let us worship at His footstool." Verse 8 says, "Arise, O LORD, to Your resting place, You and the ark of Your strength." Now God rests and God is satisfied. Now God can say, "I have My dwelling place and My testimony, and now I am satisfied." The ark is the strength of the church. It is in His will and by His resurrection power and life supply that the church has authority. The church life is under the ruling of the ark, which is Christ Himself. This is how we experience the ark in the tabernacle. The church has authority by God's will, resurrection power, and life supply. Christ is the One who has the authority in the church today.