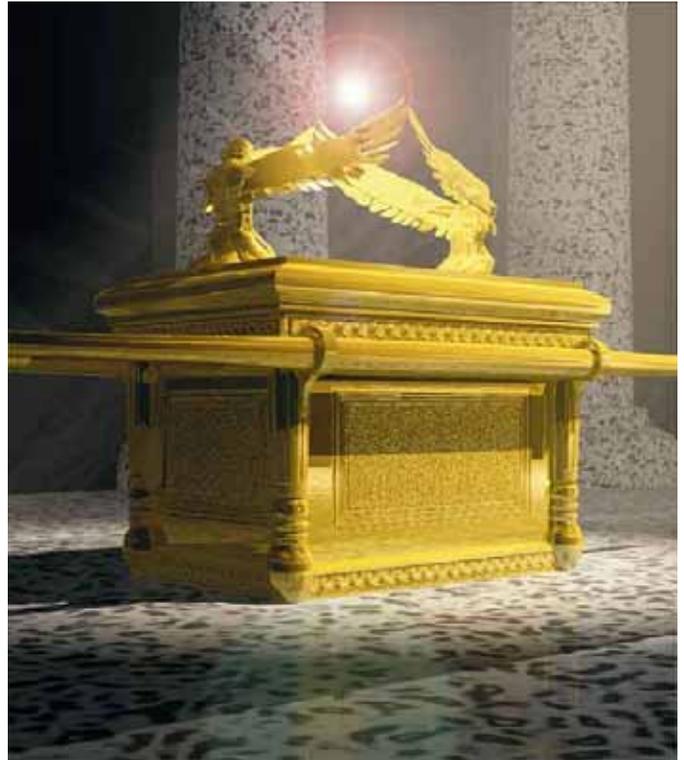


*"And thou shalt make staves of shittim (acacia?) wood, and **Overlay Them With Gold**. And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them." Exodus 25:13-14 KJV*



Wood used in the Tabernacle is thought to have been from the Acacia tree, but it wasn't the wood that made the furnishings temple-worthy. It was the "overlay of gold" that made the staves fit for the Ark of God. Without gold they might have been just firewood. The gold was beaten onto the wood, elevating firewood to Temple status. The staves, by virtue of their covering, remained in the presence of God bearing the Ark of God through its earthly pilgrimage from Sinai to Canaan. They carried the Word of God – the Law, The Wonder of God – Manna, and the Work of God – Aaron's budded rod: Watched Jordan part; saw Jericho fall; and witnessed the Philistine gods break into pieces. Their only merit was their "overlay of Gold:" A beautiful parallel to the believer's relationship with God! "That the trial (beating) of your Faith, Being Much More Precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto Praise and Honour and Glory at The Appearing of Jesus Christ, for By Grace Are ye Saved Through Faith." The "overlay" of Heaven's Gold, Faith, covers man's "filthy rags" of sin with the Beauty of Christ's Righteousness, and elevates believers to Temple status! "What? Know ye not that your body is the Temple of the Holy Ghost?" They dwell in God's Presence, their souls continually privy to "The Secret Place of the Most High." Overlaid with Faith, they bear the Ark of God through earthly pilgrimage from the moment of conversion until death opens the Portal of Eternal Bliss. "Let us therefore come boldly unto The Throne of Grace, that we may obtain Mercy, and find Grace to help in time of need." Hearts overlaid with Heaven's Gold bear the Word, Wonder, and Work of God, "for It Is God Which Worketh In you both to Will and to Do of His Good Pleasure." As we trust and obey Through Faith, we may watch God Miraculously Part impossible barriers and Destroy enemies without so much as a finger lifted and watch as the gods of this world fall and break into pieces around us. Our only merit – Faith, Which "Cometh by hearing...the Word of God, and That not of yourselves; It Is The Gift of God!" The cross of self-denial applies the "beaten gold" of Faith to our soul! "Faith without works is dead." Obeying Truth in spite of lust is the "Work" of Faith. Your Faith Makes you Temple Worthy!

Oh cover me with Heaven's gold,  
While earthly wealth grows stale and old,  
And when around me death grows bold,  
God's Light will turn earth pale and cold! –CGP

Through Faith's Work, we are overlaid with the Righteousness of "God's Only Begotten Son." He Gave Freely of His Life that we might be clothed with immortality. "That no flesh should glory in His Presence. But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God Is Made unto us Wisdom, And Righteousness, And Sanctification, And Redemption: That, According As It Is Written, 'He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.'" Commoners may live in the Palace when invited by the KING!

*"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His Mercy He Saved us, by the Washing of Regeneration, and Renewing of The Holy Ghost; Which He Shed on us abundantly Through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being Justified By His Grace, we Should Be Made Heirs according to the Hope of Eternal Life." Titus 3:5-7 KJV*