

BIBLICAL PARALLELS

Mary as the Ark of the New Covenant

St. Augustine said that “the Old Testament is the New concealed, but the New Testament is the Old revealed” (Catechizing of the Uninstructed 4:8). As an example of this, Holy Scripture reveals beautiful parallels between the Ark of the Covenant, and Mary as the New Ark of the Covenant. With Mary's fiat, “may it be done unto me,” God established a New Covenant, with Mary as the new Ark.

THE CONTENTS OF THE ARK

The Word of God in the Ten Commandments inscribed on stone.



The Jesus Christ incarnate – the Word of God in the flesh.

An urn filled with manna from the wilderness, the miraculous bread sent down from heaven.



Mary's womb held Jesus, the bread of life come down from heaven. (John 6:41)

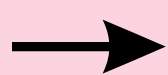
The rod of Aaron that budded to prove and defend the true high priest.



The incarnation of Jesus, actual and eternal High Priest. (Hebrews 4:14)

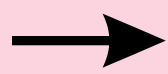
THE TRAVELS OF THE ARK

The ark traveled to the house of Obed-edom in the hill country of Judea. (2 Sam. 6:1-11)



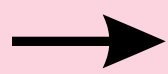
Mary traveled to the house of Elizabeth in the hill country of Judea. (Luke 1:39)

David danced and leapt in front of the ark as it approached. (2 Sam. 6:14)



John the Baptist leapt in his mother's womb at the approach of Mary. (Luke 1:41).

David asks, “How can the ark of the Lord come to me?” (2 Sam. 6:9)



Elizabeth asks, “How does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” (Luke 1:43)

The ark remained in the house of Obed-edom for three months. (2 Sam. 6:11)



Mary remained with Elizabeth for three months. (Luke 1:56)

THE ARK AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

After the ark was built, the glory of the Lord covered the tent of meeting, and the Lord filled the tabernacle (Ex 40:34-35; Nm 9:18, 22). The verb for “to cover” or “to overshadow” and the metaphor of a cloud are used in the Bible to represent the presence and glory of God.



As the angel Gabrielle explained to the Virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit will come upon her, and the power of the Most High will "overshadow" her so that she might conceive and give birth to Jesus. With this, Mary's womb became a living tabernacle.