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In the Beginning ...

Theologians, historians, and even scientists have wrestled with the mystery of the Ark of the Testimony and the puzzling laws surrounding them. Among them was Roger D. Isaacs' father, Dr. Raphael Isaacs.

A distinguished hematologist, Dr. Isaacs gained an international reputation for his research and discoveries relative to diseases of the blood. He also spent much of his life studying and thinking about the Bible. He specifically wondered about the actual purpose of the Ark. As he wondered aloud to his son Roger, a theory took shape.

In 1953, father and son described the tentative theory in a preliminary, unpublished essay and later a monograph titled *Puzzling Biblical Laws*, published by Bloch in 1965. In it, they suggested that many of the phenomena surrounding the Ark could be explained in terms of the laws of contemporary physics. It seemed that the Ark could best be understood when compared to a radio. That is, the ark with its tablets was an instrument that received and transmitted waves and converted them into sound between the *cherubim*.

The following letter, written by Dr. Isaacs sometime during the late 1950s or early 1960s, speaks to us today about how we must resolve the uneasy relationship between science and religion.

Science is really a mechanism for learning how things work, which, to us, means trying to find out the laws by which God develops the universe. To those who look on science as antagonistic or non-relevant to theology, there must be two systems, one as observed by scientists, which describes how observation and experiment seems to indicate the laws of matter, and a second set of laws which govern observations recorded in the Bible. Thus, while we assume that an invisible energy-substance carries radio waves from the transmitter to the receiver, it is considered sacrilegious by some to assume that the same mechanism is used in the communication of God with people, (i.e. God uses two sets of laws.) What is the mechanism for carrying the words? Nothing, they would say. It is a miracle.

Each generation tries to explain this miracle in terms of its current education and line of thought. The wavelength theory is the current concept; in the future it may be something else. The older explanations, under the general heading of miracles seem inadequate today. The mechanism of study today is observation and experiment; in the ancient literature it was rationalization (i.e., a system of opinions deduced from reasoning).

Raphael Isaacs, M.A., M.D