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<http://talkingwithgod.net>

New Book Claims Biblical Ark of the Covenant Was Part of a Communications System

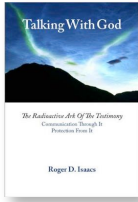
“And I will meet with you there and will speak to you from above the ark cover, from between the two cherubim, which are on the ark of the testimony.” (Exodus 25:22)

Cell phones, walkie talkies, landlines, satellite communications—today we take telecommunications for granted as a fact of modern life, but author Roger D. Isaacs claims the technology is nothing new. In his new book, *Talking With God: The Radioactive Ark Of The Testimony. Communication Through It. Protection From It.*, Isaacs says the Bible indicates that the Ark of the Testimony (or Ark of the Covenant) was a radio-like communications device through which God talked directly with the Israelites.

Isaacs’ radical departure from the traditional Old Testament read of the Ark as solely a container of the Ten Commandments (Tablets of Stone) is the result of his 40 years of extensive research at museums and libraries, and in digs in Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Egypt, and Israel. His etymological study of ancient languages clarifies the intent of words used to describe the biblical stories.

According to Isaacs, the biblical account is that the Ark was operational from the time of Moses to the reign of King David. Biblical scribes used the common terms of the day to report terrifying, even fatal episodes when unprepared and unauthorized people came in contact with the Ark. Isaacs says the Ark was dangerous because it had become *radioactive*. The exhaustive list of seemingly random and incomprehensible do’s and don’ts in the Torah, especially Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers are actually OSHA-like rules and regulations meant to keep the people safe. They were not meant to condemn or judge as words like “unclean” and “sin” have traditionally implied.

The original Hebrew record has suffered the faulty translations that naturally evolve from changes in language over time. Translators didn’t fully understand what the ancient Hebrew words originally meant and how they connected to the early Israelite’s experiences. Instead, they applied



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their own definitions and interpretations. As a result, the rules and regulations—the Laws—are generally mistranslated in terms of good and evil.

In the original Hebrew, for example, the word for “glory” as applied to the Ark actually connotes something “thick, dense.” Many scholars agree that the word translated “holy” indicates “separation.” Even the familiar word “sin” actually carries the idea of “contamination,” a “sin offering,” then, being a “decontamination offering.” The word for “atonement” refers to the act of “covering.” Thus, the most important Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, translated “Day of Atonement,” should be translated “Day of Covering.”

Do these mistranslations skew biblical concepts? More significantly, do they misinform contemporary religious practices? Yes, says Isaacs. His book examines 33 words whose misinterpretations have profound impact on our understanding of what happened during biblical times.

“For centuries Judeo/Christian religions have been operating around misinterpreted concepts found in the world’s most influential book,” Isaacs says. “Attention must be given to the true meanings of words used every day incorrectly.”

The late Rabbi Jacob Milgrom, biblical scholar and U.C. Berkeley Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies, called *Talking With God* “an enormous, imaginative work.” He said, “I think I would call it a modern midrash. And as you know, midrash can be both stimulating and far-out.”

For further information, visit <http://www.TalkingWithGod.net>. To schedule an interview or presentation, contact Janice Williams Miller at sacredclosetbooks@gmail.com or 312/208-1147.

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