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What was the one thing you found particularly interesting from the reading?

The thing I found interesting this week is how temple worship was just as important in the ancient Near East as it was in Israel. In the ancient world each person or group was responsible for maintaining the cosmos by being actively involved in maintaining the temple. That is so interesting because when God delivers the children of Israel out of Egypt one of the first things Moses does is build a portable temple. Eventually the Ark of the Covenant is built which symbolizes God's presence among his people. Unlike ancient Near Eastern 'symbiosis' where people are an afterthought. Covenant 'symbiosis' is when God desires a relationship with his people. David wanted to build God a house, but the task is given to his son Solomon. King Solomon like ancient Near Eastern people believed the temple was the center piece and identity of the community and was the connection between the human and divine. That reminds me of the book of Revelation when the holy city comes down out of heaven and God will tabernacle or abide with us.

What was one question you have after completing the lesson and readings?

Since Israel is known for not crafting cult images I wonder if that's the reason why God has not allowed the discovery of the Ark of the covenant? According to Greer, Hilber and Walton the temple in the ancient Near Eastern culture lost its significance if the image was not installed. It's interesting that the first two Commandments that God gave to Moses was 'no other gods' and 'no craved images.