

As at Hammath Tiberias (see Slide 85), the southernmost panel of the mosaic at Beth Alpha contains a representation of the ark of the Law, or Torah shrine, flanked by lions and two menoroth (seven-branched candelabra). The decorated and paneled doors of the ark are shut; unlike the Torah shrine at Hammath Tiberias, there is no curtain on the ark itself. An ever-burning light hangs from the peak of the pediment, which is decorated with a shell in its center and with birds and chalices. Lamps also appear to hang down from horns at both ends of the pediment. The two halves of an open curtain appear to the extreme right and left in the panel. Other ritual objects seen are (directly in front of each lion) bound palm branches (*lulav*) and citron (*etrog*)--associated with the festival of *Sukkot*, or Tabernacles--and ram's horns, or shofroth (at the foot of the lion on the right and above the base of the menorah on the left), and incense shovels (square objects in front of the lion on the right and next to the shofar on the left).