

Defining & Understanding Mercies (Part 3)

THE MERCY SEAT: What is its significance?

The Mercy Seat holds profound significance within the biblical narrative, particularly in the context of the Old Testament. It is a central element of the Ark of the Covenant, which was housed in the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle and later the Temple.

The Mercy Seat is described in detail in the book of Exodus, where God provides Moses with specific instructions for its construction: "Make an atonement cover of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and a cubit and a half wide" (Exodus 25:17).

"You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat.

Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat.

You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you.

And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel."

Exodus 25:17-22 NKJV

"Make a throne of mercy to cover the ark out of pure gold 45 inches long and 27 inches wide. Make two angels out of hammered gold for the two ends of the throne of mercy, one on each end. Form the angels and the throne of mercy out of one piece of gold. The angels should have their wings spread above the throne of mercy, overshadowing it.

They should face each other, looking at the throne of mercy. After you put into the ark the words of my promise which I will give you, place the throne of mercy on top. I will be above the throne of mercy between the angels whenever I meet with you and give you all my commands for the Israelites."

Exodus 25:17-22 GW

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To Ponder On:

- What the Mercy seat is made of: The Mercy seat is made of pure gold hammered by hand. A pure place.
- What is on the seat? Two Cherubim, facing each other with its wings covering the seat.
- How is it made? The Mercy seat is made in one piece with the two facing each other Cherubim.
 - What it means is the Mercy seat is one part with the cherubim's guarding and covering and protecting the Ark. The whole Mercy Seat which is what covers the Ark of the Covenant is one piece with its unique design signifying solidarity with each other. The Mercy Seat and the Cherubim's.
- What is it for? There God will meet with Moses to give him instructions for the Israelites.

In the God's Word version it said, "I will be above the throne of mercy between the angels whenever I meet with you and give you all My commands for the Israelites."

The mercy seat represented God's presence among his people. This is where God lives symbolically. This is His place of meeting. His dwelling is covered with pure Mercy protected by heavenly Cherubim.

It seems like the cherubim are closely associated with God's presence. And so, these images of cherubim atop the mercy seat could symbolize God's presence and holiness. No image of God was allowed. But the images of the cherubim point to God's presence.

The Cherubim is not a baby with wings. These are terrifying creatures of heaven the same as the ones that guarded Eden with flaming swords when Adam and Eve were banished from the presence of God.