

Jesus said... ***“Search the scriptures...they are they which testify of me.”*** (John 5:39)

The mercy seat: God's Communing Place

INTRODUCTION

In the tabernacle, there was a place, *“...the holy place within the veil before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark;”* (Lev. 16:2) This was more than a religious object, or another item in the tabernacle. This is where God would meet with, speak to, and commune with the nation of Israel. This is God's mercy seat!

1. The Historical Application – **Exodus 25:10-22**

- This is the first time we see the mercy seat, given in the plans for the tabernacle.
- The mercy seat was placed upon the ark of the covenant. It was made of gold (representing Deity), and contained the mercy seat, where the blood was sprinkled, and two cherubims at each end facing the mercy seat.
- The mercy seat had a separate place in the tabernacle. Ex. 26:33-34; 30:6
- The making of the mercy seat – Ex. 31:7; 35:12; 37:1-9
- The mercy seat set up in the tabernacle – Ex. 39:32-35; 40:20-21
 - a. The mercy seat shows us the Person of God – Who He is!
 - Mercy (Webster's 1828) – to treat an offender better than he deserves; Commonly – to not give you what you do deserve; pity; compassion manifested towards a person in distress. (Mercy is for lost and saved people.)
 - God not only has mercy, He gives mercy, and He is merciful! Ex. 33:21-23; 34:4-9. It's part of His name! Ps. 62:12; 69:13; 85:7; 86:3-6, 15-16; 100:4-5; 119:64. You can see God's mercy all around you – He constantly gives mercy, amen! Psalm 136 has every verse ending in this, *“...for his mercy endureth for ever.”*
 - We see this in the New Testament as well. 2 Cor. 1:3-4; 2 Tim. 1:2; Titus 1:4; James 5:11
 - b. The mercy seat shows us God's Pardon – He forgives!
 - Leviticus 16:1-19 – Once a year, the high priest went into this “holy place” to make *“...an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel.”* (Lev. 16:17) He did this because they were unclean. God forgave them because He is merciful!
 - c. The mercy seat shows us God's Place – He communed with them!
 - Commune (Webster's 1828) – to converse; to talk together familiarly. Ex. 25:22; 30:6
 - In Numbers chapter 7, the tabernacle was set up. For 12 days, 12 princes of Israel brought the same gifts and sacrifices to the tabernacle on their

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day. At the end of day 12, something happened – God spoke! Num. 7:89 (Here’s a practical application. Stay faithful to God daily, He still speaks!)

- The mercy seat had two cherubims on it.
 - One thing we know about cherubims, is that they are associated with the presence of God. Ps. 99:1
 - (For further study: What are cherubims? See Ezekiel chapters 1 and 10, and Revelation 4:5-8. Satan was the fifth cherub before he was cast out. See Ezekiel 28:11-19. Also, the Bible says that God dwells, “between the cherubims”. See Ex 25:22; Num. 7:89; 1 Sam. 4:4; 2 Sam. 6:2; 2 Kings 19:5; Is. 37:16; 1 Chron. 13:6; Ps. 80:1; and Ps. 99:1)

2. The Prophetic Application – **Hebrews 9:1-28**

- Jesus Christ is our High Priest. He offered Himself once, forever, and entered the holy places, *“...into heaven itself,”* Amen!
 - a. Jesus Christ shows us God’s Person – Who He is! – Rom. 5:5-8; 2 Pet. 3:8-9
 - b. Jesus Christ shows us God’s Pardon – He forgives! – Col. 1:14
 - But He doesn’t only forgive us, but sanctifies and justifies us forever! He gives us His righteousness! Rom. 4:22-25; 1 Cor. 1:28-31; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 10:10-14
 - c. Jesus Christ shows us God’s Place – He gives us access to God!
 - Mark 15:37-38 – When Christ died, the veil in the earthly temple was rent.
 - John 14:6 – You will not get to God outside of Jesus Christ.

3. The Practical (Personal) Application – **Ephesians 2:1-22**

- Because of Christ:
 - a. God shows us His Person – Who He is! – Eph. 2:4
 - b. God shows us His Pardon – He forgives! – Eph. 2:5
 - c. God shows us His Place – He communes with us! – Eph. 2:11-22
 - i. We Have: Salvation and Security – Heb. 10:10-14; 1 Tim. 2:5 – Christ is our Mediator.
 - ii. Sustained Forgiveness – 1 John 1:6-2:2 – Christ is our Advocate.
 - iii. Sweet Fellowship – Hebrews 4:12-16 – Christ is our High Priest!

Christ is sitting at the right hand of the Father, and He intercedes for us! Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25. And through Him, we now have direct access to the throne of grace, where we can not only meet with God, but, *“...that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

How strong is this access for the Christian? Mark 14:35-36; Rom. 8:15-17; Gal. 4:5-7. We can go to God the Father the same way that Jesus Christ went to Him while Christ was on this earth! Amen!

Closing: The mercy seat shows us God’s Person, Pardon, and Place. God wants to meet with YOU, speak to YOU, and commune with YOU! **Won’t you go before His presence?** [James 4:5-8](#)