

## **The meeting place between God and Man**

### **Exodus 25:1-22**

Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying: 2 “Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering. 3 And this is the offering which you shall take from them: gold, silver, and bronze; 4 blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats’ hair; 5 ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; 6 oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; 7 onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate. 8 And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. 9 According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it. **Pray**

**Have you ever had an exchange like this with one of your kids or grand kids. Hey why did you do that?**

**A)I don’t know. Or Because**

**B)You say: Because why? And they say: I don’t Know! Just because**

**C)Well when it comes to the portion of scripture we are coming to today in our study of the book of Exodus**

**D)A lot of Christians would ask the same question – Why is this in the Bible –**

1)And why does God give so much attention to the instructions for building the tabernacle?

**Let me just say: The answer is not BECAUSE – don’t worry about it.**

**A)I find it interesting that the Lord gives two Chpters in the Bible to the subject of CREATION**

**B) **The Creation of the Stars** – just 6 words And **He made the stars also** –**

**C)But when it comes to this tent – in the wilderness – God devotes 13 Chapters. – -**

**1)As much as Abe in Genesis and Joseph**

**Why does God give so much ink in the Bible to the instructions of the Building of the Tabernacle –**

**A)What is the Significance of the Tabernacle? Give Three reasons:**

**B) #1 According to Hebrews 8:5 this is a Shadow of the Heavenly things.**

**C)#2 The Tabernacle is a Picture of Jesus the meeting place between God and man –**

**1)44 times in Scripture it was called the tent of meeting**

**C)John declared that Jesus came from heaven and dwelt among us –**

**1)**Dwelt is literally the word tabernacled****

**D)#3 The Tabernacle serves as a picture of Jesus in His Church communing with all believers.**

**Now the tabernacle was a Humble looking tent like Building Covered in Badger skins -**

**A)From the outward view – nothing special about it – normal tent**

**B)So too when Jesus came into our World – Humble beginnings – Born in a barn**

**C)Nothing special about his outward appearance that drew people toward him**

**Isaiah 53:2 There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him**

**D)He was Normal looking man Not on the Cover of People Mag as one of the 50 most beautiful people**

**1)Judas betrayal: How..know?**

**The good looking dude – movie star looks**

**Now the Tabernacle consisted of two rooms**

**A)One room smaller room was called the Holy of Holies –**

**B)that is where the **Shekinah glory of God** was said to dwell. – Off limits **VEIL**– one time all year – HP**

**C)The Other room was called the Holy place and it was there that they Priest would go every day**

**1)Prayers and service**

**Now as God is giving the Description of this tent to Moses –**

**A)He starts in the most important place – the Holy of Holies - And works out from there.**

**B)So this morning we want to focus on what was in that room and how it is a pointed to Jesus**

**C)On Wednesday we will focus on the 2nd room –**  
**1)the HOLY PLACE - and see how that room and it's contents pointed to Jesus.**

10 “And they shall make an ark of acacia wood; two and a half cubits shall be its length, a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a half its height. 11 And you shall overlay it with pure gold, inside and out you shall overlay it, and shall make on it a molding of gold all around. 12 You shall cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in its four corners; two rings shall be on one side, and two rings on the other side. 13 And you shall make poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold. 14 You shall put the poles into the rings on the sides of the ark, that the ark may be carried by them. 15 The poles shall be in the rings of the ark; they shall not be taken from it. 16 And you shall put into the ark the Testimony which I will give you. <sup>17</sup>“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. <sup>18</sup> And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. <sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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.

#### He starts by describing the Ark of the Covenant:

A) A Box that was 4 feet long – 2 feet wide and 2 feet high

B)) Within the Box we are told here the two tablets of stone containing the ten commandments were placed

C) Later a Jar of Manna preserved  
1) and Aaron THE HP rod that budded.

#### In our time today I want us to consider 3 things

- 1st How the materials speak of Jesus.
- 2nd How the contents pointed to Jesus.
- 3rd How the Mercy Seat is a picture of the Love and Work of Jesus.

#### 1ST How the materials speak of Jesus

A) Special and Specific materials were used

B) Special buildings use special materials in the construction.

#### C) When the Romans were building the great Roman Pantheon building –

1) they used concrete that was mixed with Lightweight Volcanic material

D) The Purpose: to construct this enormous unsupported dome –

1) the dome becomes lighter toward the top reducing the load of the structure.

#### When the world's tallest building the Burg Ka/lea/fa in Dubai was being constructed 2722 ft high

A) Builders used a specifically engineered concrete

B) that was designed to meet the challenges of an extreme environment.

1) Summer temperatures can reach 122 degrees

C) Concrete poured in those conditions can set too quickly and develop cracks

D) So a special mixture of high performance concrete was developed to keep it from setting too quick

E) But that would also remain strong enough to support the enormous structure

#### When the Iconic Sydney Opera House was being constructed

A) A special coating of titanium dioxide was used that breaks down dirt when exposed to sunlight

B)As rainwater spreads across the surface loosening and washing away the dirt

C)Resulting in cleaner windows, less maintenance and a naturally brighter looking building

D)Special materials are often used in Special Construction

So too when God was giving the Instructions for the building of the Tabernacle –

A)He also used special and specific Materials

B)It was made of Acacia Wood and overlaid with pure gold

C)Acacia wood pointed to the humanity of Christ

D)Acacia wood is the only wood in the world that DOES NOT rot.

So when the Lord says to make this Ark – He says to make it out of this wood that doesn't Rot or decay

A)Which is a Powerful Picture of our Lord Jesus Christ

Hebrews. 13:8 **Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.**

B) Friends change.... Families change.....Kids Change

C)Jesus Christ DOESN'T CHANGE

Study through the gospels see his love, his heart, his personality

A))There is nothing in him that falls apart, decays or changes.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. Hebrews 2:17,18

B)Jesus **SYMPATHIZES** with us and understands us Because He Himself is a man.

C)He can relate to our Struggles having been thru what we have

1) Tempted in every way – Not sin

**The Acacia tree grows in very DRY and ARID areas.**

A)If you tap into the side of an Acacia tree a flow of gummy like substance will flow out

B)In Bible days that gummy like Substance was used for medicinal purposes

C)So There is a healing virtue that comes out of the side of the Acacia tree when the tree is pierced.

## **What a PERFECT picture of Jesus**

A) We read in the gospels of the Brutal beating he endured – the Cat of nine tails

B) A spear was thrust into his side piercing his heart – out came a mixture of blood and water.

C) Isaiah the Prophet speaking of the death of the Messiah wrote these words

“But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds.” Isaiah 53:5

D) So 1<sup>st</sup> the Accacia wood speaks of His Humanity -

**But then we read in v.11 that the Acacia wood was to be overlaid with Pure Gold**

A) The **GOLD speaks of The Deity Of Christ**

B) So in this mixture we see what Jesus was as he tabernacled with man on planet earth.

1) Jesus Christ is 100% God and yet He is 100% man.

C) HOW can you be 100% God and 100% man?  
I DON'T know!! - **It is a MYSTERY.**

1 Timothy 3:16 **And without controversy** ( There is nothing to argue about – there is no bone of Contention here ) **great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. John 1:1-3

<sup>14</sup> And the **Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

**God was in Christ** reconciling the world to Himself. 2 Corinthians 5:19

**Note on earth – what people saw was the wood**

A) They would get hints of His Deity or glory in the miracles that he did.

B) Or at the Mount of transfiguration – Glimpse of His Glory

C) When Jesus was on earth – they had no idea that they were witnessing the attributes of God in human flesh

D) **In that perfect blending of grace and truth** - John says we beheld his glory

**On earth the focus was the wood – His Humanity**

A) In Heaven – in the Holy of Holies the Focus is on the GOLD – HIS DEITY

B) ON THE THRONE – RULING – KING  
So that is how the Materials spoke of Jesus

**2nd thing we want to notice is How the contents pointed to Jesus**

**A)The Testimony Placed Inside:**

**B)Moses was commanded to place the Tablets of the Law (**the Ten Commandments**) inside the chest.**

**C)Later, Aaron the HP rod that budded and a jar of manna were added (Hebrews 9:4).**

**It is interesting that to the people of Israel these contents represented their failure and sin**

**A)They broke the law of God**

**B)They rejected the leadership of Aaron the High Priest**

**C)And they complained about the manna in the wilderness**

**But In Christ they pointed to something else:**

**A)Jesus would come and full fill every aspect of the law**

**B)Jesus would come as the Bread of life – ultimate Satisfaction**

**C)Jesus would become the Ultimate High Priest**

**D)A great reminder of how we fail and rebel, Christ's perfect righteousness stands in our place.**

**Now on top of the Ark was placed what was called the Mercy seat –**

**A)The law was beneath it – the Mercy seat was on top.**

**B)The 3rd thing we want to consider today is how the mercy seat pictured the love and work of Christ.**

**C)The Mercy seat was **incredibly costly** because it was made of solid gold**

**D)It was the most expensive piece in the Tab. – highlighting – the Value and priority that God places on his Mercy and Grace.**

**Mercy= Not getting what you deserved**

**A)We deserved judgment for sin – God showed us Mercy**

**B)The Bible speaks of God's mercy at least 360 times**

**C)The Bible tells us this about God's mercy – **Abundant mercies****

**1)God delights in His mercy**

**D)**Mercies are New every morning – Can't exhaust****

**1)His mercy follows us all the days of our lives**

**E)His mercies endure forever**

**So Mercy is NOT getting what we do deserve**

A)The Bible also speaks often of God's Grace: **Grace = getting blessings we don't deserve.**

B)Heart of God Not only does he show us Mercy –

1)Doesn't give us what we do deserve but he showers on us Grace

C)He gives us BLESSINGS WE DON'T DESERVE

**Example of grace and Mercy together.**

A)Those of you who have been around here for a while

B)know that in my 30 years of pastoring here – Flown a lot - **God has allowed me to minister all over the USA and the World**

**When you are flying domestically – they tell you to arrive at the airport 2 hrs before your flight –**

A)International 3hrs - **I never follow those instructions –**

B)I hate sitting around the airport for hrs waiting for a flight – So I live Dangerously

C)Great flight for me is if I can arrive at the airport and make it through security 15-20 minutes before my flight –  
1)Enough time to use the restroom and get a coffee.

**Which makes it a little challenging when traveling with my wife Denise because she is rule follower –**

A)She would rather be safe than sorry. – She wants to Get there early.....Compromise ☺

B)But I will say this- I have never missed a flight for being late – 30 yrs

C)But there was one time I came really close.

**I was speaking at a men's conference in Lex KY –**

A)And I had to catch a flight on Saturday to get back in time for our Sat night service

B)So I asked the Pastor there in KY – what time should I get to the airport?

1)to make sure – no chance of missing my flight?

C)He said- Our airport is super small – not busy at all – 30 minutes will be fine.

1)really? Even make it through security? Yep no problem

**So I show up like he said 30 minutes early.**

A)Security is not busy at all – but then it happens – I get picked for a random search. -

B)Take me into a private room – they go through my entire suitcase

1)and they start asking me all of these questions

**C)I am starting to panic – I am going to miss my flight –**

1)You see they close the gate 15minutes before the flight – Miss church – no back up

**Clock is ticking: I am praying for Mercy.**

A)So I finally get to my gate- And I am the last person to board – the plane – **usually get stink eye from the Airline people**

B)**Sometimes a snide remark – cutting it close aren't you and the worst –**

C)Or they tell you - There is no longer any room in the overhead for your back – we have to check it  
1(That means – baggage claim = more time –

D)Did I mention I am going straight from the airport for Sat night service

E)So as I am hustling to the gate -I am praying – Lord have mercy on me

**I get to the gate and they say: You are the last person to board -we have been waiting for you-**

A)Good news – Bumped up to 1st class!

B)That is Grace and Mercy working together – I didn't get the snide remark –**Mercy**

1) I didn't have to check my back – **Mercy**

**B)And I got what I didn't deserve – bumped up to first class – GRACE**

C)FIRST CLASS is amazing - where they serve you beverages and food before take off. –

**So not only were the airline people merciful to me even though I was cutting it close**

A)Ignored the Rules

B)But they were also Gracious to me – Gave me something I didn't pay for – didn't deserve

1)Bumped to first class

C)One draw back in the story - the guy who was sitting next to me ended up spilling **his whisky on me during the flight**

D)Which made for an interesting conversation when I showed up at church that night smelling like Whisky

**But here is my Point – That is so like the Lord**

A)He delights in Mercy – not giving us what we do deserve

B)And he loves to shower us in Grace – Give us blessings we don't deserve

C)And with God there are no spills or mess ups at all!

**So the most expensive piece of the Tabernacle was the Mercy seat Covering the Ark of the Covenant**

A) Notice on top there were two Angelic beings called Cherubim – looking down

B) That is significant – here is why: **God says I will meet you at the Mercy seat**

C) Once a year – Special day the Day of Atonement –  
1) it was the only day of the whole year anyone could go into the HH

D) And only ONE PERSON was allowed – The High Priest.

**He would pass through the Veil and into the HH only after offering sacrifice for his sins –**

A) And the Sins of the people.

B) He would bring the blood into the HH and he would sprinkle it on the Mercy seat – 7 times

C) WHY 7 times? Isn't once enough for God.  
YES.. Once is enough for God.

1) But WE need to see it OVER and OVER again.

D) Seven is the number of completion in the Bible. It was for OUR SAKES that it was **sprinkled 7 times**.

**E) COMPLETE COVERING – not partial but FULL**

**Think about this: The Blood stained the mercy seat – No place in scripture that talks about it being cleaned**

A) So this beautiful gold covering – is forever stained by blood –

B) The stain is growing and getting thicker year by year

C) And that is what the two Cherubim are focused on – **THE BLOOD**

C) God said: **"I will meet with you". WHERE? At the MERCY SEAT.**

1) That is where I will commune w/ You !!!

**C) The Apostle Paul put it this way Romans 3**

<sup>23</sup> For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;

D) Ever heard someone say when you are taking a picture of them – **try to get my best side:**

1) Romans 3:23 reminds us we don't have a best side

<sup>23</sup> For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God;

<sup>24</sup> they are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. <sup>25</sup> God presented him **as the mercy seat** by his blood, through faith, to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. <sup>26</sup> God presented him to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he would **be just and justify the one who has faith in Jesus.**

**D) Just and the Justifier – Sin was not just overlooked  
- Paid for by the blood of Jesus –**

**E) He literally became the Mercy seat**

**1) The Place where God would meet with lost  
Humanity – His Blood**

**So God says "I am NOT going to meet with you based  
upon your keeping of the commandments" .....**

**A) "I am NOT going to meet with you by virtue of  
your own religious efforts and successes."**

**B) I am not going to meet with you on the basis of  
your devotional life**

**C) Nothing you do measures up to My standard of  
Righteousness – perfection**

**D) I will meet you at the Mercy seat – My Son – His  
Blood.**

**Close today: Application/ I want to encourage you to:**

- **Stop trying to approach God on the basis of  
your own performance (the Law inside the box).**
- **Quit focusing on your past failures – God  
doesn't**
- **Rest entirely on the finished work of Jesus (the  
Mercy Seat).**

**Step into the presence of God daily, knowing you are  
fully accepted.-**

**A) Because you are in Christ – Covered HIS BLOOD!**