

INSIDE THE TABERNACLE

TEXT: EXODUS: 25:17-22, 37:6-9

LESSON EIGHT - THE MERCY SEAT

INTRODUCTION: Grace is an undeserved blessing, favor, or gift. The greatest act of grace is God's relationship with mankind. It is great because God is eternal, holy, and righteous and man is spiritually dead, totally depraved, and sinful. There are so many problems in this relationship, it is impossible to count them. But God designed a system to eliminate all the barriers and have a love relationship with undeserving mankind.

WHAT IS THE MERCY SEAT?

1. The Hebrew word for Mercy Seat means "**Covering**" - to cover over sin.
2. The Mercy Seat was a **lid** or cover, which sat on top of the Ark of the Covenant located inside the Holiest of Holies.
3. The Mercy Seat was approximately the **same** length and width as the Ark of the Covenant which was beneath it.
4. The Mercy Seat was constructed out of a **solid** slab of pure gold.
 - ✓ The Mercy Seat was different than the Ark of the Covenant because there was no **wood** in its composition.
5. On the top of the Mercy Seat, were **two** hammered gold cherubim (angels) that faced one another.
 - ✓ The wings of the two gold cherubim were **stretched** out over the Mercy Seat.
 - ✓ The two gold cherubim overshadowed the Mercy Seat and their faces constantly looked **down** upon it.

WHY IS THE MERCY SEAT IMPORTANT?

1. The Mercy Seat is important because in First Chronicles 28:11, the Holy of Holies is described as "the **place** of the Mercy Seat."
2. The Mercy Seat is important because it was God's **throne** in the midst of the Israelites.
 - ✓ The Mercy Seat was the place where God appeared in the form of a **cloud**. (Leviticus 16:2)
 - ✓ The Tabernacle was called "the tent of meeting". Because here God **met** with man. (Exodus 25:21-22)

NOTES:

The Mercy Seat is a picture of the throne of God that was changed into a throne of judgment and eventually changed into a throne of grace.



The Mercy Seat Sitting On Top of the Ark of the Covenant

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3. The Mercy Seat is important because it was the place where God **spoke** to Moses (Moses remained in the Holy Place, outside of the Most Holy Place).
4. The Mercy Seat is important because it **shielded** (Protected) Israel (God's children) from the judgment of God's Law.
 - ✓ Without the covering of the Mercy Seat, God's divine **judgments** eventually happen.
 - ✓ Whenever the lid was removed, **death** was the result. (1 Samuel 6:19)
5. The Mercy Seat is important because when it was sprinkled with the blood from a sacrificial bull, it became the place where God's holy anger and judgment was **satisfied**.
 - ✓ Blood was **sprinkled** on the mercy seat once a year on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) by the High Priest.
 - ✓ Blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat **seven** times.
 - ✓ Blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat because God needed to **see** the evidence of sacrifice.
 - ✓ Blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat so that **fellowship** with God could be maintained.

The Mercy Seat completely hid from God's view the items which were kept in the Ark of the Covenant.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE MERCY SEAT?

1. God **requires** a blood sacrifice if we want to have fellowship with Him.
 - ✓ Jesus is the **perfect** blood sacrifice. JESUS IS GRACE! (What can wash away my sins...)
2. Jesus is our Mercy Seat that perfectly **covers** our sin.
 - ✓ Just as the mercy seat protected Israel from the judgment of God, Jesus is our only **protection** from the judgment of God.
3. The Mercy Seat was God's throne in the midst of the Israelites. God is on His throne today in **heaven** and Jesus, our high priest, is at His right side. When we come to God now, we approach a throne of grace.