

Tabernacle Treasures – The Mercy Seat – Power – Exo. 25:17-22 & Heb. 9:1-12

As we have been studying, **the Tabernacle had 3 basic divisions: The Outer Court (94%), the Inner Court (The Holy Place, 4%), and the Holiest Place (The Holy of Holies, 2%).** Last week, we looked at the **Ark of the Covenant**, which represents the **Presence** of God, and tonight we will look at the **Mercy Seat**, which represents the **Power** of God! The **Ark** and the **Mercy Seat** were the first things given to Moses for them to build, as they were the first in importance. In the **Holy Place** (Church), I learned what God did for Moses, Joshua, other preachers, etc., BUT it is in the **Holiest** that I have learned what God can do for me! I love to hear of other's victories, but I need some *Red Seas* of my own! Some *walls of Jericho* to fall of my own! You can experience the power of God in your life when you get back there where God is! *And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat...* (Exo. 25:22). 2 Kings 19:15; Psalm 80:1; Isa. 37:16. It gets personal in the **Holiest!**

1. **The Contents of the Ark – Hebrews 9:4** – Inside the Ark were three items, all of which pointed out something negative about Israel. *The golden pot that had manna* pointed to when Israel rebelled against God and complained that Moses brought them to the wilderness to die (**God's Longsuffering**). *Aaron's rod that budded* pointed to when Israel rebelled against God's men, Moses and Aaron, saying they lifted up themselves above the congregation, and God brought judgment on the tribe of Korah. There were 14,950 total that died, and God showed them all in Numbers 17 that Aaron was chosen (**God Lives**). *The tables of the covenant* pointed to *the Law* that they had broken (**God Loves**). Even while the *Ten Commandments* were being given to Moses, they had already broken the first commandment, *Thou shalt have no other gods before me* (Exo. 20:3). 1 Kings 8:9.
2. **The Covering for the Ark – Hebrews 9:5** – To keep back the judgment of God from Israel, the **Mercy Seat** was placed on top of the items of judgment. There was only one other piece of furniture in the Tabernacle made solely of gold (not wood overlaid with gold), which was the **Candlestick**, that was smaller in size and weight. Therefore, the **Mercy Seat**, according to its intrinsic worth, was the most valuable of all the holy vessels. The **Mercy Seat** spoke of how there is **POWER IN THE BLOOD**. Lev. 16:14-15. **Suppose an Ark with no Mercy Seat. The Law would then be uncovered. There would be nothing to hush its thunderings and demands. The Law expresses God's righteousness and demands the death of its violator. We are ALL sinners and unfit for the presence of an Holy God, and there is ONLY ONE WAY that your sins can be forgiven!** In a human court of law, the judge has to choose, when one has been proven guilty, to enforce the penalty of the law, or disregard the requirements of the law. The one is justice, the other is mercy. The only way both can be shown is if a third-party offering is willing to suffer the penalty that the convicted one deserves. God would not exercise mercy at the expense of justice! He would not, as the Judge of all the earth Who always does right, set aside the demands of His holy law; yet, God would show mercy! HOW? [**Third-Party Offering Illustration**] Aren't you glad that Jesus, in His mercy, instead of coming to the earth as the executioner of *The Law*, He became *sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him* (2 Cor. 5:21)? Since the **Mercy Seat** covers the **Ark**, the place where the blood was sprinkled to make an atonement for sins, we are able to stand before a righteous God NOT GUILTY! That blood ran down on those tables of stone and filled-in those carvings of the broken law! Rom. 3:24-25. The words *propitiation*, *mercy seat*, and *pitch* are synonymous (interchangeable) with each other. Christ became our **Mercy Seat**, our *propitiation* (1 John 2:2). While the *pitch* on the ark of Noah (Gen. 6:14) and on the ark of Moses (Exo. 2:3) kept out the water that would have drowned them (the waters of judgment), so the **Mercy Seat** keeps back the judgment of God from us concerning our sins if the blood has been applied!
3. **The Christ who gives Access – Hebrews 9:11-12** – As the high priest entered the **Holiest** with the blood, he was representing every man outside the Tabernacle, as it was impossible for each man to represent himself. Heb. 6:19-20. Since Jesus took our place, in His own body, and has offered His own blood, we have eternal redemption through Him! Heb. 10:4, 12. Tonight, if you were to stand in the heavenly court room, and be placed on trial for all the sins you've ever committed, what would be the verdict?