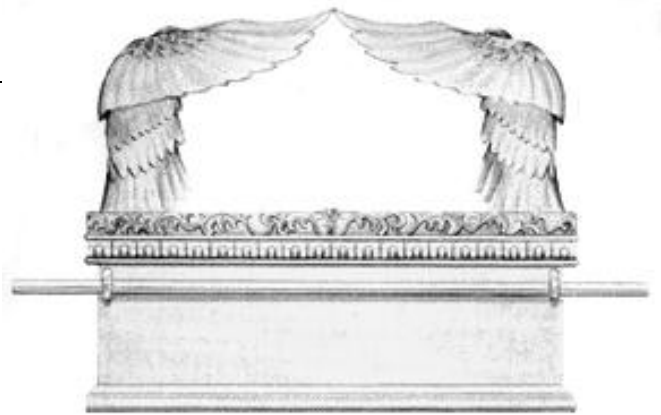


The MERCY SEAT

Here are a couple of questions to ask:

1. What is the Mercy Seat?

The Mercy Seat is the actual lid on top of the Ark of the Covenant. Lid in (Hebrew) is *kapporet* which means; place of atonement. It's made of Acacia wood and covered completely with gold and on each end is a large golden Cherub (angel).



2. What does it represent?

It's all about Atonement, which means; to cleanse, cover or cancel. And the CONCEPT is; the covering of sin. It is the removal of God's wrath= **Mercy** and entering His rest=**Seat**.

We read about the Mercy Seat in Exodus chapter 25.

Exodus 25:22 - Yahweh was speaking to Moses when He said; *"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."*

We can see from reading this scripture that the Mercy Seat was the place where God Dwells. We find reference to that in the Psalms. Psalm 99:1 *The LORD reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; Let the earth be moved!*

Yahweh (God) was very specific in the construction of the tabernacle and all its vessels. For instance just the gold alone weighed something like 8 tons! Which comes out to about 1/12 of an ounce of gold, per Israelite.* Yahweh also specified fine fabrics, certain animal skins, colors, fragrant spices for the anointing oil as well as detailed garments (robes) for the priests were to be made of all blue. (Exodus 28:31)

The Mercy Seat was where the blood was sprinkled. The cleansing and

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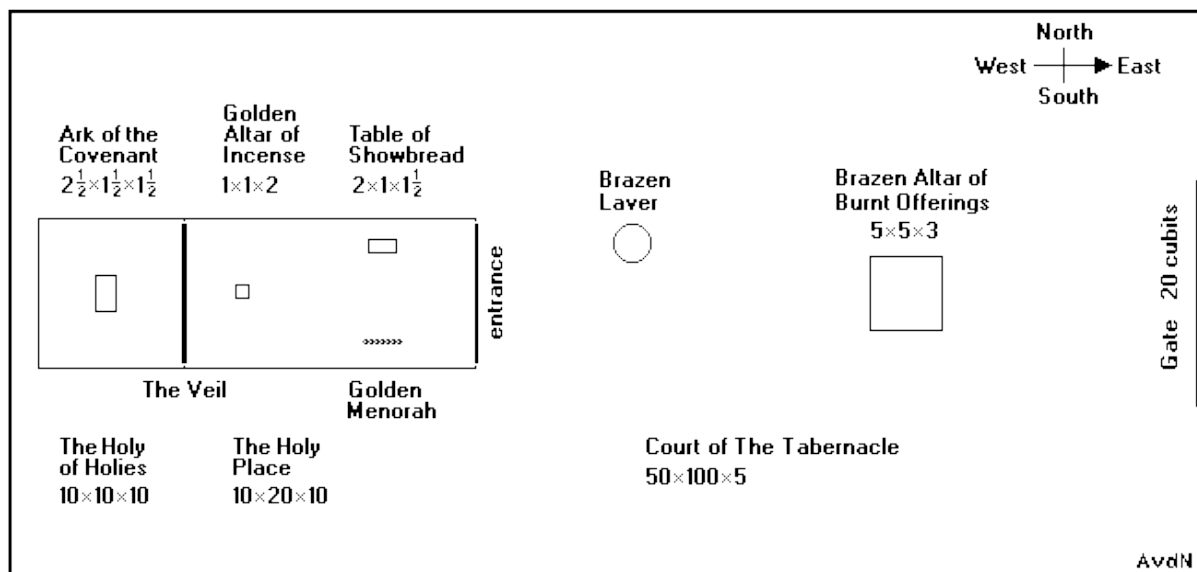
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The MERCY SEAT

covering came as the purity of the blood was sprinkled on the Mercy Seat before or in God's presence.



So, why all the Old Testament or Old Covenant references to blood sacrifices? Hasn't Jesus (Yeshua HaMashiach=Jesus the Anointed One) become our sacrifice for all time? He paid the ultimate price for sin; He laid down His life so that we can live, right?

Yes, Jesus Christ is our Mercy Seat. He shed his blood (John 3:16) for the sins of the world. *1 John 2:1-2 says; ...if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all, the world.*

Looking through the lens of the Hebrew is rich, it is such a beautiful pictorial language with all its symbols and types and really does help us to better understand the mercy that God extends to us and point us to our Redeemer. As the modern day Bride of Christ, we must be reminded of the costly bride-price that was paid on our behalf.

Reading in Mark 15: 37-38; *And Jesus cried out with a loud voice (a great cry), And breathed His last (He died). Then the veil of the temple was torn (rent) in two from top to bottom.*

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The MERCY SEAT

Notice the scripture says the veil was rent or torn. Jesus Christ's sacrifice was the Atonement; once and for all... the veil was torn. There is no longer the separation; you and I can enter the Holy of Holies without fear of judgment. (Hebrew 10:19-20)

We can read in Exodus chapter 26, beginning at verse 31 to 35 which speaks about the veil. Here is the gist in verses 33 & 34: *The veil shall be a divider for you between the holy place and the Most Holy. You shall put the **mercy seat** upon the ark of the Testimony in the Most Holy.* Only the high priest was allowed to enter the Most Holy Place.

That veil (separation) that kept us from the place where God dwells has been torn open which gives us full access through the Atonement, Jesus' blood.

The throne of God's All Powerful Justice has been executed. Jesus the Christ said; "It is finished." (John 19: 28-30)

Hebrews 9:12 Christ entered the Most Holy Place only one time—enough for all time. He entered the Most Holy Place by using his own blood, not the blood of goats or young bulls. He entered there and made us free from sin forever. V 22) the law says that almost everything must be made clean by blood. Sins cannot be forgiven without a blood sacrifice.

These shadows, symbols and types help us understand the great love Yahweh has for each of us. We can now run to the mercy seat without fear...

REFERENCES:

- *Hebraic Roots Bible, A Literal Translation. Word of Truth Publications 2009, Jerusalem*
- *Torah Class.com, Article: Old Testament Studies, Lesson 26 (Tom Bradford)*

COLORS:

Black= shadows, the unknown, sin

Red= blood, atonement, love

Gold= deity, purity

White= the Bride of Christ, the Redeemed, cleansed by the blood of Christ

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