**Rumination 835 for Jan. 31, 2021 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **The Mercy Seat** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *There I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above* ***the mercy seat****.* Exo. 25:22

The **T**hots:

1. **The Proposal for and Purpose of the Mercy Seat.** **Exo. 25:17-22**
2. Its **D**escription:
3. It was the **C**over of the Ark of the **C**ovenant and was **C**alled a Mercy Seat: 25:17, 21

*Make a mercy seat of pure gold…. and thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark;*

1. On both ends of the Seat were a **C**ouple of **C***herubim of gold…their wings* [*stretched forth*]

*on high,* ***C****overing the mercy seat…and their faces shall look one to another;* 25:18-20

1. Its **D**eclaration: 25:22
2. It was the **C**entre where the Lord would meet His people – *there I will meet with thee,*
3. It was the **C**hannel of **C**ommunication *– and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat,*
4. God would in this way **C**onvey His **C***ommandment unto the children of Israel.*
5. The **D**ay of Atonement and the **C**eremony **C**onnected with it:
6. ***S****peak unto Aaron thy brother, that he* ***C****ome not at all times into the holy place…before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: For I will appear in the* ***C****loud upon the mercy seat.* 16:2
7. The **S**acrifices **S**pecified to be offered: 16:3
8. For the **P**riest: *a young bullock for a* ***S****in offering, and a ram for a burnt offering.* 16:5, 6
9. For the **P**eople: two goats, one to be **S**lain, the other as **S**capegoat for the Lord. 16:7, 8
10. The **S**acrifices **S**lain: *Aaron…shall kill the bullock of the sin offering…* 16:11

*Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people,*  16:15a

1. The Blood was **S**hed and brought in to be **S**prinkled on the Mercy Seat. 16:14
2. Once *o*n the Mercy Seat *eastward* – for God’s **A**cceptance once for all.
3. *Before the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood…seven times* for the people’s **A**ssurance.

* Why ***E****astward?* That wasthe **D**irection by which Adam and Eve were **D**riven out of Eden. Gen. 3:24

*So He drove out the man; and He placed at the* ***E****ast of the garden of* ***E****den Cherubim,*

*and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

* The **E**ntrance (Gate) to the Tabernacle was set on the **E**ast – man could only **E**nter by the **E**ast!

*For the east side eastward fifty cubits the hangings of the one side of the gate.* Exo. 38:13f

* The Sinner was driven out by the East, must now Return by the East.

1. **The Propitiation on the Mercy Seat.**
2. The Denota**tion** of the Mercy Seat.
3. The Rendi**tion** in the O.T. of (Hebrew) *kappōret̠ =* lit. to cover over, from (*kaphar*);

A **L**id (used only of the cover of the sacred Ark) = mercy seat. Strong

1. The Transla**tion** in the N.T., (Greek) *hilastērion* = *mercy seat* (Heb. 9:5)and *propitiation* (Rom. 3:25)

**L**iterally it means to cover. Thus, Christ is our Mercy Seat whose shed blood has covered our sins.

Christ, *whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed*

1. The Illustra**tion** in Noah’s Ark: Noah was told to pitch the ark within and without. Gen. 6:14

*Make thee an ark of gopher wood…pitch it within and without with pitch (*Heb*.* *kāpar)*

*kāpar* is from a primitive root = to cover…figurative to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel:

appease, make (an) atonement, cleanse. Strong

* The Ark kept its occupants safe because it was “covered” *within and without*.

1. The Propitia**tion** in Christ’s Atoning Blood Rom. 3:25

*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*

**C**ompare the following **C**omments from: *The Bible Knowledge Commentary:*

1. The verb *hilaskomai, "*to satisfy by a sacrifice, to propitiate," is used in Luke 18:13

["have mercy"] and Heb. 2:17 ["make atonement"].

1. *The related noun, hilasmos, "propitiation," appears in* 1 John 2:2; 4:10*.*
2. *Christ, God's propitiatory Sacrifice for sin, was "presented" (lit., "set forth"), in contrast with the tabernacle's mercy seat which was hidden from view. This work of Christ is through faith in His blood* (cf. Rom. 5:9*). It is appropriated by faith (cf. 3:22).*
3. *By the death of Jesus and the shedding of His blood the penalty for sin has been paid and God has been satisfied or propitiated. The phrase "in (or by) His blood" probably should go with "a sacrifice of atonement," not with "through faith." A believer places His faith in Christ, not in His blood as such.*

* As we approach the Lord’s Table to take of the Lord’s Supper today,

Let us Remember Him Whose **B**ody was **B**roken in our stead and whose **B**lood was shed for our Propitiation.

*Approach, my soul, the mercy seat, Where Jesus answers prayer;*

*There humbly fall before His feet, For none can perish there.* John Newton

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 835**

1. Lev. 16:14 is a strange but significant record of how the blood of sacrifice was to be sprinkled at the mercy seat –

*He shall take of the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it with his finger* ***upon*** *the mercy seat* ***eastward****; and* ***before*** *the mercy seat shall he sprinkle of the blood with his finger* ***seven times****.*

The Shed Blood of the Burnt Offering was brought in into the Holy of Holies where the Ark of the Covenant was located and some of it was **S**prinkled on the Mercy Seat by the High Priest once eastwards. 16:14

Why only once on the mercy seat and Eastwards?

One might recall that when Adam and Eve sinned against God, they were driven out

of the Garden of Eden by way of the East. Gen. 3:24

*So He drove out the man; and He placed at the* ***E****ast of the garden of* ***E****den Cherubim,*

*and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

Also, the **E**ntrance (Gate) to the Tabernacle was set on the **E**ast –

Man could only **E**nter the Tabernacle from the **E**ast!

*For the east side eastward fifty cubits the hangings of the one side of the gate.* Exo. 38:13

Therefore, to be restored into favour with God, the sinner must return by way of the East!

The blood sprinkled Only Once on the mercy seat would refer to the Once-for-All Offering of the Lord Jesus Christ whose blood was shed for the remission of our sins, as stated in:

Heb. 9:12 - *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but* ***by His own blood*** *He entered*

*in* ***once*** *into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.*

Heb. 9:28a - *So Christ was* ***once offered*** *to bear the sins of many…*

Heb. 10:10 - *By the which will we are sanctified through the offering*

*of the body of Jesus Christ* ***once for all.***

God was perfectly satisfied with the Once-for-all Offering of Christ for our sins and the blood sprinkled only once demonstrated God’s Complete Acceptance of that Sacrifice.

However, for us, we often have doubts with regard to our Salvation though we should not, as the Efficacy of that sacrifice has been fully accepted by God. Sometimes we need to be assured again and again, thus, the sprinkling of the blood SEVEN (a perfect and complete number) times in front of the Mercy Seat specially to assure us of our redemption by the blood of Christ.

Psalm 103:12 - *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed*

*our transgressions from us.*

The Blood Sprinkled **once** **on** the Mercy Seat toward the **East**

showed God’s Complete **A**cceptance of the Sacrifice.

The Blood Sprinkled **in front** of the Mercy Seat **seven** times

gave the Sinner the **A**ssurance of the Efficacy of Christ’s Sacrifice for all time.

Are you fully assured that your sins have been forgiven by the shed blood of Christ once and for all? **REFLEC**T

1. The publican in the time of Christ (Lk. 18:13) s*tanding afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be* ***merciful*** *to me a sinner.*

He cried out to God to *be merciful* to him a sinner. *Merciful* is from the Greek. *Hilaskomai* = to conciliate, i.e., to atone for (sin), or be propitious [Strong] as used of the “mercy seat” and “propitiation (in Rom. 3:25; Heb. 9:4).

The publican realising his utter condition of helplessness approached God’s Mercy Seat for mercy to atone for his sins. Have you ever done so? **REFLECT.**

**POINTS TO PONDER:** *At the* ***M****ercy* ***S****eat, God will* ***M****eet the* ***S****inner his* ***S****ins to Forgive;*

*At the Great White Throne, No* ***M****ercy will be* ***S****hown.*