

PROPITIATION Part 1  
Jesus Christ our Mercy Seat

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Christ Jesus, "Whom God hath set forth [to be] a propitiation by his blood, through faith, to declare his righteousness because in His restraint God passed over the sins previously committed." (Ro 3:25)

**"Propitiation"** means to gain or regain the favor of, to appease someone who has been wronged. This results in expiation: the making amends or atoning. Propitiation is the word for **"mercy seat"** in the Old Testament. When sprinkled with blood the mercy seat was where God would not extend due punishment for the sins of the people, hence, **"mercy,"** the withholding of merited judgment. Where there is no judgment held against one from another there is no problem between the two, and their relationship can develop. Our relationship with God develops as we submit to our relation to him through propitiation by Jesus Christ.

The mercy seat was the place where God would speak with man: Nu. 7:89 & Ex. 25:17-22.

Heb. 9:3-11; Only the High Priest could enter the presence of the mercy seat, and only once per year, but never without blood shed for sins.

Nobody was to come to the mercy seat apart from God's way of approach, first point being the shed blood of a bull: Lev. 16:1-3.

Cherubim: Gen. 3:24 - They guard. They protect – 1 Kngs 8:6-7. They keep the way of the tree of life – Gen. 3:24. Who is "the life" today? Jn. 14:6, 6:35 "I am the bread of life." Jn. 10:10b "I am come that they might have life..."

Ex. 25:17-22. What are the cherubim guarding? What does this mean in light of Jesus Christ being our mercy seat? We have a New Covenant, with new words which God wants to commune with us about.

Jesus Christ our mercy seat realized produces God's intended effects in us, among which, it:

- Matures us into forgiveness of self and others because to hold a fault against one is to reckon Christ's sacrifice insufficient.
- Leaves no room for judgment against others (Rom. 8:1).
- Magnifies our oneness in the Body of Christ because every one of all of our sins was paid for by Christ.
- Wells up compassion towards others because all actions contrary to the love of God find their origin in Adam's sin and their solution in Christ's sacrifice.
- Develops inner peace and joy through knowing that God never holds anything against us and loves us just the way we are – flawless through Christ.
- Develops confidence and trust toward God who would love us to the degree of ransoming his son in our behalf.
- Causes a growing humility because by it we are reminded of our lack of worth to God before Christ's payment for our sins, and of our value to him as a result.
- Frees us from concerns about what others think of us.
- Brings an awareness of our authority over evil forces arrayed against God's purposes because they were defeated by the cross (Col. 2:15, Heb. 2:14).
- Continues to increase our partnership with God our Father because by the cross he eliminated everything about us which hindered that partnership.

Gaining insight into Jesus Christ being our propitiation is a catalyst to understanding the truths of the gospel declared in Romans. Consider key points in Romans in light of propitiation.