

A Reflection of **JESUS**

Lesson 5 The Most Holy

Once a year on the Day of Atonement the Holy Place was entered and it was entered only by the high priest. If anyone else were to enter, they would die. A veil separated the inner room or Holy of Holies from the outer room (Exodus 25–27; 30:1–10, 17–21).

The Veil

Exodus 26:31; 30:10

The veil was a curtain of blue, purple, and scarlet. It was embroidered with cherubim and hung on four gold-covered pillars. There was no separation in the curtain; it was one continuous piece (Exodus 26:31–37). The high priest entered from the side.

The veil acted as a barrier between God and man. The veil represented the body of Jesus. When Christ died, God tore the veil to the Holy of Holies which was then in the Temple. It was torn from the top to the bottom (Matthew 27:51).

Now everyone has access to God the Father through Jesus Christ, our High Priest (Hebrews 10:19,20).

The Ark of the Covenant

Exodus 25:10,14–16; 25:22, Hebrews 9

The Ark of the Covenant was the holiest of the furnishings in the Tabernacle. There are no pictures of what it looked like.

However we can read Exodus 25:10–22 which describes it.

It was a box shape measuring about 45 inches long, 27 inches wide, and 27 inches high. It was made from acacia wood and overlaid with gold. There were two poles on the side that were inserted into rings.

This made it possible for the ark to be moved without anyone touching it. Inside the ark there were three items, all to remind them of WHO brought them out of Egypt: (1) the stone tablets on which God wrote the Ten Commandments; (2) a gold pot filled with manna; (3) Aaron's rod that budded.

The Mercy Seat

Exodus 25:17,20; Hebrews 9:5

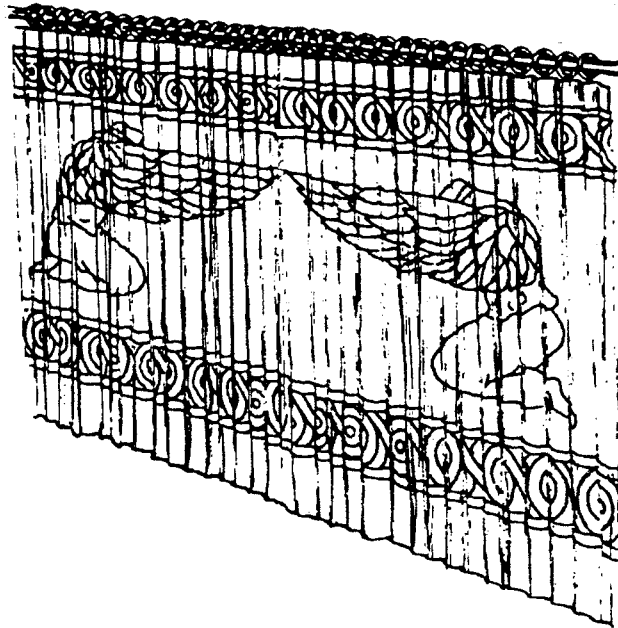
The mercy seat was made of *solid* gold and had beautiful carvings. Arched above the mercy seat were two cherubim with outstretched wings. The cherubim faced each other with heads bowed toward the mercy seat. The ark was placed between them.

It was at this seat that God spoke to Moses during the wilderness wandering (Numbers 7:89). On the day of Atonement, the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies and sprinkle the blood from the sacrificed animal on the mercy seat.

This was how an atonement was made for the sins of the priest and the people of Israel (Leviticus 16:15).

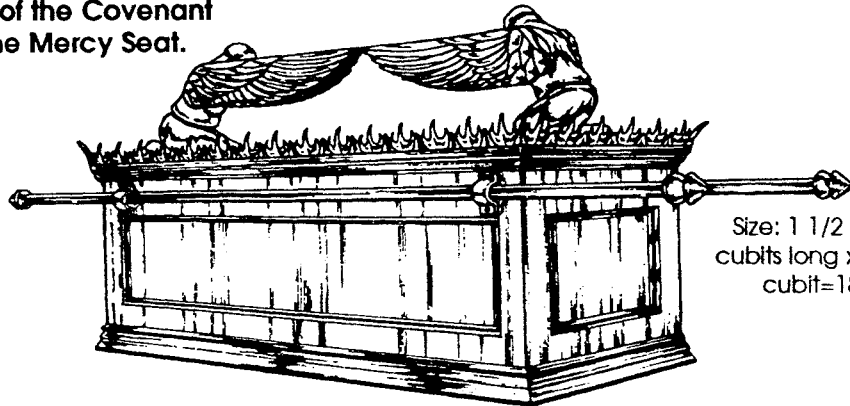
Propitiation or satisfaction is the Old

The Veil separated the Holy Place from the most Holy Place. It was a barrier between God and man.



Size: at least 10 cubits wide
(1 cubit=
18 inches=46 cm)

The Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat.



Size: 1 1/2 cubits wide x 2 1/2 cubits long x 1 1/2 cubits high (1 cubit=18 inches=46 cm)

The Veil

The veil was a heavy woven cloth stretching for ten cubits (15 feet or 4.5 meters). The word *veil* (Hebrew, *paroketh*) means to separate and aptly describes its function.

There was no opening in the middle. The priest had to go around the side to enter the most Holy Place. When the Temple was built the veil followed a similar design.

The Temple veil was torn from the top to the bottom when Jesus died. Every believer can now approach God through Jesus.

The Ark of the Covenant & the Mercy Seat

The Ark more clearly reflects Jesus Christ than any other thing in the Bible.

The central focus of the entire Tabernacle was the Holy of Holies where God spoke to the high priest above the Mercy Seat—the area where the winged cherubim face each other.

The layout of the Tabernacle along with the steps of sacrifice, cleansing, and remembering God's promises are all designed to bring sinful mankind to a loving and holy God.

Testament meaning word “mercy seat.” In Romans 3:25 the same Greek word is used for *propitiation*. The mercy seat is a symbol of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the propitiation for our sins (1 John 2:2).

Teacher: *Younger children may understand the word propitiate better if given the explanation that it means to make amends.*

The blood that was sprinkled on the mercy seat prefigured Christ. When God saw it, He was satisfied that the price for sin had been paid.

Christ, as our High Priest offered His own blood for the forgiveness of our sins (Hebrews 9:11–14). Christ fulfilled the requirements of the sin offering by taking the sins of the world on Himself:

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21; see also 1 Peter 2:24). □

Scripture for Today

“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” (Hebrews 9: 12)

Choose Your Questions

For class discussion ask your students any of the following:

1. How often could the high priest enter into the most Holy Place? *Once a year, on the Day of Atonement.*
2. What separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies? *The Veil.*
3. What resided within the Holy of Holies? *The Ark of the Covenant.*
3. How many items did the ark contain? *Three.*
4. Name the items contained within the ark.
(1) The two tablets of stone God gave to Moses (The 10 Commandments). (2) A golden pot filled with manna. (3) Aaron's rod that budded.
5. The ark rested upon what? *The Mercy Seat.*
6. The Mercy Seat was made of what? *Solid gold.*
7. The high priest sprinkled what upon the Mercy Seat each year at Atonement? *Blood.*
8. Is there anything more valuable than the blood of Jesus? *No!*

Ideas and Notes:
