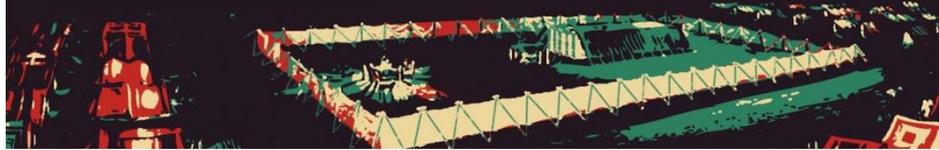


"The Mercy Seat, Christ Our Sovereign"

Exodus 25:17-22

The Tabernacle of Testimony



Romans 3:24-25, "24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 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;"

The word **propitiation** is the Greek word **hilasterion** (ἱλαστήριον, *hil-as-tay'-ree-on*), and it literally means "mercy seat."

1 John 4:10, "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Hebrews 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."

Hebrews 4:14-16, "14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

I. GOD HAS LIVED IN VARIOUS HOUSES

John 4:24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Isaiah 57:15, "For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

A. ADAM

When Adam sinned, God moved out, for God won't live in a defiled house.

B. THE TABERNACLE

Even that house became defiled, after the tabernacle became the temple.

Matthew 21:13, "And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."

Matthew 23:38, "Behold, your house is left unto you desolate."

C. JESUS

John 1:14, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt [tabernacled] among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father. . ."

John 2:19, "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

God moved out of that house, too, because that house became defiled with our sin.

II Corinthians 5:21, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Isaiah 53:6, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Matthew 27:46, "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

D. THE BELIEVER

When Solomon's temple was dedicated they brought the ark into it and they pulled the staves out. It had found a permanent dwelling place. But, the glory of God hadn't filled the temple yet. That didn't happen until the priest backed out.

When the ark came in, that pictured Christ coming into us. When the staves were pulled out, that pictures Christ always in us. And, when the priest backed out, that pictures Christ only in us. Christ, Christ always, Christ only.

John 14:16, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;"

II. LESSONS FROM CHRIST OUR MERCY SEAT

A. A LESSON CONCERNING SALVATION

Salvation is not getting man out of Earth into Heaven; it is getting God out of Heaven into man.

B. A LESSON CONCERNING SPIRITUALITY

I Cor. 6:19-20, "19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

C. A LESSON CONCERNING SECURITY

The Ark of the Covenant is in the temple; the staves have been removed; and He's not moving out again. I am His temple.

D. A LESSON CONCERNING SOUL WINNING

When Adam died, he died immediately in the spirit, progressively in his soul, and ultimately in his body. When man gets saved, he is justified immediately in his spirit, sanctified progressively in his soul, and glorified ultimately in his body. But, Satan would try to get you to skip over the Spirit and start with the soul or the body.

E. A LESSON CONCERNING SERVICE

Service is not you doing something for God; it is God doing something in you and through you because God lives in you.