

Elder Vernon Johnson  
Colors

Gold - The King's Mercy Seat

There is a strong correlation between the color or metal, gold, and the subject of kings and kingdoms. Among the furniture of the tabernacle is the mercy seat. It was situated in the Most Holy Place and was sitting on top of the Ark of the Covenant.

The mercy seat is described in the following passage of scripture: Ex. 25:17 "And thou shalt make a mercy seat of pure gold: two cubits and a half shall be the length thereof, and a cubit and a half the breadth thereof. 18 And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. 19 And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. 20 And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. 21 And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. 22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel."

In addition, Aaron, the High Priest was to make an offering for himself, his family, and the children of Israel and sprinkle the blood upon the mercy seat: Lev. 16:11 "And Aaron shall bring the bullock of the sin offering, which is for himself, and shall make an atonement for himself, and for his house, and shall kill the bullock of the sin offering which is for himself: 12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil: 13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not: 14 And 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.

15 Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the veil, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: 16 And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness. 17 And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when

he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy place, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel."

We draw the following conclusions from the above passages of scripture:

1. The mercy seat sat upon the Ark of the Covenant, which served as the foundation of the mercy seat.
2. There were two cherubims overshadowing the mercy seat and were an extension of the mercy seat.
3. The mercy seat was situated within the Most Holy Place.
4. God met with the children of Israel through their representative above the mercy seat.
5. Sweet incense was burned when the High Priest went into the Most Holy Place and made the offering of the atoning sacrifice.
6. Only the High Priest could go in by himself to make the offering of the atoning sacrifice.
7. The mercy seat was closely tied to the atoning sacrifice.

The mercy seat had the same length and width measurements as the ark of the covenant. However, we are not given any height measurement of the mercy seat. This teaches us that God's mercy is without measure toward his people.

The mercy seat was closely tied to the atoning sacrifice. This teaches us that while God is merciful, yet that mercy does not negate the judgment of God. God's judgment of our sins had to be satisfied in order for God's mercy to be extended to us.

The mercy seat was seated upon the Ark of the Covenant. Christ is the Ark of the Covenant. There were three things placed in the Ark of the Covenant for safe keeping: the covenant; the bowl of manna; and Aaron's rod that budded. Similarly, Christ is the keeper of the covenant of God. He lived by every word that proceeded from the mouth of God (bowl of manna). He also is the resurrection from the dead (Aaron's rod that budded). The covenant of redemption as stated in Rom. 8:29, 30 is the foundation for God's mercy: Rom. 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." God is merciful to us based on what he accomplished in accordance with the above covenant.

Cherubims are used in the scriptures as a figure of witnesses. There were two cherubims overshadowing the mercy seat. These cherubims had their faces inward

toward the mercy seat. The Old Testament looks forward to God's mercy and the New Testament looks back upon God's mercy through the atoning blood of Christ.

The scriptures tell us that heaven is God's throne and the earth is his footstool. The mercy of God is not just extended towards us upon the earth, but it has its roots in heaven itself. We will be housed in heaven's glory world as a result of the mercy of God. Also, God's mercy is extended from heaven upon us here on earth, while we live in this time world.

Christ being our representative on the cross of Calvary, we have mercy through his atoning sacrifice and he ever lives and makes intercession for us. Further, God speaks to us through our Lord Jesus Christ through his tender mercy.

Only Christ could go into the Holy Place to offer the atoning sacrifice upon the mercy seat: Heb. 9:11 "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 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."