Mercy Seat
Evangelist Pastor Barbara

While in prayer on October 1, 2025, **God told me one of the things I needed to do was to come to the Mercy Seat**. I researched the Mercy Seat and thought I would share my findings.

After describing the mercy seat, God told Moses that it would be the place where He would communicate with Moses, passing on His laws for Israel. This was also where the atoning sacrifice was offered. And in the description of that sacrifice, we find that it was where God lived, at least symbolically. The mercy seat represented God's presence among His people—Exodus Chapter 25.

What Role Did the Mercy Seat Play in Jewish Religious Life? The mercy seat was initially where God met with Moses to communicate the Law to him. However, it had a second, more significant role in the ritual worship practices of Israel. Leviticus 16 describes the Day of Atonement, an annual day of sacrifice for the Israelites. And the mercy seat played a significant part in this sacrifice.

Hebrews chapters 9 and 10 describe how Christ came as a better high priest, serving in the heavenly tabernacle and offering a superior sacrifice of atonement. The blood of the sacrificed animals could never make atonement for our sins. But the blood of the sacrificed Jesus could, and did.

Jesus as the Mercy Seat. Romans 3:25 states that it is God who presented Christ as the means of making atonement; this atonement is received by faith in the blood of Jesus.

The mercy seat in the Old Testament was God's dwelling place among His people; Jesus also fits this description. He was God, wrapped in human flesh, and dwelling among us – Emmanuel, as stated in Matthew 1:23. In a very real sense, Jesus was the fulfillment of what the Old Testament mercy seat pointed toward.

Jesus fulfilled all aspects of the Old Testament's sacrificial atonement. He was the high priest, the atoning sacrifice, and the mercy seat. Hebrews 9:11-12

Matthew 5:17, Jesus declares that He is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

The Cross as a Symbol

In the **Old Testament**, the **mercy seat** was the physical location where the blood of the atoning sacrifice was offered. In the **New Testament**, it is the **cross** that was the physical location where Jesus, our atoning sacrifice, was offered up and His blood poured out on our behalf. The Old Testament **mercy seat looked ahead** to the atoning work of Jesus, while the **cross looks back** at the atoning work of our Lord. In this way, the cross has become a valid symbol to represent Jesus as both the mercy seat and the atoning sacrifice that was offered there.

God wants His chosen warriors to go to the Mercy Seat for the lost and dying every day. Just as we need God's Mercy daily, the prodigals and the lost also need the covering of Mercy. We are to go to the Mercy Seat (the presence of God) to receive our instructions continually, just as Moses did.

GOD SPOKE THIS: **I AM THAT I AM. IT IS WHAT IT IS. ONWARD AND UPWARD**