

PROPITIATION Part 1
Jesus Christ our Mercy Seat

January 11, 2010

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.

PROPITIATION Part 2
A Look at Romans in light of
Jesus Christ our Mercy Seat

January 14, 2010

Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary:

PROPITIATION, n. propisia'shon.

1. The act of appeasing wrath and conciliating the favor of an offended person; the act of making propitious.
2. In theology, the atonement or atoning sacrifice offered to God to assuage his wrath and render him propitious to sinners. Christ is the propitiation for the sins of men. Rom 3. 1 John 2.

BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW:

1. God designed Mankind in his own image – Gen. 1:26-28
2. Man's turning away from God – sin, separation from God. This is called "death."
3. God's restoration for Man – the Christ
 - a. To being reconciled to God – Rom. 5:10-11
 - b. Joined to (peace with) God – Rom. 5:1
 - c. Life with God – Jn. 10:10, Jn. 20:30-31, Rom. 6:4 & Rom. 8:2
4. This restoration is "the Mercy Seat," called "propitiation. This is where God had planned that every one of the sins of all the ages of Mankind would be appeased. So now, God is not holding anything against us. The justice of the Just Judge, God, has been satisfied. Jesus Christ as our Mercy Seat is our restoration to God, to the way God designed life to be in all of its fullness. One way to see this is through the eyes of the book of Romans.

Remembering what we learned in Part 1, that 1) nobody could enter the presence of God over the Mercy Seat without shed blood to cover their sins, and 2) this was God's plan from the beginning, let's look at the opening chapters in Romans.

"But now, apart from the law, God's righteousness has been revealed—attested by the Law and the Prophets—that is, God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ, to all who believe, since there is no distinction. For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. They are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. God presented Him as a propitiation (mercy seat) in His blood through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His restraint God passed over the sins previously committed. He presented Him to demonstrate His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and declare righteous the one who has faith in Jesus." (Ro 3:21-26)

Romans in light of Jesus Christ being our Mercy Seat:

1:1-6 Paul's God-given mission: get the gospel to all nations. Why?...

1:16-17 The gospel is the power of God because in it the righteousness of God is revealed. God's righteousness is extended to Mankind by the Mercy Seat.

1:18 The wrath of God IS revealed. It has been meted out on Jesus Christ. Now God's mercy is extended to us through the Mercy Seat.

2:3 Do you suppose you shall escape the judgment of God? No sin escapes its just consequence (Heb. 2:2). We didn't "escape the judgment of God." Instead, our judgment was transferred by substitution to our Mercy Seat.

3:9-10 Nobody comes into the realm of God on their own merits. Everyone falls short. But because of Jesus Christ's shed blood for all faults anyone can come into God's presence.

3:27 Where is boasting in our own efforts in light of the Mercy Seat? It is excluded.

4:6-8 David prophesied of how blessed are those who accept the realities of the Mercy Seat – all our errors are paid for by Christ.

5:1 Accepting the realities of the cross leaves us having peace with God THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

5:3-5 Because of Christ's payment for our sins we can boast in tribulation. When tribulation is upon us we boast in the power of the cross knowing that the realities there are greater than any tribulation. No tribulation can take away our life with God, eternal life, the realities of being a son of God, etc. So we boast in the cross.

5:10-11 It is by Jesus Christ as our Mercy Seat, his death, that we have been reconciled to God, and now can live as reconciled one.

5:12-21 Here is the problem and the solution: Adam disobeyed God through which sin entered into the world and death through sin. This is the problem which results in all of the subsequent problems of Mankind and all of creation. God's solution to this problem is the obedience of the one unto death (the Mercy Seat), Jesus Christ, unto our acquittal to life with God.

6:3-11 We are baptized into Christ's death (the Mercy Seat – the payment for all sins). Now we are identified (unified) with his death (the payment for all sins), bringing us into being identified with his resurrection into newness of life. When he was raised from the dead was he still dealing with sin? NO! We aren't to be dealing with sin either. We accept his payment for sin. As a result we walk in newness of life, reckoning ourselves dead unto sin, and so, alive unto God. Without accepting the realities of Jesus Christ as our Mercy Seat we CANNOT walk in the realities of newness of life in Christ.

6:19 ***"...so present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification."*** How did we become righteous? It was by the Mercy Seat. Our servitude to this reality produces continued sanctification.

6:22 ***"But now having been freed from sin..."*** How did we arrive here, freed from sin?

8:3-4 Isn't verse 3 referring to Jesus Christ's death – our Mercy Seat? The result is in verse 4. The righteous requirements of the Law (love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself – Mt. 22:36-40) are fulfilled in us as we walk by the spirit, including Jesus Christ's death in our behalf.

8:32 How can we believe the second part of this verse if we don't accept the first part? Rom. 12:1 ***"...by the mercies of God..."*** This has to include the mercy extended to us in the Mercy Seat.

Rom. 14:1 This whole chapter comes alive in the realization of our Mercy Seat.

Rom. 15:1-3 The high price paid for Man's reconciliation to God makes the value of Man incalculable. See if you can gain insight into these verses in light of this truth.

Gal. 3:1-3 It is Jesus Christ publicly portrayed as crucified (Mercy Seat) which builds into understanding verses 2-3. Do we mature spiritually by any works that we might do, or by the living reality of Christ crucified?

The powerful realities of Jesus Christ's payment for all of our faults, lack, failures, inabilities and great abilities in our flesh hold learning and spiritual growth for us far beyond what we are currently realizing. Seek insight from our Father on the cross of Christ being the power of God unto our wholeness and deliverance.