

# Exodus 25:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat.

## Analysis

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Two cherubim of beaten gold form one piece with the mercy seat—not separate additions but integral to it. Cherubim, the guardians of God's holiness (Genesis 3:24, Ezekiel 10), flank the throne. Their unity with the mercy seat shows that at the atonement, holiness is satisfied, no longer excluding but protecting restored fellowship. They prefigure angels who 'desire to look into' salvation (1 Peter 1:12).

## Historical Context

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Beaten work (מִקְשָׁה, miqshah) required skillful hammering of solid gold, creating the cherubim and mercy seat from a single piece. This one-piece construction ensured the mercy seat could never be separated from its guardians of holiness.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does atonement satisfy rather than circumvent God's holiness?
2. Why are even angels fascinated by the mercy shown at the place of atonement?

## Interlinear Text

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תַּעֲשֶׂה הַ	מִשְׁנֵי י	כְּרֻבִּים	זָה ב	מִקְשֵׁה
And thou shalt make	them in the two	cherubims	of gold	of beaten work
H6213	H8147	H3742	H2091	H4749
תַּעֲשֶׂה הַ	אֶת הַ	מִשְׁנֵי י	קֶצֶוֹת	הַכִּפֹּרֶת:
And thou shalt make	H853	them in the two	ends	of the mercy seat
H6213		H8147	H7098	H3727

## Additional Cross-References

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**Hebrews 9:5** (Grace): And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.

**Ezekiel 10:20** (Parallel theme): This is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; and I knew that they were the cherubims.

**1 Chronicles 28:18** (Parallel theme): And for the altar of incense refined gold by weight; and gold for the pattern of the chariot of the cherubims, that spread out their wings, and covered the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

**Ezekiel 10:2** (Parallel theme): And he spake unto the man clothed with linen, and said, Go in between the wheels, even under the cherub, and fill thine hand with coals of fire from between the cherubims, and scatter them over the city. And he went in in my sight.