

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

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

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

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

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

מִקְשָׁה יְהוָה בְּפִרְבָּם מִשְׁנֵי כְּרָבִים מִשְׁנֵי
And thou shalt make them in the two cherubims of gold of beaten work
H6213 H8147 H3742 H2091 H4749

פֶּרֶת בְּמִשְׁנֵי אֶת מִשְׁנֵי קָצֵת כְּפֹרָת
And thou shalt make them in the two ends of the mercy seat
H6213 H853 H8147 H7098 H3727

Additional Cross-References

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.