

Exodus 25:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

The cherubim are positioned at the two ends of the mercy seat, one on each side, creating symmetry and completeness. Their placement at the extremities shows that God's holiness fully surrounds and guards the place of mercy. Yet they are 'of one piece' with it (v.18), demonstrating that holiness and mercy are not contradictory but united in God's character and Christ's atoning work.

Historical Context

The cherubim's positions on opposite ends created a space between them where God's glory would manifest (the Shekinah). This arrangement formed a throne with living guardians, emphasizing both God's majesty and approachability through atonement.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do holiness and mercy unite rather than contradict in God's character?

2. What does the symmetry of the cherubim teach about the completeness of Christ's atonement?

Interlinear Text

בְּכֶבֶב יְמִינְךָ מִן־הַכְּבָדִים אַפָּלְךָ
And make **cherub** and the other **end** on the other **cherub**
H6213 H3742 H259 H7098 H2088 H3742

תַּעֲשֵׂה אַפָּלְךָ מִן־הַכְּבָדִים מִן־הַכְּבָדִים תַּעֲשֵׂה
and the other **end** **on the other** **even of the mercy seat** And make
H259 H7098 H2088 H4480 H3727 H6213

אַתָּה שְׁנָה בְּכֶבֶב יְמִינְךָ מִן־הַכְּבָדִים
H853 **cherub** **on the two** **end**
H3742 H5921 H8147 H7098

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