

# Exodus 25:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee.

## Analysis

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Assembly instructions: place the mercy seat 'above upon the ark,' and inside the ark put 'the testimony.' This creates a visual theology—God's law within the ark demands perfect righteousness; God's mercy seat above the ark provides that righteousness through atoning sacrifice. Between law's demand and God's throne falls the sprinkled blood. Christ fulfills the law below while providing mercy above.

## Historical Context

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This arrangement meant the high priest, approaching the mercy seat on Yom Kippur, stood directly over the law tablets. The blood he sprinkled stood between the visible mercy seat above and the invisible law beneath, satisfying both God's justice and mercy.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ satisfy both the law's demands 'beneath' and God's mercy 'above'?

2. What role does blood play in standing between divine justice and mercy?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֶל מֶלֶט עַלְהָה בְּאָרֶר | אַתְּ אַתְּ |  
And thou shalt put H853 the mercy seat H3727 הַכְּפֵר רַת אַתְּ עַל |  
H5921 and in the ark H727 בְּאָרֶר | בְּאָרֶר |  
above H413 H4605

בְּאָרֶר | בְּאָרֶר | אַתְּ אַתְּ | אַתְּ תְּבִעַד תְּבִעַד | אַתְּ |  
and in the ark And thou shalt put H853 the testimony H5715 בְּאָשָׁר בְּאָשָׁר |  
H5414 H834 And thou shalt put H5414

אַלְיכָם:

H413

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 26:34** (Grace): And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place.

**Romans 10:4** (Parallel theme): For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

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