

Exodus 25:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

Analysis

The divine promise: 'There I will meet with thee.' The Ark becomes the meeting place between holy God and sinful man. The Hebrew נִעְתֵּן (no'adti, 'I will meet') suggests appointed meeting, covenant relationship. God speaks 'from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim'—His voice emanates from the place of atonement, teaching that all divine communication flows through propitiatory blood, ultimately Christ.

Historical Context

This became the most holy place in Israel's worship, where only the high priest could enter once yearly (Leviticus 16). The Shekinah glory would appear here, making the mercy seat God's earthly throne until the temple's destruction.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Why does God speak only from 'above the mercy seat' (the place of atonement)?
2. How does Christ serve as the 'meeting place' between God and man?

Interlinear Text

וְיַעֲשֵׂת	לְבָנָם	שְׁמָךְ	וְיַדְבְּרָתִ	אֶתְכֶם
And there I will meet	H0	H8033	with thee and I will commune	H853
	H3259		H1696	
עַל	הַכְּפֶרֶת	מִבּוֹנֵן	שְׁנַיִם	
which are upon	with thee from above the mercy seat	from between	the two	
H5921	H3727	H996	H8147	
כְּרָבָבִים	אֵשׁ רָאשָׁה	עַל	אָרְבָּה	כָּל
H3742	H834	which are upon	the ark	of the testimony
		H5921	H727	H853
			H5715	H3605
אֲשֶׁר	אֶצְרָה	אֶל	אֶזְרָחָל:	
H834	of all things which I will give thee in commandment	H853	H413	
	H6680			
בָּנִים	יִשְׂרָאֵל:			
unto the children	of Israel			
H1121	H3478			

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 7:89 (Grace): And when Moses was gone into the tabernacle of the congregation to speak with him, then he heard the voice of one speaking unto him from off the mercy seat that was upon the ark of testimony, from between the two cherubims: and he spake unto him.

Isaiah 37:16 (References Israel): O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

Psalms 80:1 (References Israel): Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

2 Kings 19:15 (References Israel): And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

Leviticus 16:2 (Grace): And the LORD said unto Moses, Speak unto Aaron thy brother, that he come not at all times into the holy place within the vail before the mercy seat, which is upon the ark; that he die not: for I will appear in the cloud upon the mercy seat.

Numbers 17:4 (Witness): And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you.

1 Samuel 4:4 (Parallel theme): So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

Psalms 99:1 (Parallel theme): The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

Exodus 30:6 (Grace): And thou shalt put it before the vail that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.

Exodus 30:36 (Witness): And thou shalt beat some of it very small, and put of it before the testimony in the tabernacle of the congregation, where I will meet with thee: it shall be unto you most holy.