

Exodus 37:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he made two cherubims of gold, beaten out of one piece made he them, on the two ends of the mercy seat;

Analysis

Two cherubim (כְּרֻבִים, keruvim) of beaten gold (מִקְשָׁה, mikshah—'hammered work from one piece') formed from the mercy seat itself—not attached separately but beaten from the same gold. This teaches that worship (cherubim represent worshiping beings) is inseparable from atonement (mercy seat). The cherubim looking down at the blood-sprinkled mercy seat illustrate angels longing to look into redemption (1 Peter 1:12). Beaten from one piece emphasizes unity of worship and atonement in God's redemptive plan.

Historical Context

These cherubim were the only representational art allowed in the tabernacle (cf. the prohibition on graven images, Exodus 20:4). Their presence above the mercy seat demonstrated that they guarded holiness while directing attention to atonement. Ancient Near Eastern temples often featured winged creatures flanking thrones.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the cherubim being beaten from the same piece as the mercy seat teach about the inseparability of worship and atonement?
2. How do angels longing to look into redemption (represented by cherubim facing the mercy seat) demonstrate the wonder of salvation?

Interlinear Text

עָשָׂה ה	מִשְׁנֵי י	כְּרֻבִּים	זָה ב	מִקְנֶשֶׁה
And he made	he them on the two	cherubims	of gold	beaten out of one piece
H6213	H8147	H3742	H2091	H4749
עָשָׂה ה	אֵת ׀	מִשְׁנֵי י	קֵץ וְ	הַכַּפֹּרֶת:
And he made	H853	he them on the two	ends	of the mercy seat
H6213		H8147	H7098	H3727

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