

# Exodus 39:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The ark of the testimony, and the staves thereof, and the mercy seat,

## Analysis

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The ark of the testimony (אֲרוֹן הָעֵדוּת, aron ha'edut) with its staves (בַּדָּוִי, badav) and mercy seat (כַּפֹּרֶת, kaporet) represents God's throne. The 'testimony' (עֵדוּת, edut, i.e., the Ten Commandments) inside the ark taught that God's law stands at the center of His covenant. The mercy seat atop the law showed that mercy covers justice through atoning blood sprinkled there (Leviticus 16:14-15). This furniture prefigures Christ, who perfectly kept the law (Matthew 5:17) and became mercy for lawbreakers (Romans 3:25, hilasterion, propitiation/mercy seat).

## Historical Context

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The ark, most holy object in the tabernacle, resided in the Most Holy Place accessible only to the high priest once yearly (Yom Kippur). The staves, permanently inserted (Exodus 25:15), kept the ark ready for transport, teaching that God's presence accompanied Israel on their journey.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the mercy seat covering the law teach that grace doesn't abolish but fulfills God's righteous requirements?
2. What does Christ being both lawkeeper and mercy seat reveal about His unique qualification as Mediator?

## Interlinear Text

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אֶת    אֲרֹן    הָעֵדֻת    וְאֶת    בַּדֵּי יוֹ    וְאֶת  
H853    **The ark**    **of the testimony**    H853    **and the staves**    H853  
H727    H5715    H905

הַכַּפֹּרֶת:  
**thereof and the mercy seat**  
H3727

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