

Ark of the Covenant

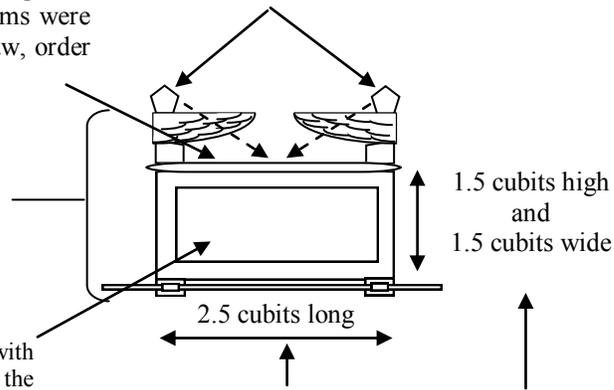
Exodus 25:10-22; 37:1-9

The Mercy Seat was where the blood of the sacrificed animal was placed. It was a covering to cover the two commandment stones, the pot of manna and Aaron's rod. These three items were a testimony that all had broken God's law, order and rejected His provision.

The two cherubim that represented God's perfect Righteousness and Justice. They looked down at the Mercy Seat. The blood covered over creation's sinfulness and appeased God's Holiness.

Significance of the Material:
The wood represented the Humanity of Christ and the Gold His Deity. The Church will be part of this union in eternity future (Jn. 17:20-23).

The Ark contained within it the two tablets with the Ten Commandments representing sin in the sense of transgression of known divine laws. The Pot of Manna represented sin as rejection of God's provision & Aaron's rod that budded represented sin in revolt against God's order. The blood on the Mercy Seat covered over these sins & canceled God's wrath for His mercy.



The significance of its measurements:
 Width: $2.5 \times 2 = 5$ (# for Grace) Height: $1.5 \times 2 = 3$ (# for Perfection)
 Measurements around end: $1.5 + 1.5 + 1.5 + 1.5 = 6$ (# for Man)
 Measurements around top: $2.5 + 1.5 + 2.5 + 1.5 = 8$ (# for Resurrection)
 Measurements of two ends: $6 + 6 = 12$ (# for Governmental Perfection)

Like the Israelites in the Old Testament, we have all broken God's law, provision & order and have come short of His Glory because our sinful imperfections (Rom. 3:23). The two cherubim looking down on the mercy-seat represented God's Holiness or Perfect Righteousness and Justice looking down on our sinful imperfection. The mercy-seat was where the blood of the sacrificed animal was placed in order to appease God's Judgment on sinful Israel. The blood represented the death that God's Holiness demanded as judgment. Likewise, Jesus Christ's blood on the Cross is the only thing that covers us and is between our imperfect sinfulness and God's Holiness. Christ's blood represented the sacrificial work on the Cross that is the basis for appeasing God's Holiness. As a result, Christ as our Mercy-Seat changes God's throne from a throne judgment to a throne of grace. The number 5 speaks of God's grace to man (#6). Thanks to the grace of Perfect God (#3) we can have a resurrection (#8) because Christ's blood covers our sinfulness unto a future perfect government (#12) in eternity future that will be made of church age believers.