

## UNDERSTANDING ATONEMENT IN THE PAST AND IN THE PRESENT

John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends,"

The Mercy Seat and the Altar of Sacrifice were essential under the Mosaic Covenant for atonement, pointing to Elohim's holiness and the need for blood to reconcile sin.

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls" (Leviticus 17:11).

"Without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22).

The Mercy Seat and the Altar are spiritually fulfilled in Yahoshua, who offered His blood once for all, reflecting Elohim's holiness, mercy, and love for those who strive to live obediently.

"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:5).

"Whom Elohim hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood" (Romans 3:25).

I thank YAH for our Messiah who made a way out of no way for each and everyone of us!

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### Lesson: Was Atonement Possible Without the Mercy Seat and the Altar of Sacrifice?

The Torah establishes a clear system for atonement, centered around the **Mercy Seat (Kapporet)** and the **Altar of Burnt Offering**. These elements were more than physical structures—they represented profound spiritual truths about sin, reconciliation, and the relationship between Elohim and His people. Without these elements, the prescribed system of atonement could not be completed.

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### 1. The Importance of the Physical Elements in Atonement

#### The Mercy Seat (Kapporet)

- **Biblical Role:**
  - The Mercy Seat was the lid of the Ark of the Covenant, placed in the Holy of Holies (Exodus 25:21-22).
  - It represented Elohim's throne and His presence among His people. The high priest would sprinkle the blood of the sin offering on it during the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:14-15).

- Elohim declared that He would meet with His people above the Mercy Seat (Exodus 25:22), making it the focal point of His covenant with Israel.
  - **Significance:**
    - The Mercy Seat symbolized Elohim's willingness to forgive sins when approached according to His laws.
    - It demonstrated His holiness, as only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies once a year, after intense purification (Leviticus 16:2).
  - **Key Scriptures:**
    - **Exodus 25:17-22:** Instructions for constructing the Mercy Seat.
    - **Leviticus 16:14-15:** The high priest sprinkles blood on the Mercy Seat for atonement.
    - **Hebrews 9:5:** The Mercy Seat as a foreshadowing of Christ.
  - **Without the Mercy Seat:**
    - The Day of Atonement rituals could not be completed. There would be no place to present the blood as a covering for the nation's sins.
    - The absence of the Mercy Seat would signify a breach in the covenant relationship between Elohim and Israel.
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## The Altar of Burnt Offering

- **Biblical Role:**
  - The altar, located in the Tabernacle's outer court, was where sacrifices were made to atone for sin (Exodus 27:1-8).
  - The shedding of blood on the altar was necessary for forgiveness, as stated in Leviticus 17:11: "For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls."
- **Significance:**
  - The altar represented the cost of sin—life must be given to atone for disobedience to Elohim's laws (Hebrews 9:22).
  - It was a place of substitution, where the animal bore the penalty of sin on behalf of the sinner (Leviticus 4:27-35).
- **Key Scriptures:**
  - **Exodus 27:1-8:** Instructions for constructing the altar.
  - **Leviticus 17:11:** The importance of blood for atonement.

- **Leviticus 1:3-4:** Sacrifices made for atonement.
  - **Isaiah 53:5-7:** The ultimate sacrifice fulfilled in Yahusha.
  - **Without the Altar:**
    - There would be no way to shed blood as required for atonement (Hebrews 9:22).
    - The process of reconciliation through sacrifice would be incomplete, leaving sin unaddressed.
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## 2. Could Atonement Occur Without These Elements?

### The Torah's Requirements

- Both the Mercy Seat and the Altar of Burnt Offering were integral to the atonement process:
  1. **Blood was shed at the altar** as the means of forgiveness (Leviticus 4:20).
  2. **Blood was brought into the Holy of Holies** and sprinkled on the Mercy Seat to intercede for the people before Elohim (Leviticus 16:15-16).
- **If Either Element Was Missing:**
  - The sacrificial system outlined in the Torah would break down, as both elements were necessary for atonement to be accepted (Leviticus 10:1-2).

### The Prophetic Implications

- The Mercy Seat and the Altar foreshadowed **Yahusha HaMashiach** (Jesus), who fulfilled their roles:
    - Yahusha became the **ultimate sacrifice**, shedding His blood once for all (Hebrews 9:12).
    - He is also the **Mercy Seat**, where Elohim's presence and forgiveness meet humanity (Romans 3:25).
  - **Key Scriptures:**
    - **Hebrews 9:11-14:** Yahusha entered the heavenly sanctuary with His own blood.
    - **Hebrews 10:4-10:** The insufficiency of animal sacrifices compared to Yahusha's perfect atonement.
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## 3. The Importance of Physical Elements in Worship

### The Role of the Tabernacle and Temple

- The physical structures (Tabernacle and Temple) where the Mercy Seat and Altar resided emphasized:

1. **Elohim's Holiness:** The precise instructions for their construction and use highlighted Elohim's unapproachable purity (Exodus 40:34-35).
  2. **The Cost of Sin:** The need for constant sacrifices pointed to the gravity of disobedience (Leviticus 4:31).
  3. **Elohim's Grace:** These elements demonstrated Elohim's desire to reconcile with His people despite their sin (Leviticus 16:30).
- **Key Scriptures:**
    - **Exodus 40:34-38:** The presence of Elohim fills the Tabernacle.
    - **2 Chronicles 7:1-3:** Elohim's glory fills the Temple.

### Physical Elements in Faith Today

- While Yahusha has fulfilled the sacrificial system, the physical elements remind us of spiritual truths:
  - The **Altar** reminds us of the cost of sin and the necessity of repentance (Luke 13:3).
  - The **Mercy Seat** points to Elohim's presence and willingness to forgive through the blood of the Messiah (1 John 1:7-9).

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## 4. Lessons from the Absence of the Mercy Seat and Altar

Historically, after the destruction of the First and Second Temples, Israel no longer had access to the Mercy Seat or the Altar. This led to significant changes:

- **Rabbinic Judaism** shifted from sacrificial atonement to prayer, repentance, and good works.
- **Biblical Prophecy Fulfilled:**
  - The absence of these elements highlighted humanity's need for a greater atonement, fulfilled in Yahusha (Hebrews 10:12-18).
- **Key Scriptures:**
  - **Daniel 9:26-27:** The Messiah would bring an end to sacrifices.
  - **John 19:30:** Yahusha's declaration, "It is finished," signifies the fulfillment of the atonement process.

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## The Spiritual Fulfillment of the Mercy Seat and Altar in the New Covenant

**The Mercy Seat and the Altar of Burnt Offering, integral to atonement under the Mosaic Covenant, find their ultimate spiritual fulfillment in Yahusha HaMashiach (Jesus the Messiah). For individuals who strive to walk uprightly and avoid willful sin, these elements offer**

profound insight into Elohim's holiness, mercy, and love. This lesson focuses on how the fulfilled Mercy Seat and Altar relate to those who live in obedience to Elohim and seek His presence daily.

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## 1. The Spiritual Fulfillment of the Mercy Seat

### Jesus as the Mercy Seat

- **In the Old Covenant:**
  - The Mercy Seat was where Elohim's presence dwelled and where the high priest sprinkled the blood of the sin offering to make atonement for the people (Leviticus 16:14-15).
  - It represented Elohim's willingness to forgive sins through the prescribed sacrificial system.
- **In the New Covenant:**
  - Jesus becomes the fulfillment of the Mercy Seat. His sacrificial blood serves as the ultimate and final atonement (Romans 3:25).
  - For those who strive to avoid willful sin, Jesus' role as the Mercy Seat provides reassurance that their sins are covered, and they are reconciled to Elohim (1 John 2:1-2).

### Living in Daily Reverence

- For the obedient believer, the Mercy Seat symbolizes Elohim's presence and the continual opportunity to commune with Him. Just as the high priest approached the Mercy Seat with reverence, believers are called to live with awe and respect for Elohim's holiness (Hebrews 12:28-29).

### Reflection of Elohim's Character:

- **Elohim's Mercy:**
  - The Mercy Seat demonstrates Elohim's willingness to forgive those who seek Him earnestly and obey His commandments (Psalm 103:17-18).
- **Elohim's Justice:**
  - While Elohim is merciful, the blood on the Mercy Seat reminds us that sin carries consequences, and only through the shedding of blood can there be forgiveness (Hebrews 9:22).

### Key Scriptures:

- Romans 3:25: "Whom Elohim hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood..."

- **1 John 1:7-9: Walking in the light ensures continual cleansing by the blood of Jesus.**
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## **2. The Spiritual Fulfillment of the Altar of Burnt Offering**

### **Jesus as the Sacrifice and the Altar**

- **In the Old Covenant:**
  - **The altar was the place of sacrifice, where sin offerings were made to atone for transgressions (Leviticus 1:3-4).**
  - **It symbolized the cost of sin—life had to be given to reconcile humanity to Elohim.**
- **In the New Covenant:**
  - **Jesus fulfilled the role of both the altar and the sacrifice. His death on the cross replaced the need for continual animal sacrifices (Hebrews 10:10-12).**
  - **For those who avoid willful sin, the Altar of Christ serves as a reminder of the price already paid, encouraging them to live in gratitude and obedience.**

### **Living a Life of Sacrifice**

- **Romans 12:1-2: Believers are called to present their bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to Elohim. For those who strive not to sin, this means daily offering their lives in service, love, and obedience.**

### **Reflection of Elohim's Character:**

- **Elohim's Holiness:**
  - **The altar reminds believers that Elohim's holiness demands purity and complete surrender (1 Peter 1:15-16).**
- **Elohim's Love:**
  - **The ultimate sacrifice of Jesus reflects Elohim's love for those who earnestly seek Him and strive to walk in His ways (John 15:13).**

### **Key Scriptures:**

- **Hebrews 9:14: The blood of Christ purges our conscience from dead works to serve the living Elohim.**
  - **John 1:29: "Behold the Lamb of Elohim, which taketh away the sin of the world."**
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## **3. The Holiness of Elohim for Those Who Obey**

### **Elohim's Unchanging Holiness**

- The Mercy Seat and the Altar reflect Elohim's unchanging holiness. Even for those who avoid willful sin, Elohim's standard of perfection calls for humility and a recognition of His absolute purity (Isaiah 6:1-5).

#### Approaching a Holy Elohim

- Obedient believers, cleansed by the blood of Christ, can boldly approach the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). Yet this access must be coupled with reverence and a heart committed to righteousness.

#### Encouragement for the Faithful:

- The spiritual fulfillment of the Mercy Seat and Altar assures those who avoid willful sin that their efforts to live righteously are not in vain. They are invited into deeper fellowship with Elohim, knowing their obedience honors His holiness (1 John 3:7).
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### 4. The Role of the Mercy Seat and Altar in the Believer's Daily Life

#### Confidence in Forgiveness

- For those who strive to avoid willful sin, the Mercy Seat represents the confidence that Elohim forgives unintentional sins and strengthens His people against temptation (1 Corinthians 10:13).

#### Living as a Living Sacrifice

- The Altar calls believers to daily self-denial and submission to Elohim's will (Luke 9:23). This is not a burden but a joyful response to Elohim's love.

#### Assurance in Christ:

- The finished work of Christ assures obedient believers that their striving is backed by the power of His Spirit (Philippians 2:12-13).
  - While they are not perfect, their sincere desire to walk in Elohim's ways is met with grace (Psalm 119:1-2).
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### 5. Prophetic Fulfillment and Hope for the Faithful

#### The Mercy Seat in Heaven

- Jesus has entered the heavenly Holy of Holies, presenting His blood on the ultimate Mercy Seat (Hebrews 9:24). This act ensures eternal access to Elohim for those who follow Him faithfully.

#### The Altar of Christ's Sacrifice

- The cross fulfilled the prophecy of the suffering servant in Isaiah 53:5-7, demonstrating Elohim's love and provision for His people.

### Encouragement for the Future:

- **Obedient believers can look forward to hearing the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23), knowing their lives of righteousness are pleasing to Elohim.**
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### Conclusion

Atonement without the Mercy Seat and the Altar of Burnt Offering was not possible under the Mosaic Covenant. These physical elements were critical for reconciling Israel to Elohim, teaching them the cost of sin, and foreshadowing the ultimate atonement through Yahusha. Their absence points to the insufficiency of the earthly system and the perfection of the heavenly one brought by the Messiah. As believers, we honor these physical elements by understanding their spiritual significance and living lives of repentance and obedience (Romans 12:1-2).

**For individuals who avoid willful sin and strive to live righteously, the Mercy Seat and the Altar of Burnt Offering take on deep spiritual significance in the New Covenant. They reflect Elohim’s holiness, mercy, justice, and love, showing His eternal desire to dwell with His people. Through Yahusha HaMashiach, the Mercy Seat and Altar are fulfilled, offering believers confidence in forgiveness, strength to live obediently, and assurance of eternal life.**

**Those who walk in obedience can boldly approach Elohim, assured of His presence and favor, as they live lives that honor Him in gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice of the Messiah. Let us continue to pursue righteousness, trusting in His grace and reflecting His holiness in all we do (Philippians 3:12-14).**