

The Extravagance of the Mercy Seat  
SGF Celebration February 2014

The Hyper-Grace of God

- The Mercy Seat

*Hebrews 9:3-5*

*Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, <sup>4</sup> having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant; <sup>5</sup> and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat.*

*Hilasterion*

*(hil-as-tay'-ree-on)*

- An expiatory (place or thing), that is, (concretely) an atoning victim, or (specifically) the lid of the Ark (in the Temple): - mercy seat, propitiation

*Exodus 25:17-23*

*"You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubits wide. <sup>18</sup> You shall make two cherubim of gold, make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat. <sup>19</sup> Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat at its two ends. <sup>20</sup> The cherubim shall have their wings spread upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be turned toward the mercy seat. <sup>21</sup> You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony which I will give to you. <sup>22</sup> There I will meet with you; and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel.*

- The Mercy Seat



**Leviticus 16:2**

*The Lord said to Moses:*

*“Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.*

**Leviticus 16:13**

*He shall put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the ark of the testimony, otherwise he will die.*

**Leviticus 16:19**

*With his finger he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it seven times and cleanse it, and from the impurities of the sons of Israel consecrate it.*

**Leviticus 16:21-22**

*Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who stands in readiness. <sup>22</sup> The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a solitary land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.*

**Transgressions REMOVED**

**Psalms 103:11-12**

*For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.*

*<sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west,  
So far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

**Cleansed from All Sin**

**Leviticus 16:30**

*For it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the Lord.*

**1 John 1:7**

*But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

**Exodus 25:17-23**

*“You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold, two and a half cubits long and one and a half cubits wide. <sup>18</sup> You shall make two cherubim of gold, make them of hammered work at the two ends of the mercy seat. <sup>19</sup> Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end.*

**John 20:11-12**

*But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.*



### The Mercy Seat

- The Extravagance of God
- *Exceeding the limits of reason or necessity*
- *Lacking in moderation, balance, and restraint*
- *Extremely or excessively elaborate*
- *Spending much more than necessary*
- *Profuse, lavish*
- *Extremely or unreasonably high in price*

### The Extravagance of God

*1 John 4:9-10*

*By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

### The Extravagance of God

*It was the extravagance of God to show that Jesus was the mercy seat.*

*It is His extravagance to show hidden mysteries.*

*Exodus 32:27-28*

*“Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Every man of you put his sword upon his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate in the camp, and kill every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor.’” <sup>28</sup> So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people fell that day.*

*Acts 2:41*

*So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.*

*When 3,000 people were saved on the day of Pentecost , it shouted out to the Jews to remember that when the Law (the Old Covenant) was given, 3,000 people died. Now when the New Covenant is inaugurated, 3,000 people have life.*

*It is extravaqant to make us righteous.*

*Romans 3:21-27*

*But now apart from the Law the righteous- ness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, <sup>22</sup> even the the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; <sup>25</sup> whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup> for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.*

The Extravagance of God

It is finished!

- ✓ The striving of man to be right with God
- ✓ Being under the tyranny of religion
- ✓ Having to live according to the legal concept of “do good, get blessed; do bad, get cursed”
- ✓ God turning His back on His people when they sin

God superabundantly provides His grace to us.

*Romans 5:17*

*For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.*

He provides complete forgiveness.

Romans 4:7-8

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been forgiven,  
And whose sins have been covered.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will not take into account.”

He gives unending love.

*Ephesians 3:17-19*

*that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.*

Abounding Grace

*Ephesians 1:7-8*

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace <sup>8</sup> which He lavished on us.*

He answers our prayers.

*Philippians 4:6-7*

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

He over-answers our prayers.

*Ephesians 3:20*

*Now to Him who is able to*

- *do far more (hyper-do)*
- *abundantly beyond all (hyper-extravagantly)*

*that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.*

*In this doxology, we have two descriptions of God, one, a general one, the other, one that is specific and has to do with believers. The first characterizes Him as One who is able to do huper panta, literally, "above all things," thus, "in a measure exceeding all things, beyond all things." The second speaks of Him as able to do huperekperissou. The word is made up of perissos, "exceeding some number or measure, over and above, more than necessary," which is perfective in force here, intensifying the already existing idea in the verb, here adding the idea of exhaustlessness, and huper, "above." The compound word is a superlative of superlatives in force. It speaks of the ability of God to do something, that ability having more than enough potential power, this power exhaustless, and then some on top of that. Thus, Paul says that God is able to do super-abundantly above and beyond what we ask or think, and then some on top of that.-Wuest*