

An Open Door Awaits

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Atonement is a key Bible theme or topic—bringing God and humans together by resolving the sin problem that has separated God and humans since the Fall of Adam. The Old Covenant atonement signified forgiveness of sins on Yom Kippur—or Day of Atonement. It was a temporary covering of sin that was repeated annually.

Modern Jews continue the tradition of Yom Kippur, (September 20 & 21, 2026) but temple sacrifices and shedding of blood are no longer mandated. Instead, the focus is on repentance, fasting, and prayer to remain reconciled to God for another year.

Modern Judaism teaches that they can receive forgiveness without a Temple, without a sacrifice, and without a mediating priest. They reason that since the Temple and priesthood is no longer available to them, forgiveness is acquired by going directly to God—reciting long prayers; repenting of sins; and apologizing to anyone they have harmed or offended in the past year. God then forgives their sins; they reason.

It seems logical to the Jews, but it is not the teaching of Scripture. The Word of God explains that forgiveness of sin can only be obtained by a believing faith in the Atonement Blood of Jesus. 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: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”* Leviticus 17:11

The shedding of blood gives significance to the Day of Atonement. If there is no way to offer a blood sacrifice in Judaism to atone for the soul, then according to God’s Word, they cannot acquire forgiveness from God by some other way.

God has provided a blood atonement for the Jewish people and for everyone else of any age or culture. 1 Timothy 2:5 *“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”* 1 Timothy 2:5-6

Jesus, as the Messiah, shed His blood as the one offering necessary to atone for sins for all time and for all people. Hebrews 9:12 *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”* Hebrews 9:12

Today, Jewish people can receive atonement for sin and forgiveness through the Lord Jesus—as anyone else can, since God is no respecter of persons. Acts 10:34, *“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:”* Every Jew and Gentile must go to God in faith and be willing to put their trust on the atoning Blood of His Son—that is the way to obtain forgiveness. Hebrews 9:26 *“But now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.”* Hebrews 9:26

During the time of the Tabernacle, the mercy seat was a place of propitiation. Propitiation in the context of Scripture refers to the act by which God’s righteous wrath against sin is satisfied or appeased. Romans 3:24-25, *“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:”*

“Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.”

1 John 2:2, *“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

The mercy seat, representing the divine throne of God, was transformed from a throne of judgment to a throne of grace when it was sprinkled with the blood of an animal.

Anyone who has sinned today, has a literal mercy seat in the atoning blood of the Lord Jesus. Since Jesus died on the cross as an atonement for, and to make payment for, our sins, we can have forgiveness by faith in His sacrifice.

Hebrews 9:2 *“There was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. 3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all.”*

Approaching the Ark was a serious thing, as it represented God’s presence and His forgiveness. It was called “the Ark of the Covenant” and was completely covered with gold. It contained some manna, Aaron’s staff that sprouted, and the Ten Commandments Hebrews 9:4. *“And above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.”*

Propitiation in English portrays appeasing the anger of a god, thus paying for his love—but this is not the concept of the New Testament. Instead, propitiation is the deep and profound love of God for us—His creation—that compelled Him to initiate a plan by which people could be made right with Him. 1 John 4:10 *“Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”* 1 John 4:10

In the New Testament then, Atonement by a blood sacrifice satisfies the requirement of God for sins to be erased. Justification is—just as if it never happened. Atonement makes it possible for the removal of any sin that stands between us

and God. Justification for all people was accomplished by Christ’s substitutionary death on the cross.

Jesus’ shed blood completely satisfied all the demands of God for the judgment of sin—therefore making it possible for Him to declare as righteous those who come to Him in faith. 1 John 4:9 *“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.”* 1 John 4:9. An Open Door to God’s throne of grace Awaits!

God’s forgiveness is universal. 1 John 2:2 again, *“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”* The Lord’s sacrifice of atonement is sufficient and effective for everyone willing to enter through the open door to God’s throne of grace—and who place their faith in that blood sacrifice.

From that point, we are to trust God for all issues of life—healing, finances, avenging wrongs, forgiving others, training children, workplace matters, showing a right example to children, and for everything else touching our lives today.

This new covenant plan means that we do not have to plead for God to forgive our sins, because God’s requirement has been met—once and for all through Jesus’ Blood. All we are required to do to be reconciled to God, is to be willing to believe; ready to repent; and then putting our trust on that sacrifice as a finished work of Atonement.

Romans 3:23 *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.”* Romans 3:23-25

Anyone who has not yet been reconciled to God should lose no time in taking advantage of the opportunity to be forgiven. First step is to repent of sins, then enter the open door to approach the mercy seat of God's grace. We then put our trust on the Blood of Jesus, and claim our atonement right to be healed, delivered and righteous before God.

We have a blood-purchased right to approach the mercy seat, to which we can retreat from the storms we encounter in life— storms and winds that blow against us in our Christian walk. The hymn reminds us of the privilege we have in coming to the mercy seat to find rest and forgiveness.

The hymn was originally entitled (1828): Peace at the Mercy Seat, but the title was later changed to: From Every Stormy Wind That Blows. The verses tell of the fellowship we have with Jesus, and the forgiveness He provides when we come to the mercy seat through His Blood.

Hymn—verse 1 From every stormy wind that blows; from every swelling tide of woes. There is a calm, a sure retreat: 'Tis found beneath the mercy seat. Verse 2 There is a place where Jesus sheds, the oil of gladness on our heads; A place than all beside more sweet: It is the blood-bought mercy seat.

The mercy seat of God is open all day and every night throughout the year. An earthly high priest is no longer needed to intercede on behalf and no animal sacrifice need be made. Romans 8:26 *"The Spirit himself intercedes for us."*

The veil has been removed, so God bids us come boldly to His throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace in our moment of need—at any time, and every week, month, or day of the year. An Open Door Awaits—we just provide a willingness to accept that invitation and approach God's throne with confidence that He will hear and answer our prayers.

The invitation stands throughout all ages and is eternally available to all—an open door is awaiting anyone who needs God's forgiveness, mercy, and grace.

Exodus 25:21 *"And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. 22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat."*

Hymn—Verse 3 There is a scene where spirits blend; Where friend holds fellowship with friend; Though sundered [separate] far, by faith they meet; Around one common mercy seat;

Verse 4 Ah! Whither could we flee for aid; When tempted, desolate, dismayed; Or how the hosts of hell defeat; Had suffering saints no mercy seat. 5 Ah! There on eagle wings we soar; And sin and sense disturb no more: And heaven comes down our souls to greet; While glory crowns the mercy seat.

God's Word still stands and still comforts us through every trial—Words that are waiting to encourage and ready to strengthen those who enter through the Open Door and present their requests before God's throne of grace. And the invitation still stands—if we are going through a trying time; facing a difficult challenge; or being tested in faith—it is a choice anyone can make Hebrews 4:16 *"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."* Hebrews 4:16

Hymn—Verse 1 From every stormy wind that blows; from every swelling tide of woes. There is a calm, a sure retreat: 'Tis found beneath the mercy seat. An Open Door Awaits!

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