

DOCTRINE OF PROPITIATION

- I. Propitiation refers to the satisfaction of God's righteousness (+R) and justice as a result of Christ's spiritual death for the sins of mankind, Rom.3:25,26.
- II. The Greek word ἱλαστήριον, hilasterion, means Mercy Seat, the place of propitiation, Heb.9:5.
- III. Propitiation must be understood in light of the Ark of the Covenant, Ex.25:10-22; 37:19; Lev.16; Num.17:8,10; Heb.9:4,5.
 - A. The ark was a box of acacia wood overlaid with gold, speaking of the hypostatic union.
 - B. It contained three items.
 - 1. The tables of the Covenant, which spoke of sin as a violation of God's +R (Jesus Christ kept the Law).
 - 2. Aaron's rod that budded, which spoke of sin as a rejection of authority, (Jesus Christ is the resurrection).
 - 3. Pot of manna, which spoke of sin as negative volition to Bible Doctrine (in Him is truth).
 - C. The Ark and its contents form a shadow of Christ bearing the sins of the world in His own body, 1Pet.2:24.
 - D. The top of the lid was solid gold; on each end was a cherub (this pictures deity with +R and justice, which must be satisfied), cp. Gen.3:24.
 - E. Once a year, on the Feast of Atonement, the high priest entered the Most Holy Place and sprinkled blood on the Mercy Seat seven times.
 - F. This represented Christ propitiating the Father on the Cross, Heb.9:12-14.
 - G. The high priest's reemergence from the Tabernacle portrayed the Father's acceptance of the work of Christ.
- IV. Results of propitiation.
 - A. It frees God to share His +R with man (imputation).
 - B. It frees God to share His life with man (regeneration).
 - C. It frees God to offer Phase 2 and Phase 3 blessings to the believer.
- V. Propitiation is related to God's love, 1Jn.4:10 (the motivating factor in the essence of God).
- VI. The burnt offering had as its main emphasis the doctrine of propitiation, Lev.1:2-17.