

~PROPI TIATORY COVER (238)

[Hebrew, *kap-po'reth*, Greek, *hi-la-ste'ri-on*]

.. Symbolic

- The cover of the ark of the covenant, before which the High Priest spattered blood of sin offerings on Atonement Day.
- Bible translations render the Hebrew term *kap-po'reth* variously as, mercy seat, **KJ, RS, Yg**, propitiatory, **AT, Dy**, cover, **Le**, ark-cover, **JP**, or cover, propitiatory cover, **NW**. The Hebrew term is from a root verb meaning, cover, cover over sin.
- As Yehowah instructed Moses, the craftsman Bezalel made a cover of pure gold for the sacred chest or ark of the covenant, 2.5 cubits (111 centimeters)(44 inches) long and 1.5 cubits (67 centimeters)(26 inches) wide.
- It was surmounted by two golden cherubs, one at each end of the cover, their wings spread upward, screening the cover. The cherubs faces were toward the cover. The Ark was placed in the Most Holy compartment of the tabernacle.
- And you must make a cover of pure gold, two and a half cubits its length and a cubit and a half its width. (**Exodus 25:17**)
- And you must make two cherubs of gold. Of hammered work you are to make them on both ends of the cover. (**Exodus 25:18**)
- And make one cherub on this end and one cherub on that end. On the cover you are to make the cherubs at its two ends. (**Exodus 25:19**)
- And the cherubs must be spreading out their two wings upward, screening over the cover with their wings, with their faces one toward the other. Toward the cover the faces of the cherubs should be. (**Exodus 25:20**)
- And you must place the cover above upon the Ark, and in the Ark you will place the testimony that I shall give you. (**Exodus 25:21**)
- Bezalel now made the Ark of acacia wood. Two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its width, and a cubit and a

half its height. (**Exodus 37:1**)

- And he went on to make the cover of pure gold. Two cubits and a half was its length, and a cubit and a half its width. (**Exodus 37:6**)
- He further made two cherubs of gold. Of hammered work he made them on both ends of the cover. (**Exodus 37:7**)
- One cherub was on the end over there, and the other cherub on the end over here. He made the cherubs on the cover on both of its ends. (**Exodus 37:8**)
- And they came to be cherubs spreading out two wings upward, screening over the cover with their wings, and their faces were one to the other. The faces of the cherubs proved to be toward the cover. (**Exodus 37:9**)
- On the Day of Atonement, *yohm hak-kip-pu-rim'*, meaning, **day of the coverings or propitiations**.
- However, on the tenth of this seventh month is the day of atonement. A holy convention should take place for you, and you must afflict your souls and present an offering made by fire to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 23:27**)
- And you must do no sort of work on this very day, because it is a day of atonement to make atonement for you before Yehowah your God. (**Leviticus 23:28**)
- The High Priest entered the Most Holy and spattered some of the bull's blood before the cover, at its front, or east side, and then did the same with the blood of the goat.
- And he must take some of the bull's blood and spatter it with his finger in front of the cover on the east side, and he will spatter some of the blood with his finger seven times before the cover. (**Leviticus 16:14**)
- And he must slaughter the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, and he must bring its blood inside the curtain and do with its blood the same as he did with the bull's blood, and he must spatter it toward the cover and before the cover. (**Leviticus 16:15**)

- Thus the gold cover of the Ark played a special role in the typical **propitiation**, or covering of sins.
- From between the cherubs on the **propitiatory cover**, God spoke when he desired to communicate with Moses or with the High Priest.
- And I will present myself to you there and speak with you from above the cover, from between the two cherubs that are upon the ark of the testimony, even all that I shall command you for the sons of Israel. (**Exodus 25:22**)
- Now whenever Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with him, then he would hear the voice conversing with him from above the **cover** that was upon the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubs, and he would speak to him. (**Numbers 7:89**)
- And Yehowah proceeded to speak to Aaron, saying; (**Leviticus 10:8**)
- Do not drink wine or intoxicating liquor, you and your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, that you may not die. It is a statute to time indefinite for your generations. (**Leviticus 10:9**)
- Both in order to make a distinction between the holy thing and the profane and between the unclean thing and the clean. (**Leviticus 10:10**)
- So Yehowah said to Moses; Take for yourself Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom there is spirit, and you must lay your hand upon him. (**Numbers 27:18**)
- And you must stand him before Eleazar the priest and before all the assembly, and you must commission him before their eyes. (**Numbers 27:19**)
- And you must put some of your dignity upon him, in order, that all the assembly of the sons of Israel may listen to him. (**Numbers 27:20**)
- And it is before Eleazar the priest that he will stand, and he must inquire in his behalf by the judgment of the Urim before

- Yehowah. At his order they will go out and at his order they will come in, he and all the sons of Israel with him and all the assembly. (**Numbers 27:21**)
- Yehowah said that he would appear in a cloud over the cover of the Ark. This cloud apparently glowed or shone, lighting up the Most Holy compartment.
 - And Yehowah proceeded to say to Moses; Speak to Aaron your brother, that he should not at all times come into the holy place inside the curtain, in front of the cover which is upon the Ark, that he may not die, because in a cloud I shall appear over the cover. (**Leviticus 16:2**)
 - O Shepherd of Israel, do give ear, you who are conducting Joseph just like a flock. O you who are sitting upon the cherubs, do beam forth. (**Psalms 80:1**)
 - And David proceeded to give Solomon his son the architectural plan of the porch and of its houses and its storerooms and its roof chambers and its dark inner rooms and the house of the **propitiatory** cover. (**1 Chronicles 28:11**)
 - The Most Holy, the innermost compartment of the temple, is referred to as the house of the *kap-po'reth*. In this instance the Hebrew word is evidently not used simply as designating a **lid**, or **cover**, for a chest, but is employed with regard to the special function of the **cover in the propitiation of sins**. Accordingly, the expression is rendered, **the house of the atonement**, **YG**, **the house of propitiation**, **AT**, **the house of the propitiatory cover**, **NW**
 - **Symbolic**
 - But up above it were the glorious cherubs overshadowing the **propitiatory** cover. But now is not the time to speak in detail concerning these things. (**Hebrews 9:5**)
 - The **Greek** word *hi-la-ste'ri-on*, **propitiatory**, is used for the cover of the Ark. In the type, or pattern, God's presence was represented between the two cherubs over the **propitiatory cover**.
 - And Yehowah proceeded to say to Moses; Speak to Aaron your brother, that he should not at all times come into the holy place inside the curtain, in front of the cover which is upon the Ark,

that he may not die, because in a cloud I shall appear over the cover. ([Leviticus 16:2](#))

- And I will present myself to you there and speak with you from above the **cover**, from between the two cherubs that are upon the ark of the testimony, even all that I shall command you for the sons of Israel. ([Exodus 25:22](#))
- The inspired writer of the book of Hebrews points out that these things were symbolic. As the High Priest on the Day of Atonement entered the Most Holy with sacrificial blood, so Christ took the value of his sacrifice, not before a literal **propitiatory cover**, but before the very presence of Yehowah God in heaven.
- And he must slaughter the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people, and he must bring its blood inside the curtain and do with its blood the same as he did with the bull's blood, and he must spatter it toward the cover and before the cover. ([Leviticus 16:15](#))
- However, when Christ came as a High Priest of the good things that have come to pass, through the greater and more perfect tent not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ([Hebrews 9:11](#))
- He entered, no, not with the blood of goats and of young bulls, but with his own blood, once for all time into the holy place and obtained an everlasting deliverance for us. ([Hebrews 9:12](#))
- For if the blood of goats and of bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who have been defiled sanctifies to the extent of cleanness of the flesh. ([Hebrews 9:13](#))
- How much more will the blood of the Christ, who through an everlasting spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works that we may render sacred service to the living God? ([Hebrews 9:14](#))
- For Christ entered, not into a holy place made with hands, which is a copy of the reality, but into heaven itself, now to appear before the person of God for us. ([Hebrews 9:24](#))
- Neither is it in order, that he should offer himself often, as indeed the High Priest enters into the holy place from year to year with

blood not his own. ([Hebrews 9:25](#))

- **Otherwise, he would have to suffer often from the founding of the world. But now he has manifested himself once for all time at the conclusion of the systems of things to put sin away through the sacrifice of himself. ([Hebrews 9:26](#))**
- **And as it is reserved for men to die once for all time, but after this a judgment. ([Hebrews 9:27](#))**
- **So also the Christ was offered once for all time to bear the sins of many, and the second time that he appears it will be apart from sin and to those earnestly looking for him for their salvation. ([Hebrews 9:28](#))**