

Intro:

Main Point of Text: God designs the Ark and Mercy Seat to direct His people toward covenant fellowship with Him.

Sermon Point: *Fellowship through Forgiveness.*

Move 1: Approach the LORD with holy reverence.

Ark to hold Decalogue in Holy of Holies (vss. 16, 21, 22): God's holy covenant rule. Ark was God's throne, footstool (1 Ch. 28:2; Ps. 99:5). Tabernacle the way God dwelt with men. But not without degrees of holy intimacy based upon blood atonement. All verses are God's design for worship of God (RPW). Even the way to carry it, vss. 14-15 (see 1 Kings 13, 15 and Numb. 4:15). Rev. 11:19. Vs. 20: Angels looked down in God's presence. Must be your attitude in worship.

Move 2: But do approach the LORD to worship and fellowship with Him.

Vs. 22: the purpose of the tabernacle and the Ark, living fellowship with God together. Ark of the Testimony also "Covenant": established relations with God as His people. Symbol of God's presence with His people. Angels guarding God's holy presence, like Gen. 3:24. He "dwelleth between the cherubims" (Ps. 80:1; 99:1; Isa. 37:16; 2 Sam. 6:2). Here we see Edenic fellowship being restored. Thus, rejoice before God's Ark in Christ. God opens His door to you! Psalm 122.

Move 3: Approach God's throne of grace with confidence.

Mercy Seat (vss. 17-22), literally "propitiatory": Blood covering/atonement. Covered the Law, which while good and the covenant bond, yet would accuse and condemn us before God's presence. Need mercy. Lev. 16:14ff: place of atonement on Day of Atonement (High Priest sprinkled the Mercy Seat with His finger seven times). Shadows of Christ. After His sacrifice, Jesus was laid on the Tomb, the real mercy seat. Angels at each side (John 20:11-12). Ps. 40: He Who delighted to do God's Law was the true sacrifice. Thus, the stone was rolled away. You can enter heaven by Jesus, "The Propitiatory": Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Jn. 2:1-2; Heb. 10:18-22; Heb 4:16 (throne of grace is the mercy seat); 1 John 4:10.

Conclusion:

Fellowship through Forgiveness.