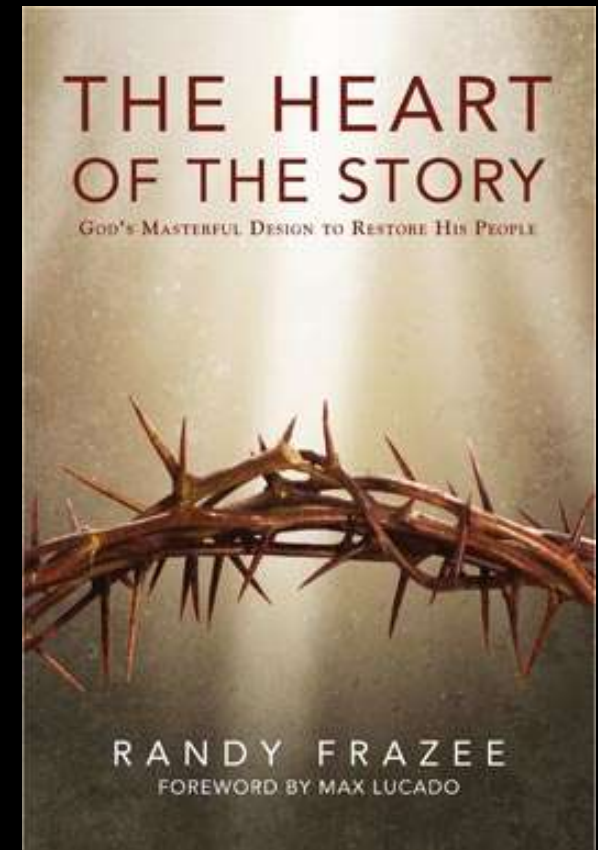


The Heart of the Story

Chapter 12: A King-Sized Mistake

December 21, 2011



A Story...



The point of the story...

- #1- *“There is something inside us that wants to do things our own way, no matter what the consequences.”*
- #2- *“Our lack of goodness affects other people, not just us.”*
- #3- *“None of us get away with keeping our sinful acts secret.”*

– P. 112

David Danced!!



No division of Church and State



“Life is good for David...

- ...Until he decides to topple the outhouse.” (p. 113)*



David's indiscretions...

- *“It happened just that fast.”*
- *“What was he thinking?”*
- *“How could someone so dedicated to God let his guard down so quickly?”*
- *“It’s one of the oldest Lower Story tragedies, and it still happened to this day.”*

– P. 113

“The bigger they are...”

- *“One of the great dangers of success is that it lulls us into thinking we don’t need God anymore.”* (p.p. 113-114)
 - Kobe Bryant, Tiger Woods, Jonathan Edwards, Jimmy Swaggart, Rod Blagojevich, Marion Barry
- *“When things are going great—when everything is working out better than we ever could have expected—watch out.”* (p. 114)

1 Peter 5:8-9

- *⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

A Cover-up



A Cover up?

- *“With God, there are no cover-ups”* (p. 114)
 - Psalm 32:1
 - Job 14:17
 - Psalm 85:2
 - Romans 4:6-8
 - 1 Peter 4:8

The Mercy Seat

- Exodus 25:17-22



The Mercy Seat (Atonement Cover)

- Yom Kippur- The Day of Atonement
 - Leviticus 16:1-19
- The mercy seat protected man from the judgment of God represented by the judgment angels, the Cherubim.
- Because of the blood that was sprinkled on the mercy seat, Israel's sin and guilt were washed away and the curse of the law has no effect.

The Mercy Seat in the NT

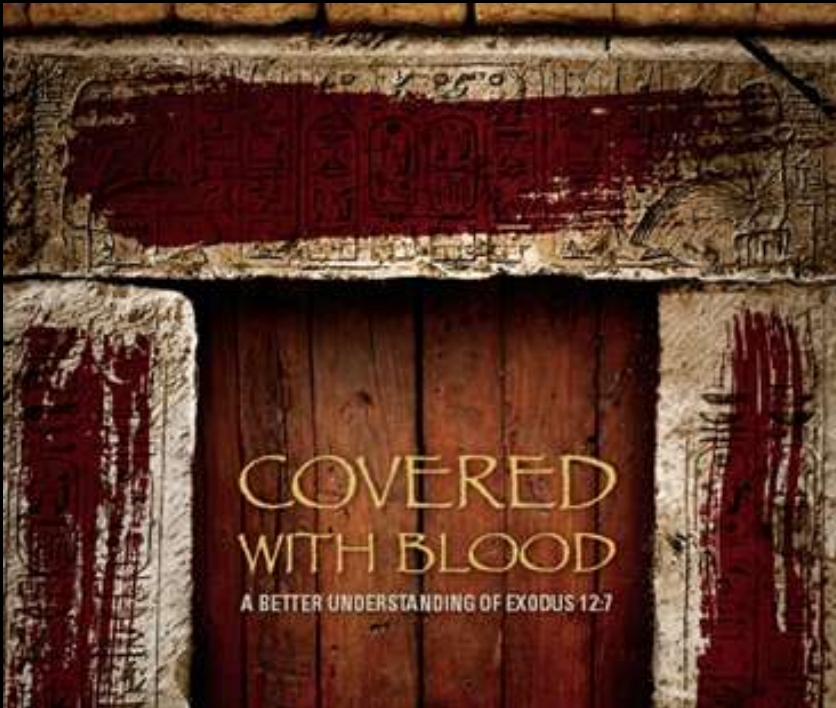
- Hebrews 9:2-5
- Romans 3:23-26
- The Greek word for Mercy Seat is 'hilasterion'. It is used here in Romans 3:25 where Paul says (literally) that God presented Christ as a propitiation or 'mercy seat'. This means that Jesus Christ is the mercy seat.

The Mercy Seat in the NT

- The Mercy Seat did not derive its worth from the purity of its gold but from the fact that it was the place where the blood of sacrifice was sprinkled in the presence of Yahweh.
- The word for "mercy seat" is the same root for the word "atonement". It means to cover, cancel, appease, or cleanse.
- The Greek equivalent is the word "propitiation".
- The word "seat" speaks of a resting place so the mercy seat was the "place of mercy or propitiation"

Back to Egypt

- This all has roots in the great Gospel event of the Old Testament—The Exodus!

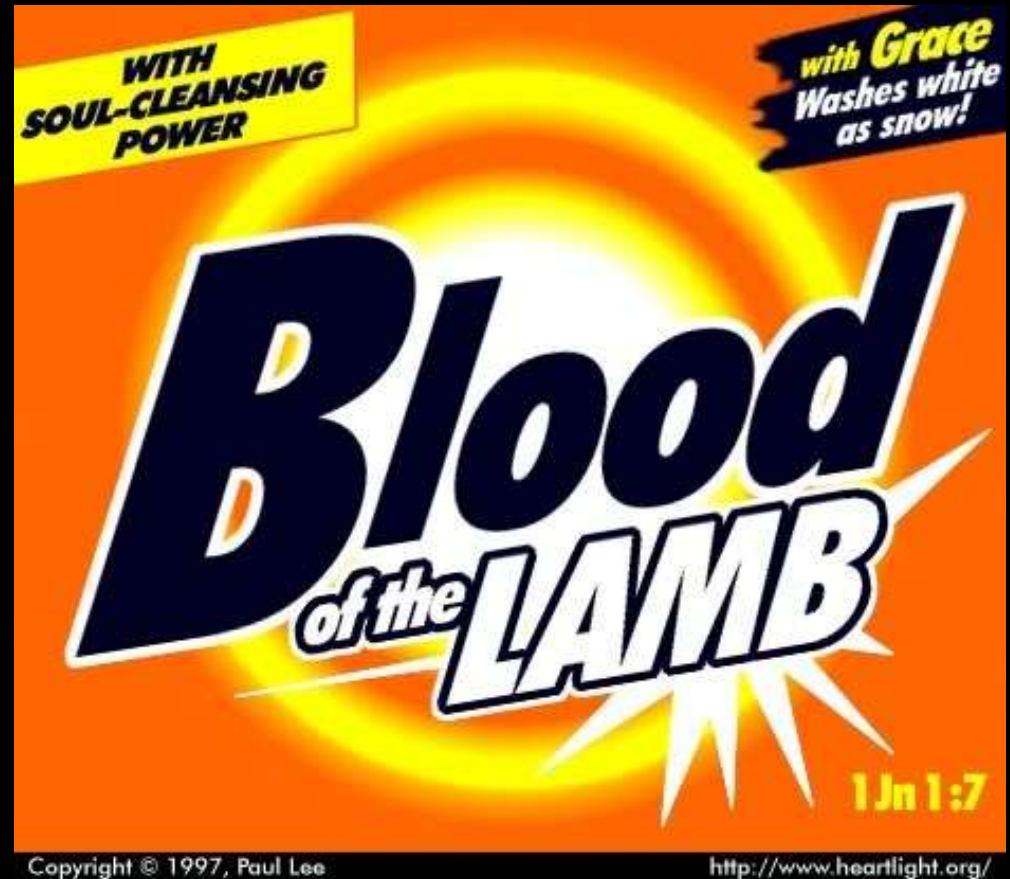


Jesus our Mercy Seat

- The mercy seat foreshadows the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our mercy seat. He forever stands between a holy God and sinful man.
- Just as the sins of the whole nation were atoned for by the sprinkling of the blood on the mercy seat, so also Christ, by the shedding of His own blood atoned for the sins of the entire world.

Jesus our Mercy Seat

- 1 John 2:2
- Luke 22:20
- Ephesians 2:13
- 1 Peter 1:18-19
- Hebrews 9:11-12
- Hebrews 9:28
- **Jesus provides the ultimate cover-up!**



Back to Eden

- There is a connection to what God did for Adam and Eve in the garden after the fall.
- God provides coverings for them.
 - Genesis 3:21



Forward to Heaven

- Revelation 7:9-17



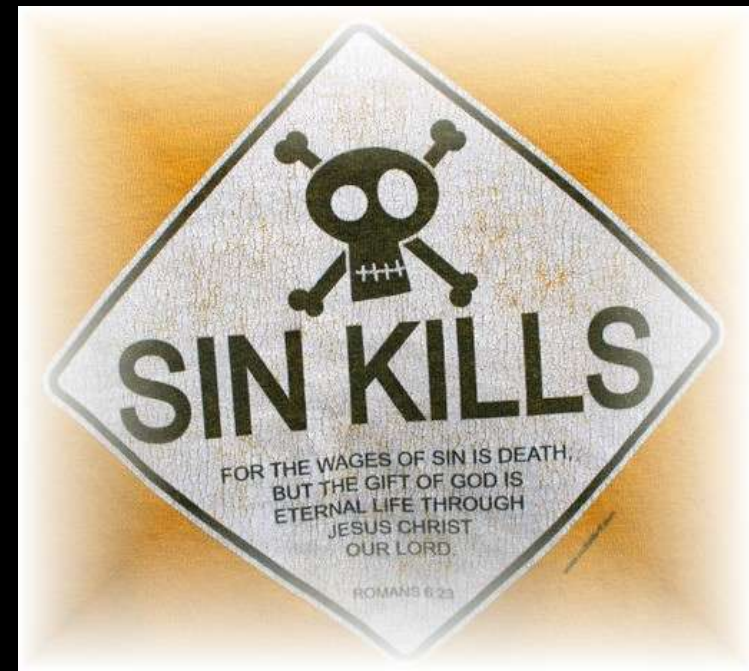
Back to our book...

- David's response?
 - “I have sinned”
 - “He tells the truth.”
 - “He takes full responsibility for the error of his ways, admitting that he has done wrong.”
- Psalm 51



Consequences of Sin

- *“One of the tragic truths about sin is that it has consequences. God’s forgiveness restores us into a right relationship with him, but it doesn’t erase the consequences of our actions.” (p. 116)*



Consequences of Sin

- *“Because David owned up to his sin and accepted the consequences of his behavior, God continued to bless him in other ways”* (p.p. 116-117)
- It’s not about owing up and receiving blessings. It is about being confronted with the Law and living in grace.
- We don’t do things for material blessing, our actions must be in response to what has already been done for us in Christ.

Consequences of Sin

- *“When we violate God’s standards for us, our human tendency is to hide, to try to talk our way out of it, to pretend it isn’t a big deal. Each time we do this, we fall farther away from God and run the risk of forever being excluded from the perfect community he is building.” (p. 117)*

Lower Story vs. Upper Story

- *“In the Lower Story, David messed around with another man’s wife. In the Upper Story, God finds a way to use a deeply flawed man to serve him.” (p. 117)*



The Main Point!

- *“If God can redeem a man who did something this awful and restore him to such a lofty position, imagine what he can do for us!”*
- *“Imagine what he can do through you for his kingdom.”*

— P. 118

