

CHRIST THE PROPITIATORY.

ROM. iii, 25.

THE mercy-seat was the cover of the ark in the most holy place. There God dwelt in glory.

The shekinah, which marked the presence of the God of Israel, was there. And upon the mercy seat there was blood, the blood of a victim slain upon the day of atonement. On that day, one man stood forth in the midst of guilty Israel. One man confessed the sins of Israel ; one man slew the victim for Israel, carried the blood into the sanctuary, and put it upon and before the mercy-seat ; seven times sprinkled the blood upon it, and seven times before it. God now declares that what that type held out in prospect, the work of Jesus is, that all the substance of that which was foreshadowed in the blood-stained mercy-seat, is now true in Jesus. Think what a blessed thing that is ! Not a soul but one brought the victim, and there was one victim slain for Israel, and no more. Not a soul goes in of all Israel, but one, the high priest. And he went in not merely for himself and his own house, but for Israel. The goat whose blood was shed for Israel, was so entirely distinct in the type, that, as the high priest was a mere sinner like another, he had a separate sacrifice or bullock slain for himself, and his own house. But Christ needs none ; and therefore can be wholly for the sinner. How thoroughly there you have the substitute ! How entirely the question is taken away from the sinner and laid upon Him that is mighty