The Ark of the Covenant represented God's Presence among His people. ***"And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony … I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat"*** Exodus 25:21-22. *"Bezaleel made the ark … overlaid it with pure gold … and made the mercy seat"* Exodus 37:1-2, 6.

On the Day of Atonement, each year, the high priest entered the Holy of Holies to sprinkle the blood of a sacrificial lamb on the mercy seat. Because sin and holiness cannot co-exist, without that covering for sin, the high priest would die. Around the hem of the priest's robe there hung **golden bells** and pomegranates. These bells rang when he entered the Holy of Holies. But before presenting the sin offering, the priest disrobed his garments **and the bells ceased to ring.**

Outside the Holy of Holies, people listened intently. Would the bells ever ring again? After the blood had been sprinkled on the mercy seat and had been accepted by God as a sin offering, the priest put on his garment **and the bells rang again and, yet again it was only for one more year!**

"For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the examples of the real one: but into Heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest…every year with blood of others … but now ONCE … hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself" Hebrews 9:24-26.