

# Crowns (II)

# Three types of crowns

1. Royal crown

2. Priestly crown

3. Victor's crown

- Early crown was a headband
- Replaced by metal diadem – ornate golden wreath with beads and gold pendants
- Flinders Petrie discovered diadem of gold patterned with dots [ancient Gaza]

# Crown

Traditional adornment worn by monarchs;  
symbolizes power / dignity

## Variety of uses

‘Old age: the crown of life, our play’s last act’

– Cicero

‘To be a king and wear a crown is a thing more  
glorious to them that see it than it is pleasant to  
them that bear it’ – Elizabeth I

‘Some of the most beautiful things worth having in  
your life come wrapped in a crown of thorns’

– Shannon Adler

# Crowns

## Historical uses

- Lv.8<sup>9</sup> And he put the turban on his head. Also on the turban, on its front, he put the golden plate, the holy crown, as the LORD had commanded Moses
- 2 K.11:1-12, boy wears king's crown
- Ps.21<sup>3</sup> For You meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold upon his head
- Est.2:17, royal crown placed on queen Esther (cf. 6:8; 8:15, Mordecai)

# Figurative crowns

- Pr.12<sup>4</sup> An excellent wife is the crown of her husband [husband's brightest honor, ornament]
- Pr.16<sup>31</sup> The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, If it is found in the way of righteousness
- Pr.17<sup>6</sup> children's children are the crown of old men... [prolonged posterity]

# I. Jesus Deserves His Crown

## Zechariah 6:11-13

1. Behold the Man (Jn.19:5) ... Branch (title of Messiah, Jer.23:5)
2. Branch out: fruitfulness of Messiah. 'He will come where there is little promise of new life, unexpectedly, as root out of dry ground'
3. Build temple of Lord. Temple of His people, Ep.2:19-22; 1 Pt.2:5

## Zechariah 6:11-13

4. Bear the glory, sit and rule on His throne.  
Royal honor, Jer.22:18 [Jehoiakim]; not on earth  
(22:28-30) [Jehoiachin]
5. Priest on His throne. In Israel, priests did not  
sit on thrones, kings did not serve as priests  
(2 Chr.26, Uzziah). See Hb.7-8
6. Counsel of peace between them both [two  
offices in one Person. Ep.2:14



# John 19:1

1. Cruel mockery of a regal crown, a purple robe
  - The reed mocks the regal scepter
  - They bow before Him in mock worship (Mt.27:29)
2. Crown of thorns serves double purpose:
  - 1) people taunt Him as 'King of the Jews'
  - 2) increase His torture (soldiers would not gently place thorns on His head; violence shows their contempt)

## Rv.1:5

Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth

## Rv.19, the Ruler

11: Faithful and True...in righteousness, judges / makes war.

12: Eyes: flame of fire. Head: many crowns [unlimited sovereignty].

Name written... Only deity can understand mystery of His being, Mt.11:27

## Rv.19, the Ruler

13: **Clothed with robe dipped in blood**

His triumph comes from shedding own blood,  
5:6, 9

His Name: 'The Word of God'

14-15: **sharp sword, strikes nations; rules**

16: **robe and thigh: King of kings, Lord of lords.**

Jesus rejected satan's diadem (Mt.4:9). Now,  
universal sovereignty!

17-18: **Come and get it!**

# Rv.19, the Ruler

19: the battle (*so-called*). Ps.2:2

20-21: can anyone doubt who rules universe?

- a. His crowns (12) and His victory bless martyrs,  
Rv.2:10
- b. Rv.20: cast alive into lake of fire

All we are or ever hope to be. . .

I. Jesus Deserves The Crown

II. Types of Crowns

## 1. Crown of rejoicing

1 Th.2<sup>19</sup> For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

<sup>20</sup> For you are our glory and joy

Part of heaven's bliss: exalted privilege of seeing those we taught and/or influenced on earth

## 2. Crown of righteousness

2 Tim.4<sup>8</sup> Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing

What kept Paul going for 30+ years...?

2 Tim.4:1, I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom

1 Tim.6:14, ...that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing . . .

### 3. Crown of life

Ja.1<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him

Rv.2<sup>10</sup> Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life



## 4. Crown of glory

1 Pt.5<sup>4</sup> when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away

The harder we work, the sweeter the rest

I. Jesus Deserves The Crown

II. Types of Crowns

III. Our Crown is Imperishable

# 1 Co.9:25

Some lose crown by growing weary in the race

Gal.6<sup>9</sup> let us not grow weary in doing good,  
for in due season we shall reap if we do not  
lose heart

Some strive for wrong crowns

Athletic contests

Pride: my kid will be smartest...

My house / car / looks / income... Ja.4:16

Some crowns do not last

No earthly crown can compare to heavenly –  
Rv.4:9-10...

## 1 Co.9:25

Some lose crown by growing weary in the race

Some strive for wrong crowns

Rv.4:9-10, “cast their crowns before the throne...”

Typically done . . . to pay homage to an overlord . . . or as beggar seeking mercy from a conqueror

**These acknowledge that their glory and victory were from God**

All crowns are meaningless without Lord's crown. Rv.5

# Christians strive for the imperishable crown

## 1. Seize it with zeal, 24

- Take a firm grasp of; used of an inheritance, winning a prize, etc.

# Christians strive for the imperishable crown

1. Seize it with zeal, 24

2. **Strive for it with self-control, 25**

- 'Agonize' – fight, struggle, engage in contest
- Ten months hard training...
- Pine wreath or crown of celery leaves
- Names largely forgotten
  - Our crown: **unfading**, 1 Pt.5:4
  - Our crown: **eternal life**, Ja.1:12; Rv.2:10
  - Our competition: **according to rules**, 2 Tim.2:5; Rv.3:11

# Christians strive for the imperishable crown

1. Seize it with zeal, 24

2. **Strive for it with self-control, 25**

- Temperate in all things: t.t. for training of athlete who would receive victor's crown

- **Strive** to enter through narrow gate.

Lk.13<sup>24</sup> Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able

- **Strive** together in prayers, Ro.15<sup>30</sup> strive together with me in prayers to God for me

# Christians strive for the imperishable crown

1. Seize it with zeal, 24
2. Strive for it with self-control, 25
3. **Sustain the effort with conviction, 26**
  - As one who does not run uncertainly
  - The boxer made every blow count (27)
  - Chariot horses are controlled with whip and rein



# Christians strive for the imperishable crown

1. Seize it with zeal, 24
2. Strive for it with self-control, 25
3. Sustain the effort with conviction, 26
4. **Suffer with perseverance, 27**

**“I would conquer at the Olympic games”**

But consider what precedes and follows, and then, if it is for your advantage, engage in the affair. You must conform to rules, submit to a diet, refrain from dainties; exercise your body, whether you choose it or not, at a stated hour, in heat and cold; you must drink no cold water, nor sometimes even wine. In a word, you must give yourself up to your master, as to a physician.

Then, in the combat, you may be thrown into a ditch, dislocate your arm, turn your ankle, swallow dust, be whipped, and, after all, lose the victory.

When you have evaluated all this, if your inclination still holds, then go to war’ – Epictetus, *Enchiridion*, 29

## Mark 15:17

His is the true crown of life: it took His life and gave us ours

1 Co.9:24, ESV: “So run...” – as if you are the only one who can win the prize