

CROWNS

“Crown Him With Many Crowns” is a beautiful hymn about Jesus Christ. Notice the beginning of each of the four verses:

- 1) Crown Him with many crowns...
- 2) Crown Him the Lord of life...
- 3) Crown Him the Lord of peace...
- 4) Crown Him the Lord of love...

After His resurrection, Jesus Christ returned to God to receive a kingdom (Luke 19:12-15) and He is now in heaven preparing a place for the saints in that kingdom (John 14:2-3). Soon, the Day of Trumpets will be realized with the return of Jesus Christ, now crowned as the King of Kings (1 Timothy 6:15).

Crowns are always associated with kings and rulers and various people in the Old Testament wore them: the high priest (Exodus 29:6; 39:30), Saul (2 Samuel 1:10), the king of Rabbah (2 Samuel 12:30), Joash (2 Kings 11:12), Vashti (Esther 1:11), and Mordecai (Esther 8:15) to name a few. However, not all crowns are the same.

There are several different Hebrew words that refer to crowns. The high priest and kings of Israel wore the *nezer* (H5145) which is a chaplet or wreath. In the case of the high priest, the chaplet was worn on top of the *mitsnepheth* (H4701) or *miter*. H3804 means *diadem* and is used exclusively of the crowns worn in the court of Ahasuerus, including Vashti and Esther. General references to crowns use *atarah* (H5850) and *tsephiyrah* (H6843), both of which simply mean *crown* but are vague about the design. However, this is not the case in the New Testament. There are only two Greek words translated *crown* and the most common is *stephanos*:

(From Strong’s Dictionary G4735) **stephanos** - From an apparently primary “stepho” (to twine or wreath); a chaplet (as a badge of royalty, a prize in the public games or a symbol of honor generally; but more conspicuous and elaborate than the simple fillet, G1238), literally or figuratively.

Specifically it is NOT a diadem. The 24 elders sitting on thrones that encircle the throne of God wear *stephanos* or wreaths (Revelation 4:4, 10). Similarly, *wreath* is used exclusively of the crowns given to the saints. Notice these scriptures:

2 Timothy 4:8 - “~~erōwn~~ (*wreath*) of righteousness”,

James 1:12 - “~~erōwn~~ (*wreath*) of life”,

1 Peter 5:4 - “~~erōwn~~ (*wreath*) of glory”.

Revelation 2:10 - “~~erōwn~~ (*wreath*) of life”.

These are wreaths of honor or victory for overcoming. In other words, the saints do not receive diadems which are always worn by regal kings. The saints will be kings in the Kingdom of God (Revelation 1:6) but they will be adorned with wreaths. This may be surprising but the evidence is in the use of the other Greek word for crown - *diadema*:

(From Strong's Dictionary G1238) **diadēma** - From a compound of G1223 and G1210; a "diadem" (as *bound about* the head).

A diadem is the crown of the king with SUPREME POWER (Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary of American English) whereas a wreath is given to honor the winner of a contest. *Diadema* is only used three times in the Bible. Notice, first, the description of Jesus Christ:

[FV] REVELATION 19:12 "And His eyes [were] like a flame of fire, and on His head [were] many **crowns** (*diadema*); [and] He had a name written that no one knows except Him.

Jesus Christ returns wearing MANY DIADEMS. This shouldn't come as any surprise because Jesus Christ is the King above ALL other kings. However, there are two others that also wear diadems:

[FV] REVELATION 12:3 And another sign was seen in heaven: and behold, a great **red dragon**, having seven heads and ten horns, and **seven crowns** (*diadema*) on his heads;

[FV] REVELATION 13:1-2 And I stood on the sand of the sea; and I saw a **beast** rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten **crowns** (*diadema*), and upon his heads [the] name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, and his feet like [the feet] of a bear, and his mouth like [the] mouth of a lion; and **the dragon gave him his power, and his throne and great authority.**

Appalling! Besides Jesus Christ, only Satan (the red dragon - Revelation 12:9) and the Beast wear diadem crowns. Satan once bragged, "I will be like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:14). To fully understand Satan's ambitions, notice the final temptation of Jesus Christ:

[FV] MATTHEW 4:8-11 After that, the devil took Him to an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, 9 And said to Him, "All these things will I give You, **if You will fall down and worship me.**" 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Begone, Satan! For it is written, '**You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him alone shall you serve.**'" 11 Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

For Satan to demand obeisance from his Creator is the GREATEST BLASPHEMY. In his arrogance, Satan elevates Himself above Jesus Christ, the Son of GOD! Wearing a crown is evidence that Satan wants to be EQUAL with GOD and the Beast, who receives his power FROM Satan, wants to be EQUAL with JESUS CHRIST! It is no

wonder that such a demand by Satan angered Jesus (note the tenor when Jesus told Peter the same thing in Matthew 16:23).

There is NO ONE worthy to wear a diadem except Jesus Christ since only He has SUPREME POWER. This is the reason the saints will be given wreaths for their victory over death, not diadems. However, there is another reason that Jesus Christ is the true bearer of the regal crown. Strong's Dictionary noted that *diadema* comes from a compound of G1223 and G1210. Notice their meanings:

(From Strong's Dictionary G1223) **dia** - denoting the **channel** of an act; **through**.

(From Strong's Dictionary G1210) **deō** - to **bind**.

The etymology of *diadema* is a compound of words meaning "through binding". Of itself, *binding* has several meanings but most Greek wordsmiths list as one of the meanings "to be betrothed, to pledge to give oneself in marriage". In other words Jesus Christ wears a crown that is not just a symbol of royal authority; **it also represents Jesus Christ as the Husband of the Church!** Jesus Christ is King of Kings and the bride of the saints will be joined to Him through marriage. He IS the only and true "King of saints" (Revelation 15:3)!