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Crowns Mentioned in the Bible

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Biblical Topics—Crowns

Of the crowns listed below five are often referred to as the five crowns of salvation. These crowns are in a word of explanation, rewards. There are five texts which deal with a Christian’s potential for receiving crowns (1 Cor. 9:25; 1 Thess. 2:19; 2 Tim 4:8; James 1:12; and 1 Pet 5:4):

Crown of the High Priest	<p>Text: <i>“And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests: Take one young bull and two rams without blemish, ² and unleavened bread, unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers anointed with oil (you shall make them of wheat flour). ³ You shall put them in one basket and bring them in the basket, with the bull and the two rams. ⁴ “And Aaron and his sons you shall bring to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and you shall wash them with water. ⁵ Then you shall take the garments, put the tunic on Aaron, and the robe of the ephod, the ephod, and the breastplate, and gird him with the intricately woven band of the ephod. ⁶ <u>You shall put the turban on his head, and put the holy crown on the turban.</u> (Exod. 29:1-6)</i></p> <p><i>They made tunics, artistically woven of fine linen, for Aaron and his sons, ²⁸ a turban of fine linen, exquisite hats of fine linen, short trousers of fine woven linen, ²⁹ and a sash of fine woven linen with blue, purple, and scarlet thread, made by a weaver, as the Lord had commanded Moses. ³⁰ <u>Then they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription like the engraving of a signet: HOLINESS TO THE LORD.</u> (Exod. 39:30)</i></p> <p>Context: These texts record the making of the priestly garments under the Old Covenant and the consecration of the priests and the investiture of Aaron and his sons. Israel’s high priest was invested with a royal countenance which speaks to Christ the better high priest (Heb. 4:14-5:10)</p>
Crown of Thorns	<p>Text: <i>Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. ²⁸ And they</i></p>

	<p><i>stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. ²⁹ When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" (Matt. 27:27-29)</i></p> <p>Context: This event is part of the crucifixion horror story suffered by our Lord Jesus Christ. The unrestrained Roman soldiers joined in with the wicked connivery of the religious elites who demanded the death of Jesus. In the mockery of this act the soldiers crowned Him "king." In reality, the crown of thorns pointed to His afflictions and judgment for our sins.</p>
Crown of the Soul-Winner	<p>Text: <i>Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved (Phil. 4:1).</i></p> <p><i>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? (1 Thess. 2:19).</i></p> <p>Context: <i>Frankly, I was stopped by Satan.</i> Paul had tried several times to revisit the Thessalonians but was always hindered by Satan. His absence from them only increased his desire to see them, for they were his "reward and crown. (1 Thess. 2:17-20).</p> <p>The Crown: <i>Stephanos</i> Or, converts are the crown The Purpose: Reward for faithful service (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15). The Recipient: The crown of rejoicing given to soul-winners (Prov. 11:30; 1 Thess. 2:19-20). The Exhortation: <i>He that winneth souls is wise.</i></p>
Crown of the Righteous	<p>Text: <i>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 (2 Tim. 4:8).</i></p> <p>Context:</p>

	<p>Paul evidently sensed that death was near (4:6). Yet, having ‘fought a good fight’ (compare 1 Tim. 6:12), he was ready to leave this life and receive his reward from God.</p> <p>The Crown: <i>Stephanos</i></p> <p>The Purpose & Recipient: Given to those who especially love the doctrine of the rapture.</p> <p>The Exhortation: <i>First the race, then the reward.</i></p>
Crown of Life	<p>Text: <i>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 (James 1:12).</i></p> <p><i>“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 (Rev. 2:10).</i></p> <p><i>“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown (Rev. 3:11).</i></p> <p>Context: Temptations never come from God, who is Himself above all such temptation. Rather, each person must accept responsibility for allowing temptation to enter his or her life and for the sin that too often follows (James 1:13-16) (Rev. 2:9-11).</p> <p>The Crown: <i>Stephanos</i></p> <p>The Purpose and Recipient: Given to those who successfully endure temptation.</p> <p>The Exhortation: <i>A moment of pain then an eternity with a crown of life</i></p>
Crown of Heaven’s King of Kings	<p>Text: <i>Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle (Rev. 14:14).</i></p>

	<p><i>His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself (Rev. 19:12).</i></p> <p>Context:</p> <p>The context of Rev. 14:14-20 is the bloodiest battle of all time. Here is a preview of Armageddon (Cp 16:12-16; 19:17-19). Christ will return to earth triumphant (See Dan. 7:13) and, joined by two angels, will begin “harvesting” the earth with sharp sickles, resulting in a river of human blood some 200 miles long, and as high as horse’s bridle. On the “grapes” of God’s wrath see Rev. 19:15; Isa. 63:1-6; Joel 3:13.</p>
Crown of Incorruption	<p>Text:</p> <p><i>Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. ²⁵ And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. ²⁶ Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (1 Cor. 9:24-27)</i></p> <p>Context: Paul explains that he exercises his Christian liberty by living a life of disciplined endurance. The Corinthians were familiar with the Isthmian games and Paul used that knowledge to teach them that they should live the Christian life with a certain motive. That motive is to win an incorruptible crown, an honor bestowed by God. He then provided himself as an example of such a life with the illustrations of both a runner and a boxer (9:26-27).</p> <p>The Crown: <i>Stephanos</i> a garland wreath.</p> <p>The Purpose: To reward the winner of an Olympic type race. Thus such a reward points to a permanent honor that Christ will bestow upon those who live life by Holy Spirit restraint which keeps them qualified for ministry.</p> <p>The Recipient: Those Christians who steadfastly live out their call in the Christian life. In other words, those who master the old nature.</p> <p>The Exhortation:</p>

	<p><i>Learn to deny yourself for God's glory that you might be honored at the Judgment Seat of Christ.</i></p>
<p>Crown of Glory</p>	<p>Text: <i>The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: ² Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; ³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; ⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. (1 Pet. 5:4)</i></p> <p>Context: In chapter 5 of his first epistle, Peter exhorts undershepherds (pastors) to take care of their flocks (congregations or communities) as Christ did. He explains what their responsibilities are to those under their charge and what Christ will do for those who are deemed faithful to that charge.</p> <p>The Crown: <i>Stephanos</i>, a garland wreath. It has been suggested that these crowns will actually be talents and abilities with which to glorify Christ.</p> <p>The Purpose: To reward the winner of an Olympic type race. Thus such a reward points to a permanent honor that Christ will bestow upon those leaders in the church who disciple God's people.</p> <p>The Recipient: Those Christian pastors who steadfastly live out their call in the Christian life.</p> <p>The Exhortation: <i>Live faithfully to your calling and status as a Christ-follower.</i></p>
<p>Crown of Demons</p>	<p>Text: <i>The shape of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle. On their heads were crowns of something like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. ⁸ They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth. ⁹ And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots with many horses running into battle. ¹⁰ They had tails like scorpions, and there were stings in their tails. Their power was to hurt men five months. ¹¹ And they had as king over</i></p>

	<p><i>them the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in Hebrew is Abaddon, but in Greek he has the name Apollyon. (Rev. 9:7-11)</i></p> <p>Context: In chapter 9 of John’s apocalypse demon hordes described as locusts are on the move from out of the abyss. Their commander is the ruler of the abyss (bottomless pit) known as “The Destroyer.”</p> <p>The Crown: That these locust beasts have gold looking crowns (<i>stephanoi</i>) speaks to the fact that they have some form of authority delegated to them by the Destroyer. In fact they “had power to make people suffer for five months” (9:10).</p>
Crown of Satan	<p>Text: <i>Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a garland of twelve stars. ² Then being with child, she cried out in labor and in pain to give birth.</i></p> <p>³ <i>And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and <u>seven diadems</u> on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born. ⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. (Rev. 12:1-6).</i></p> <p>Context: In chapter 12 of his apocalypse John lays out a prophetic scenario where the holy forces of God do battle against the unholy forces of Satan. The evil forces are pictured as a dragon and two beasts. In the first six verses John shows forth an effort by Satan to devour the child who is Christ. The mother is Israel. The child is Christ. The dragon is Satan.</p> <p>The Crown: <i>Diadems.</i> (12:3)</p>
Crown of Antichrist	<p>Text:</p>

Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." ² And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer (Rev. 6:1-2)

Context: In chapter 6 of John's apocalypse the Lamb is seen opening the seven seal judgments of God, thus commencing the tribulation period.

The Crown: The rider on the white horse taken to be the antichrist is given a *stephanos* crown that represents his authority which is used to unleash judgment on the earth as he goes forth to conquer.