

THE CROWNS OF THE SAVIOUR ... and how He received them  
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(John 19:2)

This is a most interesting study, for there are three places in Holy Scripture where the Lord Jesus is said to be crowned. When viewed together, these texts provide a comprehensive picture of the purposes of God in man's salvation. We find in John 19 : 2 that Jesus of Nazareth was crowned with thorns; and that revelation sums up the account of the Christ of yesterday. He is the source of all true happiness. Hebrews 2 : 9 reveals that Christ is now crowned in heaven, where at the right hand of His Father He intercedes on behalf of all His people. That truly expresses the Christ of today, and suggests the source of un-failing help. The last picture is described in Revelation 19:12, where the apostle John declares: And on his head were many crowns." This expresses all the teaching concerning the Christ of the future. The statement, We see Jesus . . - crowned" can be an enthralling text.

Jesus . . . Crowned With Thorns

"And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe, and said, Hail, King of the Jews." The irresponsible actions of these men were almost prophetic. Actuated by thoughts of brutal persecution, they thought only of the fierce pleasure which their victim would provide. In order to express the hidden meanings of divine revelation, no action would have been better suited to the moment. Thorns were never meant to be a part of God's world, and only appeared when sin had marred God's handiwork. They were the emblems of sin. In their blind and wilful ignorance the soldiers crowned Jesus with the evidences of a world's guilt. Their actions were indeed prophetic, and within a short space of time, God fulfilled their prediction. He took-not the emblem of sin, but the sin itself, and made it to rest upon the head of His beloved Son. "The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Therein lies the secret of man's happiness

Jesus. . . Crowned With Glory and Honour

"But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels crowned with glory and honour." The Christ of yesterday may appear to be a wonderful Saviour, but if the Gospel contains nothing more, it can be of little use to present-day men and women. The writer to the Hebrews continues the story and describes how the Lord Jesus ascended to the right hand of the majesty on high, to be crowned with glory. The eternal Father said, " Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool," and while all the assembled hosts of heaven watched, He crowned the Lord Jesus with glory and honour. The epistle to the Hebrews teaches that Christ ever liveth to make intercession for us, and we may draw near in full assurance of faith and find grace to help us in time of need. If the reconciliation accomplished at the cross brings happiness, the intercession at God's right hand brings help to all who believe.

Jesus . . . Crowned With Many Crowns

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True.

THE CROWNS OF THE SAVIOUR ... and how He received them  
° . . . His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were  
many crowns. . . . And he was clothed with a vesture  
dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.  
° . . . And he had on his vesture and on his thigh a name  
written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." From his  
island prison, the apostle John saw "the things to be here-  
after," and his soul-thrilling vision revealed that in the  
closing moments of time the Lord Jesus would return to  
earth to reign among His people. The kingdoms of the  
world would be His domain, and "the tabernacle of God  
shall be among men." The hymnist has conjectured that  
the accumulation of crowns expresses the fact that the  
saints will have already presented their rewards to their  
Saviour. John undoubtedly thought of the kingdoms  
become the possession of Christ. Yet the supreme fact  
seems to be that the eternal home of all who love the  
Saviour will be found in those days. The Christ of the  
future transcends all else, and every true Christian exclaims  
"Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

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