

Seven Bible Crowns

Introduction.

1. Today I would like for us to study “Seven Bible Crowns” mentioned in the Old and New Testaments.
2. There are two different words found in the Greek New Testament translated “crown.”
 - a. They are “stephanos” [meaning that which surrounds] and “diadem.”
 - b. “Stephanos” occurs 18 times in the New Testament coming from the Greek verb “stepho” meaning “to twine or wreath” and “diadem” [Greek diadema, kingly ornament of the head] occurs 3 times [Rev. 12:3; 13:1; 19:12] in the New Testament.
3. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word was “atarah” meaning “crown, wreath.”
4. The word “crown” often has the idea of benefit, beautiful, being triumphant, eternal blessedness.

Crown Of Wisdom And Understanding

1. The book of Proverbs speaks of the crown of wisdom and understanding. (Prov. 4:5-9; 1:1-9).

Prov 4:5 **Acquire wisdom!** Acquire understanding! Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.

Prov 4:6 "Do not forsake her, and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you.

Prov 4:7 "The beginning of wisdom {is:}[this]**Acquire wisdom**; And with all your acquiring, get understanding.

Prov 4:8 "Prize her, and she will exalt you; She will honor you if you embrace her.

Prov 4:9 "She will place on your head a garland of grace; **She [wisdom] will present you with a crown [atarah] of beauty.**"

- a. As already stated, the Hebrew “atarah” means “crown, wreath.” Here it seems to mean wisdom will make one’s life beautiful like a crown.
- b. Nothing is more beautiful than a person who has acquired God’s wisdom and is holding fast to it. (Prov. 1:1-9).

Prov 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

Prov 1:2 To know wisdom and instruction, To discern the sayings of understanding,

Prov 1:3 To receive instruction in wise behavior, Righteousness, justice and equity;

Prov 1:4 To give prudence to the naive, To the youth knowledge and discretion,

Prov 1:5 A wise man will hear and increase in learning, And a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,

Prov 1:6 To understand a proverb and a figure, The words of the wise and their riddles.

Prov 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov 1:8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction And do not forsake your mother's teaching;

Prov 1:9 Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head And ornaments about your neck.

- 1) The world places great importance on physical beauty.
- 2) The greater beauty is a person who fears the Lord and is full of His wisdom.

c. The “wisdom from above” [God’s wisdom] leads to a beautiful life. (Jas. 3:17).

James 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

1) “The wisdom from above” does not lead all to be a Solomon.

2) It leads to and motivates godly conduct.

2. Everyone should seek the crown [the great benefit] of wisdom and understanding.

a. This is the wisdom of God.

b. This true wisdom is from above and is not found in human philosophy nor in man’s fallible thinking.

c. We gain wisdom by meditating on the Scriptures and by the prayer of faith. (Ps. 1:1-2; Jas. 1:5).

Ps 1:1 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!

Ps 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

James 1:5 But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

1) God promises to generously give wisdom to those who ask Him for it in faith without doubting.

2) He will never tire of giving us wisdom nor rebuke us for asking for it.

d. Paul prayed this prayer for the brethren at Colossae and all brethren everywhere. (Col. 1:9-10).

Col 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard {of it,} we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may **be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding**,

Col 1:10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please {Him} in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1) Paul desired they “be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”

2) Gaining God’s wisdom and living by it leads to pleasing and glorifying God - not the wisdom of the world.

3) What was needful for the brethren in Colossae is needed today.

4) It is of great importance that we grow in God’s wisdom.

3. We need to pray the prayer of Moses. (Psa. 90:12).

Ps 90:12 So teach us to number our days [use them wisely], That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.

Crown Of An Excellent Wife

1. The Old Testament speaks of a crown of an excellent wife. (Prov. 12:4).

Prov 12:4 **An excellent wife is the crown [atarah] of her husband**, But she who shames {him} is like rottenness in his bones.

- a. A husband who has “an excellent wife” has a great and beautiful crown.
 - b. She will bless him and others who have contact with her and are constantly blessed by her actions.
2. The Scriptures teach a wife can be a great and beautiful asset to her husband. (Prov.31:10-31; 18:22; 19:13-14; 21:9).

Prov 31:10 An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above jewels.

Prov 31:11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, And he will have no lack of gain.

Prov 31:12 She does him good and not evil All the days of her life.

Prov 31:25 Strength and dignity are her clothing, And she smiles at the future.

Prov 31:26 She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Prov 31:27 She looks well to the ways of her household, And does not eat the bread of idleness.

Prov 31:28 Her children rise up and bless her; Her husband {also,} and he praises her, {saying:}

Prov 31:29 "Many daughters have done nobly, But you excel them all."

Prov 31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, {But} a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

Prov 31:31 Give her the product of her hands, And let her works praise her in the gates.

Prov 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing And obtains favor from the LORD.

Prov 19:13 A foolish son is destruction to his father, And the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping.

Prov 19:14 House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, **But a prudent wife is from the LORD.**

The Silver-Haired Head Crown

1. Solomon speaks of the silver-haired head crown. (Prov. 16:31; 20:29).

Prov 16:31 A gray head is a crown [atarah] of glory; [*Assuming*] It is found in the way of righteousness.

Prov 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, And the honor of old men is their gray hair.

- a. Growing older should lead to greater wisdom especially for those who are diligently seeking it from God.
- b. It is sad when youth ignores the wisdom of older ones.

2. There is honor in old age and consequent respect. (Lev. 19:32; 1 Tim. 5:1-2).

Lev 19:32 'You shall rise up before the grayheaded and honor the aged, and you shall revere your God; I am the LORD.

1 Tim 5:1 Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but {rather} appeal to {him} as a father, {to} the younger men as brothers,

1 Tim 5:2 the older women as mothers, {and} the younger women as sisters, in all purity.

3. The Scriptures make it abundantly clear that gray hair is to be honored - not despised, ignored, rejected.

4. It is a grave and even sinful mistake to ignore and reject the contributions of the aged.

- a. Not all aged are to be honored in the sense of listening to their wisdom.

- b. But many older people, especially older Christians, have a lot to offer the church and the world.
5. It is important for the aged to remember God **expects them to use their wisdom and experience to bless others.**
- a. The Christian race does not end until death.
 - b. As long as we live God wants us to use wisdom and talents to bless our families, the church, the nation and the world.
6. It is very sad that many ignore the wisdom of the elderly.
7. It is sad that many elderly fail to use their wisdom because of the feeling of uselessness, laziness, indifference and the pursuit of doing their own thing.

The Crown of Grandchildren

1. Solomon spoke of the crown of grandchildren. (Prov. 17:6).
- Prov 17:6 **Grandchildren are the crown** [atarah] **of old men**, And the glory of sons is their fathers.
2. Grandchildren can be a source of great joy and responsibility.
3. Grandparents, in most cases, can have great influence on their grandchildren.
- a. They can help mold them into fine Christians and productive citizens.
 - b. This may not always occur for a variety of reasons.
 - 1) Some parents limit exposure of their children to grandparents.
 - 2) Children may foolishly choose to ignore the godly influence of grandparents.
 - 3) Many children have been greatly blessed by the instructions and influence of grandparents.

Beloved And Longed For Brethren Crown

1. Paul spoke of beloved and longed for brethren crown. (Phil. 4:1).
- Phil 4:1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long {to see,} **my joy and crown** [stephanos], in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.
2. Paul regarded the saints at Philippi as his “joy and crown.” (Phil 1:1-8; 2:12,13).
- Phil 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:
- Phil 1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Phil 1:3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,
- Phil 1:4 **always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,**
- Phil 1:5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.
- Phil 1:6 {For I am} confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.
- Phil 1:7 For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in

my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.
Phil 1:8 For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

Phil 2:13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for {His} good pleasure.

- a. The church at Philippi was filled with great saints who were a blessing to Paul and others.
- b. There is no reason why the church today should not be a blessing to other brethren and to others near or far away. Helping does not mean control.

A Crown Of Thorns

1. Jesus wore a crown of thorns. (Matt. 27:27-31).

Matt 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole {Roman} cohort around Him.

Matt 27:28 They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.

Matt 27:29 And after twisting together a crown [stephanos] of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

Matt 27:30 They spat on Him, and took the reed and {began} to beat Him on the head.

Matt 27:31 After they had mocked Him, they took the {scarlet} robe off Him and put His {own} garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

- a. The "crown [wreath] of thorns" was not made to honor Jesus, but it was made to mock and afflict Jesus with great pain and shame.
- b. Many today still mock Him and given the chance would place a crown of thorns on Jesus.
- c. **No one will mock Him on that last day when He comes to judge the world!**
- d. Every person will bow to Jesus when He comes again. (Phil. 2:8-11).

Phil 2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Phil 2:9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,

Phil 2:10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Phil 2:11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- e. Though the unsaved will bow in respect to Jesus in that last day, it will be too late for them to be saved.

2. The suffering of Jesus is also mentioned in 1 Peter. (1 Pet. 2:21-24; 4:16, 19).

1 Pet 2:21 For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,

1 Pet 2:22 WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH;

1 Pet 2:23 and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting {Himself} to Him who judges righteously;

1 Pet 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to

righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

3. Those who follow Christ should not be surprised if they suffer because of their allegiance to Jesus.

1 Pet 4:16 but if {anyone suffers} as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

1 Pet 4:17 For {it is} time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if {it} {begins} with us first, what {will be} the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

1 Pet 4:18 AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER?

1 Pet 4:19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

An Incorruptible Crown

1. Paul spoke of an incorruptible crown. (1 Cor. 9:24-27).

1 Cor 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but {only} one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

1 Cor 9:25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. **They then {do it} to receive a perishable wreath [stephanos], but we an imperishable.**

1 Cor 9:26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

1 Cor 9:27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

2. We must run for an imperishable crown! (Jas. 1:12; Rev. 2:10).

James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive **the crown [stephanos] of life** which {the Lord} has promised to those who love Him.

Rev 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the **crown [stephanos] of life.**

3. No sacrifice is too great to obtain "the crown of life."

a. Those receiving "the crown of life" will enjoy everlasting blessedness.

b. They will enjoy the good things God has prepared for His faithful servants forever and ever.

4. May all of us live in such a way that Jesus will speak these words to us on judgment day.

Matt 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

5. Those seeking the incorruptible crown can confidently say with Paul. (2 Tim. 4:7,8).

2 Tim 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;

2 Tim 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

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