



The head that
once was
crowned with
thorns
is crowned
with
glory
now.

Crowns and Thrones

On the cusp of the Easter weekend, one could be forgiven for assuming this holiday time was mainly about eggs and rabbits. But it is about a king and a crown, a throne and a kingdom... the passion of Jesus Christ. This year, I have been captivated by a crown of thorns... it's intent was to mock the authority of a King above all earthly kings. In reality, it was a crown of love so inclusive, it embraced the whole world.

Here in the United Kingdom, we are still privileged to have a monarch; one of the marks of royalty is a crown. Queen Elizabeth II has many at her disposal, but the most significant is the Imperial State Crown worn at all significant state occasions. The queen is robed with all accompanying regalia and the final piece to be added before her entry is this magnificent symbol of her authority. It has three major large stones accompanied by 2868 diamonds of various 'cuts' along with 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds and 269 pearls. Numerous other gems are also set into a gold framework which encircles the head. All this pomp and ceremony is played out around a magnificent and ancient throne.

'Your throne, O God will last for ever and ever, a sceptre of justice shall be the sceptre of your throne.'
(Psalm 46:5 NIV)

The Feast of Passover, a celebration not only of deliverance of God's people from oppression, slavery and death, but of hope and trust in a God who wanted a relationship with people He loved.

This did not and has not changed with the passage of time. The incarnate God walked this planet in humanity so that all peoples would have the opportunity to believe and trust in a deity who is victor over death and hell. The mission completed, Kingdom rule on earth began; majestic thorn crown in place!

'... who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God'
(Hebrews 12:2 NIV)

After this would come a disciple named Stephen who so believed in this Christ and His kingdom that he was willing to follow his king and received his 'crown of life'. 'Stephanos', the Greek word translated 'crown' has meanings of a badge of royalty and a symbol of honour. Such an award ceremony awaits all who trust and have hope in God until the end; a crown of righteousness awaits! Until that day, we sing....

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of lords, who over all doth reign,
Who once on earth, the incarnate Word, for ransomed sinners slain,
Now lives in realms of light, where saints with angels sing
Their songs before Him day and night, their God, Redeemer, King.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the Potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou has died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

(Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring)

*I am forever grateful
Jesus rules!!*

*Affectionately,
Judith*