

Crowns

There are two Greek words used primarily in the New Testament for crown/crowns. The most common, used eighteen times, is *stephanos*. The other is *diadema*, used three times.

Stephanos was a crown of woven branches from various trees, such as olive, laurel, pine, ivy, or oak. The garland would be placed upon the head of the victor or the one being honored. Because of the nature of these crowns, they would, in time, wilt and wither and be short-lived. Paul reminded the Corinthians that the contenders of this life would inherit a corruptible (perishable) crown, but we, the saved, an incorruptible (imperishable) crown (I Cor. 9:25).

The crown of thorns they placed upon the head of Jesus was *stephanos*. They were mocking Him as a king whose kingdom was perishing. It was not only pressed upon Him to inflict pain but also to humiliate His position as a popular leader that had a great following that, in their eyes, would be ending shortly.

Diadema is used to designate royalty or kingly dignity. It was distinctly different than *stephanos*. The three times it is used in the KJV are found in the book of Revelation.

The first use is in Rev. 12:3, where it mentions the red dragon having “seven crowns” upon his “seven heads.” Verse 9 identifies the dragon as the Devil and Satan. His demise is determined.

The second use is in Rev. 13:1, where John “*saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.*” His demise is determined, also.

The third use is most notable as it describes the Lord Jesus Christ!

Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Revelation 19:12 His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

Revelation 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 19:14 And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 19:15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

Revelation 19:16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

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