James #56

The doctrine of crowns.

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Open up in 2Timothy chapter four RF.

From our most current study in the book of James we are now looking into the doctrine of crowns.

/Jam 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he **has been approved, he will receive the crown of life**which *the Lord* has promised to those who love Him.\

As I had taught on last lesson, it is very difficult to ignore the fact that equality does not exist other than at the moment of salvation.

In heaven there will be rank and file or a type of chain of command, which will be the result of what you as a Christian did after salvation.

/Every reward, blessing or crown is the result of the grace and abundance of love from the Lord Jesus Christ. It is all the result of the person and work of Jesus Christ. Without HIM, we have no salvation, no hope and no opportunity for blessings. No blessing, reward or crown can be achieved outside of our union with Christ. Your flesh is incapable of salvation, blessings or true righteousness; therefore, everything is Christ dependent.\

Notice in James 1:12 we have a promise from the LORD, which can be found throughout the Bible, GOD rewarding those who truly love HIM.

/Jam 1:12 - *which the Lord has promised (epangellomai) to those who love Him;*

This means to make a public promise, to announce and declare a legal or binding promise. This verb is written as an aorist, middle, indicative.\

EPP-ON-GELL-OH-MY this is written in the aorist tense, because it means this was already done, already promised in eternity past.

The middle voice is pointing to the power and promise of GOD. The indicative mood, speaks to the reality of this promise from GOD, which you can find woven in many scriptures from Genesis into Revelation.

We know from what I presented last message that this dispersion of crowns, happens after the Rapture - at the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ.

So let us begin by looking at the crowns we see in the Biblical context.

/Crowns are usually seen in the NT Greek as – *stephanos,* often used for displaying honor and victory in Olympic style games. Sometimes we find the term -*diadema* often used for a crown of a king. In the Latin we see the term- *corona* which is similar to the Greek term for a wreath or a crown for athletes or a military hero.\

(STEPH-EE-NOS, DIE-AH-DEMA,

COR-ON-AH)

So, what we can glean from this is that a crown for a Christian is related to a victory during this temporal walk on earth.

The Crown of Spiritual Capacity is actually known as the Crown of Righteousness.

At this historic point of 2Timothy we are witnessing the last letter before the Apostle Paul would be executed.

Nero had made certain the Apostle Paul was imprisoned in Rome and was preparing to behead Paul in a very public fashion.

The Apostle Paul was in poor health and trapped in a damp dungeon slowly deteriorating.

2Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come.

/[2Ti 4:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/7/s_1129007) **I have fought the good fight**, I have **finished the course**, I have kept the faith;

1Cor 9:26 Therefore **I run in such a way as not *to run* aimlessly**; **I box** in such away, **as to avoid hitting air**;\

There is very clear teaching, certainly from the Apostle Paul. As well as many other scriptures within the Bible, that speak to victory in the fashion of being an athlete or a combat soldier.

There is something we are all called to do after salvation.

**/**[2Ti 4:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2ti/4/8/s_1129008) **in the future there is reserved 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**.\

This crown is used to describe the capacity for the greater blessings that the winner Believer receives.

God has given special capacity to winner Bels to enjoy special blessings or privileges forever and ever in the resurrected eternal life.

The Apostle Peter spoken upon the attitude of a Christian who lives with a view to the coming of Christ.

/2Pet 3:12 **looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 **But according to His promise** we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.\

Jump over to Ephesians chapter six.

This crown of righteousness is available to all Believers who become winners.

This is given to Bels with an emphasis on those who attain spiritual maturity. This crown highlights higher levels of capacity, which always leads to eternal rewards and decorations of the invisible hero, the spiritual winner!

 REPEAT

The Christian who wears the invisible uniform of Honor will receive the crown of righteousness. This uniform is seen in Ephesians chapter 6.

This is found right now in time, it describes the uniform of Honor.

It is the full Armor of GOD used in our daily lives, especially under attacks of the KOD and the cosmic system ideologies.

/Eph 6:13 Therefore, **take up the full armor of God,** so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, **to stand firm**.

The Apostle Paul used his visual experience from being under Roman guards as this spiritual description.\

It was the best way to describe what he knew was a Bel at maturity, standing firm in their full armor. In heaven, this may well be a true uniform of honor.

/[Eph 6:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/6/14/s_1103014) Stand firm therefore, having **belted your waist with truth**, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**,

The belt of truth upholds everything (BD), it is what builds a powerful soul structure. The breastplate is closest to the heart – the very righteousness of Christ.\

Our union with Christ when it is fully engaged and being walked in, is incredible armor against any an all attacks.

/[Eph 6:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/6/15/s_1103015) and having **strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel** of peace;

Our very foundation is found in the gospel – eternal security in Christ.\

Any soldier in training understands what it means to take care of your feet, your foundation in battle.

It is one of the training tips all US Army soldiers receive in basic training.

/[Eph 6:16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/6/16/s_1103016) in addition to all, taking up the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish **all the flaming arrows** of the evil *one.*

Your faith, as it builds becomes the shield against invisible warfare from the KOD.\

The fact is, the flaming arrows are real! They are often that which is unseen - that which strike our thoughts and tickle our OSN lust patterns.

/[Eph 6:17](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/eph/6/17/s_1103017) And take **the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit**, which is **the word of God**.

Both the helmet of salvation and boots of the gospel give us firm affirmation we are HIS bride and Royal Family forever. Then notice the two power options!\

The function of impersonal love which can only be found with Christ, is the manifestation of the invisible uniform of Honor. The crown of righteousness is given for your virtue and integrity, as you pass momentum tests, and fulfillment of the royal family Honor code.

Even though you stumble and fall occasionally, you kept moving forward and you kept applying the Armor of GOD!

 REPEAT

 As a mature Believer, you began to live a life of spiritual maturity consistently. Which means the daily intake of the Word of God became a priority.

Many of you have earned the crown of righteousness already!

Let us next look at what Pastor James mentioned which is the Crown of Life.

This decoration is awarded to invisible heroes for consistent production of divine good through the execution of the plan of God under the two power options.

/Rev 2:10 ‘Do not fear what you are about to suffer. **Behold, the devil is about to throw 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 of life**. (Jam 1:12) \

Therefore, this particular crown speaks to a strong endurance, a Christian with historic impact.

This includes all the impacts a Jeshurun Believer can have—personal, historical, international, angelic impacts.

 I taught on this principle during my Matthew series years ago – The Jeshurun is mentioned only a few times in the OT and it points to a faithful and positive pivot or even a single Bel.

/Deu 33:26 “**There is no one like the God of Jeshurun**, Who rides the heavens to your help, And the clouds in His majesty. 27 “**The eternal God is a hiding place**, And underneath are the **everlasting arms**; And **He drove out the enemy from you,** And said, ‘Destroy!’

(Deu 33:5, Deu 32:15, Isa 44:1-4)\

YES-SHA-ROON in the Hebrew was a title for the people of God, a symbolic name for the upright nation of Israel.

The positive remnant of Bels is the Jeshurun in every generation of human history and that history is under the power of Jesus Christ controlling it.

Our GOD is a giver of freedom, free will and liberty and HE will not take that back from you but in that liberty and freedom you have responsibilities.

Those who truly accept the spiritual calling become the invisible heroes.

The positive pivot of Bels - the Jeshurun is the key to spiritual freedom. Many people in America and other nations across the globe should thank Bels not persecute them.

 REPEAT

The reason that nation is not completely wiped out may be because there is just enough of a remnant of real Christians sustaining that nation.

Jeshurun existed in the Old Testament in every generation.

/The key to understanding freedom is understanding Bible doctrine. To grow in God’s grace and knowledge is what sets you apart and gives you spiritual freedom and power. This will touch those in your periphery and you begin to bless a group or a community and it spreads to a state and then a nation. Therefore, the crown of life is related to the invisible hero’s production from his spiritual gift, his ambassadorship, and his royal priesthood. \

Let us close today reading a few scriptures in John 15.

/The crown of life is awarded for consistent filling of the Holy Spirit, consistent perception of doctrine, and consistent use of the problem-solving devices. The crown of life is awarded because of consistent use of the spiritual skills and advance to maturity, under pressure and testing.\

Jhon 15 is not a lesson on losing your salvation. It is a lesson on spiritual growth, winners and losers and it points directly to the Crown of LIFE.

Jhn 15:1 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

/[Jhn 15:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/15/2/s_1012002) “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, **He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.**

As we move forward the tests and pressure are what prunes us and takes us to higher levels of maturity.\

[Jhn 15:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/15/3/s_1012003) “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

You are clean…born again and saved.

/[Jhn 15:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/15/4/s_1012004) “**Remain in Me**, and I in you. Just as **the branch cannot bear fruit of itself but must remain in the vine**, so neither *can* you unless you remain in Me.

We are called to habitually be walking in our union with Christ, then we accomplish spiritual strength and growth.\

[Jhn 15:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/jhn/15/5/s_1012005) “I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

The invisible hero’s of the CA are the Jeshurun of this dispensation.

They go above and beyond.

They had the endurance and faith that keeps driving forward even after failures and difficulties.

Moses, Abraham, David…Peter and Paul all sinned and had times of failure and weakness yet they pressed on toward maturity.

They received the Crown of Life I am certain of it…and so can you!