



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. – Matthew 15:9

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## Jesus's Crown

Recently I was listening to an archived Bible study given by Dr. Jean Sheldon. In this study she spoke of the cross upon which Jesus was crucified and she stated that she liked to think of the cross as the throne of Jesus.

While I see her point, I'm not sure I entirely agreed with her. But it started a chain of thoughts that led me to Jesus's crown. One major thing that I've recently come to realize is that satan will take anything about God that is good and twist it to somehow make it appear evil. Could that logic also apply to the crown that Jesus will be wearing when he returns to collect his people, his bride?

Being raised in the Seventh-day Adventist system I was taught that when people die they go into the grave where they sleep, waiting for Jesus to return. While they sleep they have no conscience awareness of any kind. Imagine yourself on the operating table. They tell you to take a deep breath then the next thing you're aware of is being in a different room and people are talking to you. You weren't aware of anything that happened while you were asleep.

For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even their name is forgotten. –  
Ecclesiastes 9:5 NIV

After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant

natural sleep.

So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." – John 11:11-15 NIV

When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him – Matthew 9:23-24 NIV

But the bulk of christianity doesn't teach this concept of death. It's taught and largely accepted that when a person dies they immediately go to heaven or hell (more about hell in a moment). When you take these two doctrines and question if they show God to be acting in a way of love, what do we get?

For a person to go to heaven and be watching over those they have loved and are still alive on this earth would not be a happy experience. To be in heaven you must be a person who is filled with love for others. You would not be happy to watch those you care about as they struggle through the trials we must deal with in our lifetime. You would not be happy to watch your grandchild struggle with childhood leukemia. You would not be happy to witness your teenage daughter getting drunk then gang raped after she passed out. You would not be happy to watch your beloved spouse dating then marry someone else. And you would especially be unhappy if that new spouse was abusive to your spouse and children. And you would not be happy if \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank). There are a multitude of examples that could be entered onto that line.

For those who end up in the hot spot (as christianity teaches it) it would not be fair for a person who lived an exceptionally "good" life but refused to accept God, to receive the same punishment as Hitler who was responsible for the deaths of a multitude of Jews and others.

And as for the act of burning someone while miraculously keeping them alive in order to torture them with fire, that is an act of more than cruelty. It's the act of insanity on the part of someone who would be capable of doing that.

The Adventist church teaches that the doctrine of eternally burning people in hellfire is incorrect because it shows God to be a meanie. Instead they teach that God will burn them for only as long as necessary to punish them for the crimes they committed.

But people, get real. Start thinking about what you're being or have been taught. Neither one of those teachings shows God to be acting in a way that is loving. It doesn't matter how long you hold a lit match under someone's finger, even if only for a brief second it is still torture. No matter how you look at torture it is NOT an act of love therefore it is NOT an act that God is capable of doing. Something is wrong with that teaching.

It occurred to me one day that God is in hell. God dwells in an eternally burning fire and that fire destroys sin. Who is able to live in that fire? Only those who have washed their robes in the blood of the lamb AKA God's redeemed or those who have chosen to follow Jesus and allow the Holy Spirit to heal their characters. As for the wicked, being in that fire which destroys sin would be a torture they would not be able to endure. They would long for death rather than have to face the truth of what they have done with their lives. Most likely they would die of stroke or heart attack or something like that when they are faced with the truth of what they have chosen to become.

With that bit of insight I can attest to my desire, my longing, to "go to hell." Hell is where I want to be because I want to be with my Creator.

This fire that God dwells in is not a combustible fire that burns things to ashes. It is a Force that works within us to heal us of our faulty character. That Force is actively working even now, trying to reach us and lead us to becoming what we were created to be. In the beginning humankind was created in God's own image. It is that image his healing fire is diligently trying to restore. Those who truly love God and allow this healing fire to burn away their unsavory characteristics now will be able to live and thrive when the time comes for God to stop holding his fire in check. When he fully releases those healing flames the wicked will be unprepared and find themselves unable to bear the reality of what they have chosen to do with their lives.

It isn't God who destroys sinners (Romans 6:23). When the time comes he is simply going to stop hiding his presence which exposes everyone to the reality of what they have become and they will die from the shock. It is sin that destroys, not God.

The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?

He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that

despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;

He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. – Isaiah 13:14-16 KJV

There is also an interesting twist to clouds that we've probably never really thought about. When we think of clouds we automatically think of the white, fluffy things that float in the sky. Well, for the sake of space I'll not go further into this one. I'll save that for another day.

The topic of this blurb is Jesus's crown. My point is that satan has twisted our concept of what the truth is. We've learned that God acts in ways that are unloving which gives him satanic characteristics. And many of us have been told that if we don't believe these lies or even so much as question them then God will retaliate and burn us in hell. But that is totally bunk. It is hooley.

As an Adventist I was taught that when Jesus returns to collect his people he will come in the clouds in great glory and majesty, surrounded by all the angels that have remained true to Him. It will be a scene that NOBODY will miss! There he is in the sky, shining with such brilliance that the wicked are unable to look upon him while the redeemed are able to stand and stare at him. The redeemed will be able to do that because they will have miraculously received supereyeballs (super eyeballs) but the wicked will still have their normal eyeballs and this bright light will cause their eyeballs to melt in their head. (I believe that teaching comes from the book *The Great Controversy* by E.G. White.)

But is this true? This is a question I'm only beginning to struggle with so I don't have answers, I'm just sharing my thoughts right now and would welcome your insights. I've learned that satan has distorted everything about God and this picture of Jesus shining brilliantly with great pomp and majesty, surrounded by all those angels isn't exactly the lifestyle that Jesus led when he walked among us as a human. He who took upon himself the degrading task of washing his disciples feet lived a life of poverty and service to others. His joy was in healing people and teaching them a different way of life. And lets face it, the act of melting people's eyeballs isn't an act of love so with that concept something reeks of rotten fish. Furthermore, all that pomp and brilliancy is an in-your-face act and neener-neener-neener isn't an act of love. Perhaps this is something we should look into at some point.

So what about the crown? I looked it up in Easton's Bible dictionary and found

there are several different usages of the word “crown” throughout the Bible. I want to focus on the crown that Jesus wears when he returns to collect his bride.

His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. –  
Revelation 19:12 NIV

What I found in Easton's Bible dictionary is that the term “many crowns” is thought to mean he governs a multitude of dominions. I also found that there are sculptures of early Egyptian and Persian rulers who wore extra circlets along with their crowns. This is believed to signify they ruled over 2 or 3 countries. They had extended dominion.

If we take Revelation literally then when Jesus returns in all that glory I mentioned above, then he'll have an unnumberable amount of literal crowns upon his head. In fact, considering the size of the universe, he will be wearing so many crowns we won't be able to see his head. But wait – isn't Revelation a book of symbols and should be taken symbolically?

Symbolically....

OK, let's think about this a bit. Jesus is the Creator of the entire universe. Everything is his and he is coming to reclaim what was stolen. As a being of Love it is not in his character to get into one's face and rub it in. His kingdom doesn't operate like ours. So it probably isn't an accurate concept to think of him wearing a literal collection of adornments upon his head.

But the Bible states he's wearing a crown so what crown could he wear that would be the most magnificent crown in the eyes of the redeemed, and the most horrific crown in the eyes of those who have rejected him, especially those who pierced him? Have you ever considered that crown he wears when he returns to collect his people just might be a crown of thorns?

Can I prove this? No. This is conjecture on my part. Like I said, I've recognized that satan has so maligned God and we've been so brainwashed that most of our beliefs about Him are incorrect. Seeing Jesus triumphantly wearing those thorns on his head would be the most beautiful, the most splendid thing I can imagine. The fact that he would do that in order to rescue us, and would have worn it for only 1 of us, is so heartwarming. It literally brings tears to my eyes.

With that I'll sign off. As these thoughts occur to me I'll try to share them. No, I

won't always have texts but sometimes I just share my thoughts. When that happens then I issue the challenge for you to find the texts.

Have a wonderful day!

Hannah

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