

“God’s Word, Alive!”

July/August 2000

A Biblical Teaching Ministry Dedicated to “Holding Forth the Word of Life”

by Velma Sanders

Why JESUS Wore . . .

“*The Crown of Thorns*”

Then Pilate, therefore, took Jesus, and scourged Him, And the soldiers plaited a **crown of thorns, and put it on His head**, and they put on Him a purple robe, And said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And smote Him with their hands. Pilate, therefore, went forth again, and said unto them,

“Behold, I bring Him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in Him.” Then came Jesus forth, wearing **the crown of thorns**, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, “Behold the Man.”

(John 19:1-5, King James Version)

Holy Scripture makes known something we would have never imagined had not the Spirit of God revealed the agonies of the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel writers Matthew, Mark and John all bear witness that Jesus was crowned by the soldiers on that great day of His crucifixion. Crowned not with gold, silver or precious stones, but instead they crowned Him with a crown of thorns.

Of course, we know that this action was done in mockery from the soldiers’ standpoint. But, have you ever considered what this placing of the crown accomplished from God’s view? Why this revelation of the crowning of the Lord with thorns? Was this horrible injustice allowed by the Father upon His Beloved Son to merely cause us to shudder at the agonies of Christ Jesus? Was this unimaginable crowning done to merely make the shadows of Calvary as gory and bloody as possible? God forbid! It is impossible for the fullness of that cup of which Our Savior prayed in Gethsemane to be fully revealed to us. It is indeed Jesus’ cup (Matthew 26:39). However, we know that God would not have suffered the crown of thorns to be placed upon the head of His Son, if this action was not to accomplish some aspect of God’s great redemptive plan.

With Jesus now having endured the scourging, the soldiers methodically weave a crown of thorns. One thorn pricked into the flesh is more than sufficient to bring about great pain. How much more an entire scalp, including the forehead, covered with thorns? Whether it was shaped as a laurel wreath or a cap-like piece that fitted the entire head, the soldiers upon weaving together this instrument of torture, crown Jesus. Careful attention and self-care is given by the soldiers to make sure that they themselves are not pricked by even one of these long, terribly sharp thorns. But upon His sacred brow, no mercy was given. The crown is first placed upon, and then settled into, deep into the head of Jesus.

“God’s Word, Alive!” P.O. Box 34215, Omaha, NE 68134, www.GodsWordAlive.org

In response to our question, “Why did the Father allow His Son to be crowned with thorns?” let us first consider the obvious. A crown, of course, is an emblem of governmental rule or authority. Scripture would have us know that it is befitting that Jesus would be crowned. “Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of Glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The LORD of Hosts, He is the King of Glory.” (Psalm 24:8, 9) The soldiers upon the placing of the crown declare, howbeit through spite, publicly that Jesus Christ is King of the Jews. Imagine this, even the “weakness of God” commands the praise of His enemies. “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.” (1 Corinthians 1:25)

Matthew 27:29 says, “And when they had plaited a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!” Unbeknownst to the soldiers, their very action said “Amen.” They were foreshadowing the prophecy given in Philippians 2:9-11, “Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name; That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”

With this crowning of thorns we now have the third shedding and sprinkling of the precious Blood of Jesus. The first shedding having previously occurred in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:44). The second shedding of the Blood of Christ occurs during the scourging by the Roman soldiers (John 19:1). And now in this ghastly scene before us, we behold the third shedding of Jesus’ Blood - the crowning of the head with thorns.

Let us look closer at two of these sheddings of blood as we ponder the “why” of the crown of thorns – giving careful attention to the words “**blood**,” “**ground**” and “**thorns**.” Luke 22:44, “And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly; and His sweat was as it were great drops of **blood** falling down to the **ground**.” And from John 19:1, “. . . and the soldiers plaited a crown of **thorns** and put it upon His head.”

In order to answer our question, let us consider Scriptures own commentary of these words. It is stated in Genesis 3:17, 18, “And unto Adam He said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it; cursed is the **ground** for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of your life. **Thorns** also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.” Here we have the **ground** being cursed, and immediately the **thorns**, at that very moment, came forth. Both are a result of sin. Before The Fall of Man there were no **thorns**.

It is established in Genesis 1:26 that Man is to have dominion over all of God’s earthly creation. “And God said, Let Us make Man in Our image, after Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.” Through God’s purposes, Man before The Fall possesses dominion over the earth. The

Devil, as we know, has always wanted to be God and to rule; and having now fallen from Heaven, he seeks to gain the dominion that God has given to Man.

The earth, including the ground and the kingdom of plants and of animals, was given to Man to subdue and replenish it (Genesis 1:28). However, as we know, through Man's disobedience instead of the earth flourishing in the soil in which God planted it, that being one of delight (Eden, Genesis 2:8), the earth is now brought under sore distress as a result of sin.

Presently, even to this very day, through Adam's sin there are many evidences of creation being affected by Man's disobedience to God - leaves fall from the trees, plants bloom only for a season, snow has to be shoveled, air conditioners are necessary, etc. This is what Paul calls the "bondage of corruption" as stated in Romans 8:21, 22. "Because the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

And the very earth that God had given to Man to rule has been transferred to the Devil. When Adam fell, all that God had given to Adam fell with him – the wife, the children, the ground. As a result, we read of the Devil proclaiming that the earth, and the kingdoms of it, belong to him. Luke 4:6, "And the Devil, taking Him up into an high mountain, showed unto Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the Devil said unto Him, All this power will I give Thee, and the glory of them; for that is delivered unto me, and to whomsoever I will I give it." And indeed this was the case for Adam had given it to him, the Devil. Figuratively speaking - Man falls, slithering upon the ground, the Serpent "picked up" all that "fell" out of Adam's hand.

But Jesus has come to redeem all that Adam lost! Jesus has come to redeem man. Jesus has come to redeem the earth. Hence to answer our question, "Why was the crown of thorns placed upon Jesus' head?"

Once again, let's behold Our Mighty Redeemer in the Garden as those precious drops of Blood fall, fall to the ground. Now, of course, *Not One Drop* of Jesus' Blood is lost, *Not One Drop* of His Blood is lifeless, *Not One Drop* of His Blood is without power. Whatever His Blood touches – HIS BLOOD REDEEMS! And so we behold now, that indeed, "The Earth is the LORD'S and the fullness thereof . . ." (Psalm 24:1). The Earth is His by creation, and it's His, legally, through redemption. This answers the "Why?" of the first shedding of Blood.

But why **the crown of thorns**? As we recall the first evidence of fallen man revealed in creation was "**thorns and thistles**" (Genesis 3:17, 18). The Father Himself pronounced this curse. In Jesus' wearing of **the crown of thorns**, He bore the curse, not only for man, but He bore creation's curse as well. This is why The Father would allow for the Head of His Beloved Son to be crowned. Jesus Christ purchased, by His All-Sufficient Blood, creation's redemption!

“For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. **Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree;** and it shall be to the LORD for a Name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.” (Isaiah 55:12, 13)

So, therefore, we join our voices in holy harmony with the singers and together proclaim, *“Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King; Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room, And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n and nature sing, And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing!”* (Joy To The World, by Isaac Watts and George F. Handel)

Romans 8:19-23 would have us to know that creation is waiting. Waiting for The Church to be glorified at The Return of Jesus. Creation is waiting for the fulfillment of what Jesus’ Blood obtained for them at Calvary! Creation is waiting to join along with The Redeemed and together we’ll sing of The Power of the Blood of Jesus! In that grand and glorious day will be brought to pass all of the prophecies that proclaim that all of creation will rejoice in The LORD.

Psalm 148
David’s Psalm of Praise

Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights.
Praise ye Him, all His angels; praise ye Him, all His hosts.
Praise ye Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars of light.
Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that are above the heavens.
Let them praise the Name of the LORD; for He commanded, and they were created.
He hath also established them forever and ever; He hath made a decree which shall not pass.

Praise the LORD from the earth, ye serpents and all deeps;
Fire and hail; snow and vapor; stormy wind fulfilling His Word;
Mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars;
Beasts and all cattle; creeping things and flying fowl;
Kings of the earth, and all peoples; princes, and all judges of the earth;
Both young men and maidens; old men and children.
Let them praise the Name of the LORD; For His Name alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth and heaven.
He also exalteth the horn of His people, the praise of all His saints; even of the children of Israel, a people near unto Him. Praise ye the LORD.

Oh, The Invaluable Worth of the Blood of Jesus!
Hallelujah! Amen!

“God’s Word, Alive!” P.O. Box 34215, Omaha, NE 68134, www.GodsWordAlive.org
Copyright © 2006 All Rights Reserved