

A Halo of Thorns

BREAD

When we see pictures of angels, or pictures of Jesus, sometimes the artist will depict them with a golden halo over their head. Artists draw these halos because they wish to show that the person is holy. Jesus is our perfect example of holiness; but of course, the Scriptures never talk about golden halos. However, at one time, our Savior had a halo of a very different kind. He wore a halo of thorns. [Pick up crown] Laurin made this simple crown of thorns a few years ago from plants at Central Park. Why did Jesus wear a crown of thorns? Were their purpose to give Jesus that much more pain? Yes, the crown of thorns caused Him MUCH pain. But I believe the purpose of the crown of thorns goes beyond the physical sufferings of Jesus. What is the meaning of Jesus wearing a halo of thorns?

There are thorns all over this world. But it did not used to be so. Thorns were never a part of the Garden of Eden where Adam began. Gen 3: 17-18 say, "[God] said to Adam, 'Because you listened to your wife's voice and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, "Do not eat from it": The ground is cursed because of you. You will eat from it by means of painful labor all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.' " Thorns were never in the garden of Eden. Thorns are a direct consequence of mankind's sin. If it wasn't for man's sin, we would not have thorns today, and Jesus would not have had to wear them.

Thorns are nothing more than a punishment for our sins. Whenever we see them or are pricked by them, they act as a constant reminder that we sin against God. Jesus wore a halo of thorns which is to remind us that our sin put Him on the cross. So when I look at this, it reminds me of what I've done. I think of all the thorns throughout the world and how much I've sinned against God. I think of how long these thorns are and how deeply I hurt God when I sin. It's because of me that these thorns exist! It's because of me that a halo of many thorns was put on Jesus' head.

What did Jesus endure as He hung on the cross wearing a halo of thorns? Jesus himself bore our sins. In fact, He became sin on our behalf! 2Cor 5:21 - "He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him". Paul also quotes from Deut 21(:23) in Gal 3:13 saying, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written: Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." A golden halo is a sign to show that someone is holy. Jesus wore a halo of thorns to show that He became a curse so that we may be forgiven. As we eat this bread, let us remember that those are our thorns on his head. Let's pray.

FRUIT of the VINE

Yes, Jesus became sin on our behalf, but because Jesus knew no sin, being our perfect sacrifice, He has taken away all sin through His death. John the Baptist said (John 1:29), "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Heb 9:26 - "...But now He has appeared one time at the end of the ages, for the removal of sin by the sacrifice of Himself." Jesus won the victory over sin! Rom 6:10 - "For in that He died, He died to sin once for all; but in that He lives, He lives to God." And now, not only has Christ conquered sin, but He has also conquered death! Because of Jesus Christ, we will never have to wear a crown of thorns, and those who are in Christ are already wearing an imperishable crown of life. At this time, we recognize the blood of Christ which forgives our sins. Matt 26:28 - "For this is My blood of the new covenant; it is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins." Let's pray.