

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). Now we see 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 shedding of blood as we ponder the "why" of the crown of thorns- giving careful attention to the words "blood," "ground" and "thorns." Luke 22:43-44 says, "And there appeared to Him an Angel from heaven, strengthening Him. And being in an agony, He prayed the longer. And His sweat became as drops of blood trickling down upon the ground." From John 19:2 "...and the soldiers plating a crown of thorns upon His head".

Actual Crown of Thorns at
Notre Dame Cathedral Paris, France

In order to answer our question, let us consider Scriptures own commentary of these words. It is stated in Genesis 3:17-18, "And to Adam He said: Because thou hast eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat, cursed is the earth in thy work; with labour and toil shalt thou eat thereof all the days of thy life. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herbs of the earth. Here are 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.

This concludes the first of our two part segment as to why Jesus wore a crown of thorns. The second part will pick up where we left off in Genesis and show how Jesus came to redeem all that Adam lost!

Picture of Crown of Thorns from www.notredamedeparis.fr

Reliquary containing two thorns from Jesus' Crown.

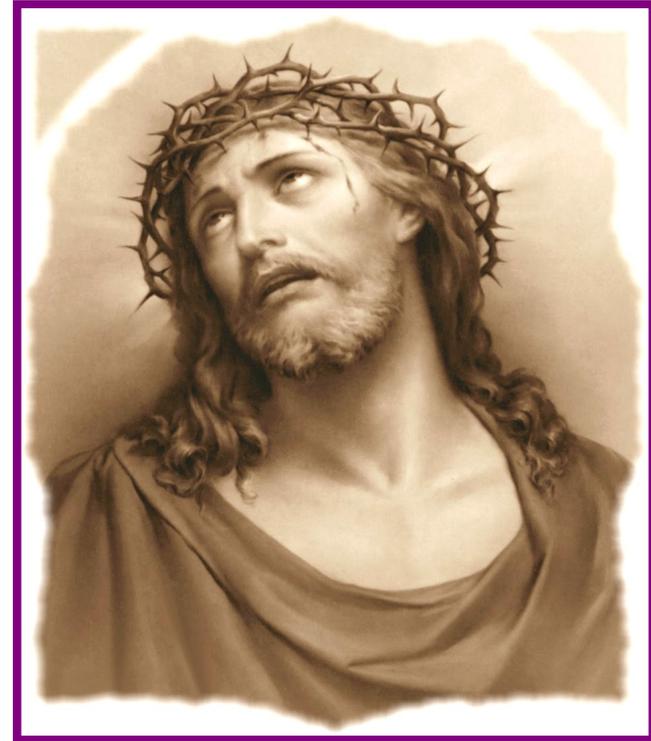
from the Church of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem in Rome

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Why Jesus Wore "The Crown of Thorns"

Part I of II



Dear Lord,

I am grieved when I consider Thy sad condition
when Thou wore the Crown of Thorns upon Thy holy Head.
I desire to withdraw the thorns by offering to the Eternal Father
the merits of Thy Wounds for the salvation of sinners.
I wish to unite my actions to the merits of Thy Most Holy Crown,
so that they may gain many merits,
as Thou hast promised.
Amen.

Prayer based on a revelation by Our Lord to Sr. Chambon

Why Jesus Wore... "The Crown of Thorns" -Part-I

by Velma Sanders

Then Pilate, therefore, took Jesus, and scourged Him. And the soldiers plating a crown of thorns, put it upon his head; and they put on him a purple garment. And they came to him, and said: Hail, King of the Jews; and they gave him blows. Pilate therefore went forth again and said to them: Behold, I bring him forth unto you, that you may know that I find no cause in him. (Jesus therefore came forth, bearing the crown of thorns and the purple garment.) And he said to them: Behold the Man. (John 19:1-5)

In this first of a series of two pamphlets, we will explore why Jesus wore a crown of thorns. 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? 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 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.

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 23:8, 9) The soldiers upon the placing of the crown declare, 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 plating a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand. And bowing the knee before Him, they 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, "For which cause God also hath exalted Him, and have given Him a name which is above all names: that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth, and under their earth: and that every tongue should confess that the Lord Jesus Christ is in the glory of God the Father."

With this crowning of thorns we now have the third shedding