

# Crown Him with Many Crowns



What image is conjured up in your mind's eye when you read the title of this hymn? Do you see crowns stacked one on another atop the once-pierced brow of the reigning Savior? Does it appear more cartoon-like than realistic?

This Matthew Bridges text hearkens back to the crowning with many crowns in Revelation 19:12. The word used here is actually "diadem" – which we sing about in another crowning hymn, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name."

By dictionary definition, a diadem is an ornamental head band or fillet (narrow strip of cloth) worn by Eastern monarchs. It is referred to as a "decorative wreath of conquerors," or more like a turban; according to the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, it is simply something bound about the head.

It seems that Eastern rulers were initially crowned with an ornamental head band. Then with each conquest of new territories, another strip of cloth was wreathed into their original diadem – probably in a color representative of the conquered nation. In fact, this may have been the "crown" taken from the overthrown ruler.

With that image in your mind's eye, you may be able to focus more on what may have been the intent of John in the Revelation. These "many crowns" signify the sovereign rule of Christ over all nations of the world, although He didn't have to depose any king to receive these diadems.

When we stand to sing "Crown Him with Many Crowns" on a Sunday morning, I have a much better realistic grasp of the Lord Christ wearing an ornamental turban of intertwined ribbons. It is no longer a near-caricatured image of a weighted-down emperor. Now I find myself bowing before the Ruler of all nations because he is indeed worthy to wear all those crowns.

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