

# The Head That Once Was Crowned



The head that once was crowned with thorns is now crowned with glory. The cross that once was the instrument of death is now the sign of new life. The One who was once rejected and despised is now glorified as the king of kings and Lord of Lords.

This complete and unexpected reversal is at the heart of Christianity. Without it, this faith is merely a religious system offering the hope of eternal rewards for obedience to a moral code in this life. With the great reversal that is claimed for Jesus' death and resurrection, Christianity is the story most amazing and hopeful in all the world.

With this great reversal, even the most unlikely failure can be a success and the most dastardly sinner can be redeemed. The great reversal is not just a historical claim. It is a claim about the way the world is set up. It is set up to be reversed. Mary's Magnificat is the most succinct witness to this hope (besides the resurrection). In Mary's prophetic vision, the rich and haughty are brought down while the poor and hungry are lifted up. Neither of these would have been naturally expected, but Mary believed the coming Messiah so thoroughly changed everything that even the most unlikely scenario was possible, and even more than possible—it was ordained by God.

This reversal is the everlasting theme of God's people. With God all things are possible. Nothing, no one, and no situation is hopeless and doomed without the hope of redemption.

The Christ hymn of Philippians 2:5–11 tells the story of the descent of Christ from a place of honor and equality with God down to the humble servanthood of humanity, and even to death on a cross. Then God gave him the name that is above every name. The head that was crowned with thorns became the name of the glory of God.

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