

e-concepts..... Casting Our Crowns

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There is no reference whatsoever to saints, in general, wearing crowns of any kind in heaven.

The word "crown" occurs seven times in the New Testament in reference to rewards of believers:

- **Philippians 4:1** *Therefore my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown...*

Paul's crown is the people whom he reached for Christ, not something to wear on his head.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:19** *For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?*

Paul's crown was his hope for rewards in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming.

- **2 Timothy 4:8** *in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.*

Paul's crown was the reward he would receive for righteousness along with all the other saints who loved His appearing.

- **James 1:12** *Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.*

James' crown is a victory over trials on earth. The context has nothing to do with heaven. The crown of life is a way believers respond to trials on earth, not something they wear in heaven.

- **1 Peter 5:4** *When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*

Peter uses the word crown as a metaphor of the unfading glory believers will be rewarded with when the Chief Shepherd appears.

- **Revelation 2:10** *Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

Jesus told the believers at Smyrna if they endured martyrdom He would give them eternal rewards.

- **Revelation 3:11** *hold fast what you have, so that no one will take your crown.*

Jesus warned the church at Philadelphia not to give in to the *hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world* (v. 10), so they will not lose their eternal rewards.

This idea, that the crowns are something believers give back to God, implies that whatever rewards we might receive for righteous acts don't matter much eternally. We just give them back to Jesus anyway. That contradicts the dominant New Testament teaching of heavenly rewards given as a result of a judgment on the works of the saints (1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 10:32-39). The difference in rewards allows the saints to serve God in greater or lesser ways throughout eternity (Matthew 13:23; 25:28). The crowns, referred to for the saints, are symbols of our eternal destiny, not some head covering to be thrown down in a ceremony.

In Revelation 4, where the *twenty-four elders* cast their crowns before the throne, there is no gathering of believers at all. There are only the four living creatures and the 24 elders. [In order to assume this represents something any other heavenly saints do, one would have to deny a literal understanding of the words, place a figurative meaning on the numbers, and inject an interpretation found nowhere in the text. It imposes a context that the author did not mention.] In chapter 19, the scene is quite different. In chapter 19, there are rewarded saints, *clothed in fine linen bright and clean*, not wearing crowns, and what they are doing is very different from what the *twenty-four elders* were doing in chapter 4. In Revelation 19, where the saints are also present, there is worship and praise, but not the casting of crowns.

The idea that in heaven we cast crowns before Jesus is without any biblical support.

For more information see study paper **Do We Cast Our Crowns Before Christ's Throne in Heaven?** on Relational Concepts web page: <https://relationalconcepts.org/>