



Message Four – Divine Crowns

Pastor Mike Chapman

Psalm 103:1-5

Today we will continue to look at the benefits David enumerated in Psalm 103 which belong to a person who is a follower of Christ. So far, we have looked at *Divine Forgiveness*, *Divine Healing*, and *Divine Redemption*. Today, let's look at benefit four – *Divine Crowns*

WHAT IS A DIVINE CROWN?

A crown is a symbol of **authority**.

Matthew 7:29, *The people were amazed at his teaching, because he did not teach like their teachers of the law. He taught like a person who had authority.* NCV

All authority is **bestowed**.

Matthew 28:18-19, *Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations."* NIV

WHY ARE CHRIST FOLLOWERS CROWNED?

Humanity was created by God to **rule** with him.

Genesis 1:27-28, God created humans in his image. In the image of God he created them. He created them male and female. God blessed them and said, "Be fertile, increase in number, fill the earth, and be its master. Rule the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that crawl on the earth." GW

Satan's plan was to take our **crown**.

Genesis 3:24, God expelled them out of the garden and stationed angel-cherubim and a revolving sword of fire east of it, guarding the path to the Tree of Life. MSG

Jesus came to restore God's authority to the people of God in order that we might join his mission on the earth.

Luke 10:18-20, I saw Satan falling from above like a lightning bolt. I've given you true authority...You can walk all over the power of the enemy...But listen—that's not the point. Don't be elated that evil spirits leave when you say to leave. Rejoice that your names are written in heaven. TV

Jesus crowns us to reign over **sin** and **death**.

Romans 5:17, 21, If one man's offence meant that men should be slaves to death all their lives, it is a far greater thing that through another man, Jesus Christ, men by their acceptance of his more than sufficient grace and righteousness, should live all their lives like kings! ... Sin used to be the master of men and in the end handed them over to death: now grace is the ruling factor, with righteousness as its purpose and its end the bringing of men to the eternal life of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

WITH WHAT ARE WE CROWNED?

We are crowned with loving kindness and tender mercies.

The Hebrew word *chessed* is difficult to translate. No single English word captures its full meaning.

It is the most significant description of how God relates to his people.

It carries the idea of God's **unending, loyal love**.

When we receive his grace and mercy, we have a new **standing** which the Bible calls **righteousness**.

It is in this righteousness that we reign in life.

It is in this righteousness that we have authority because grace is the ruling factor and our victory over sin and death and Satan is now a reality.