

1. Last week I exegeted Gal 3:24 and then we began an analysis of the Greek words **Bema** and **Stephanos**. As a result of our faith in Christ we will receive an evaluation at the **Bema** and perhaps be awarded **Stephanoi**—crowns.
2. Before we continue our study you might want to use the provisions of 1Jo 1:9 by silently naming your sin to God as the Holy Spirit may show.
3. Let's see how Gal 3:21-24 looks by way of an expanded translation.

### Expanded Translation

**Gal 3:21** Is therefore the law against the promises of God? Why heck no—of course not. For if a law had been given which was able to impart eternal life and perfect righteousness it would have been the Mosaic Law;

**Gal 3:22** but the Scriptures have concluded that all mankind is under the indictment and curse of sin, in order that the promise on the ground of faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

**Gal 3:23** But before the coming of the Messiah and our privilege of believing in the historical Christ, we were kept under lock and key until His arrival.

**Gal 3:24** Accordingly the law became our guardian until the coming of the historical Christ, in order that we might be justified by faith in Him.

### Introduction

1. At the judgment seat of Christ, or the **Bema** (as it is called in the Greek), crowns will be awarded.

1.1 The **Bema** was a place where a king, judge or procurator might sit to adjudicate a matter or reward an outstanding athlete or military hero. It is from the **Bema** that the judge would issue punishments or rewards.

1.2 It was at the **Bema**, during the Isthmus Games, that a winning contestant received his special reward called a **Stephanos**.

1.2.1 It is to this analogy the New Testament speaks when it describes Church Age believers appearing before the judgment seat of Christ. Rom 14:10; 2Co 5:10

1.3 The word **Bema** appears several places in the New Testament.

1.3.1 Jesus was brought before Pilate's **Bema**. Mat 27:19; Joh 9:13

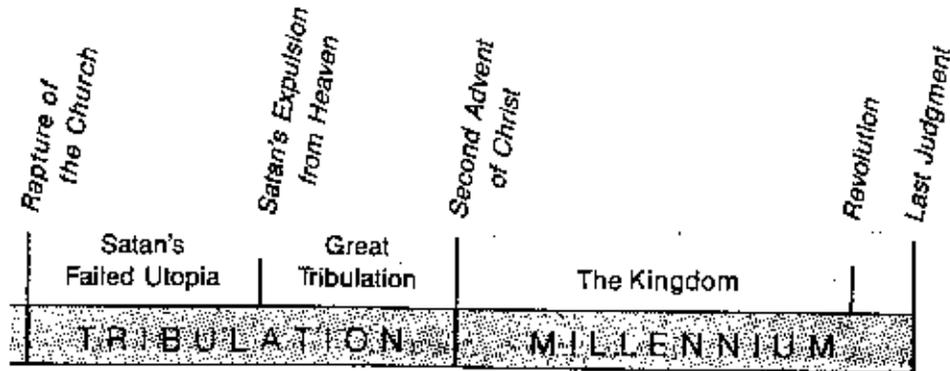
1.3.2 Herod Agrippa made his final speech to citizens of Tyre and Sidon from a **Bema**. Acts 12:21

1.3.3 Gallio, the governor of Achaia, judged Paul from a **Bema**. Acts 18:12

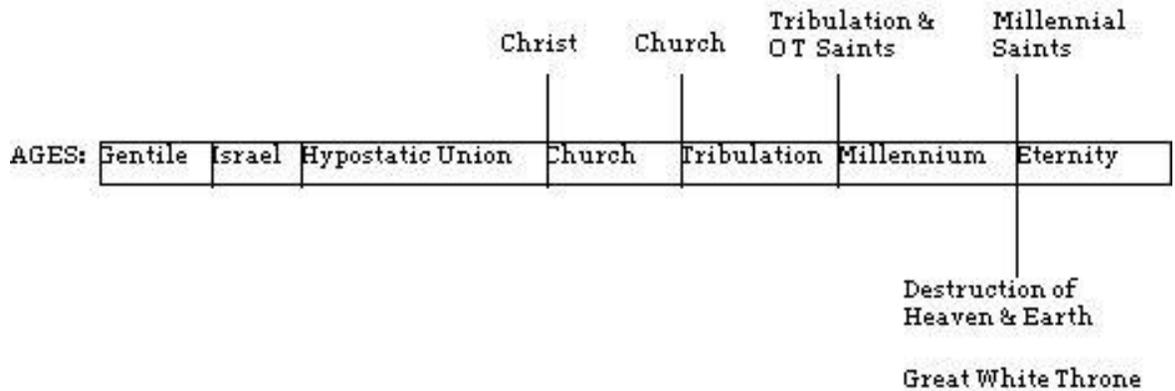
1.3.4 Paul was brought before a **Bema** (the judgment seat of Festus) on his way to Rome. Acts 25:6 and 10

Definition and Concept

1. Let's look at crowns as they relate to the judgment seat of Christ. The judgment is for believers of the Church Age. It takes place just after the Rapture. The judgment seat is called the **Bema**.



ORDER OF THE RESURRECTIONS



2. Paul describes the events taking place at the **Bema**, where crowns are awarded. 1Co 3:11-15

1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.  
 1Co 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;  
 1Co 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.  
 1Co 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.  
 1Co 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

3. The word for crown in the New Testament is **Stephanos**. The **Stephanos** in ancient Rome was a wreath given to both athletes and military heroes who had distinguished themselves.

3.1 With it went a large monetary stipend, a parade honoring the recipient (much like a ticker-tape parade for the team winning the World Series), a significant land grant such as 1000 acres on the Brazos between Waco and Bryan and a lifetime exemption from taxation for self and family.

3.1.1 Your right pastor-teacher will be with you at the **Bema**, for it is his evaluation too.

Phi 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and **crown**, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!

1Th 2:19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the **crown** in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

1Th 2:20 Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

4. The word **Stephanos** appears in Scripture to describe:

- Jesus' crown of thorns

Mat 27:29 And when they had platted a **crown** of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

- something of value

1Co 9:25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible **crown**; but we an incorruptible.

1Th 2:19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the **crown** in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?

2Ti 4:8 Now there is in store 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 longed for his appearing.

Jam 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the **crown** of life that God has promised to those who love him.

Rev 2:10 Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you (church at Smyrna - 100-300 A.D.), and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the **crown** of life.

1Pe 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the **crown** of glory that will never fade away.

Rev 3:11 I am coming soon to you, the church at Philadelphia - the church just before the rapture). Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your **crown**.

- the church resident in heaven--casting their crowns before the throne of God

Rev 4:4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had **crowns** of gold on their heads.

Rev 4:10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their **crowns** before the throne and say:

- power given the Antichrist

Rev 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a **crown** was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

- demon warriors

Rev 9:6 During those days men will seek death, but will not find it; they will long to die, but death will elude them.

Rev 9:7 The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like **crowns** of gold, and their faces resembled human faces.

Rev 9:8 Their hair was like women's hair, and their teeth were like lions' teeth.

- Israel divided into twelve tribes

Rev 12:1 "I then saw an exciting and wondrous scene in heaven; it was obviously a sign: there I could see a woman representing Israel; she was clothed with the sun and the moon under her feet and a **crown** of twelve stars on her head; the twelve stars represented the twelve tribes who will ultimately rule with Christ.

- the royalty of Jesus just before He returns

Rev 14:14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a **crown** of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.

End Lesson Taught 12-27-2015

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