

# Matthew 27:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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!

## Analysis

**A crown of thorns** (στέφανον ἐξ ἀκανθῶν, stephanon ex akanthōn)—likely fashioned from the Syrian Christ-thorn (Ziziphus spina-christi) with long, sharp spikes. This is the anti-crown, fulfilling Genesis 3:18's curse (**thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth**)—Jesus wears creation's curse upon his head.

**A reed in his right hand** (κάλαμον, kalamon)—a mock scepter. **Hail, King of the Jews!** (Χαῖρε, βασιλεῦ, Chaire, basileu)—parody of the imperial greeting Ave Caesar. Every element—crown, scepter, acclamation—mocks kingship while unwittingly declaring truth.

## Historical Context

The crown of thorns may have been shaped like a radiate crown worn by Hellenistic rulers (rays projecting outward), making the mockery more pointed. Soldiers would have known imperial iconography and deliberately parodied it.

## Related Passages

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus wearing the thorns of the curse reverse what Adam's sin brought into the world?
2. What is the deeper meaning of Christ receiving mockery and false worship rather than retaliation?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	πλέξαντες	στέφανον	ἐξ	ἀκανθῶν	ἐπέθηκαν	ἐπὶ		
And	when they had platted	a crown	of	thorns	they put	in		
G2532	G4120	G4735	G1537	G173	G2007	G1909		
τὴν	κεφαλὴν	αὐτῷ	καὶ	κάλαμον	ἐπὶ	τὴν	δεξιὰν	αὐτῷ
G3588	head	him	And	a reed	in	G3588	right hand	him
	G2776	G846	G2532	G2563	G1909		G1188	G846
καὶ	γονυπετήσαντες	ἔμπροσθεν	αὐτῷ	ἐνέπαιζον	αὐτῷ			
And	they bowed the knee	before	him	and mocked	him			
G2532	G1120	G1715	G846	G1702	G846			
λέγοντες	Χαῖρε	ὁ	βασιλεῦς	τῶν	Ἰουδαίων			
saying	Hail	G3588	King	G3588	of the Jews			
G3004	G5463		G935		G2453			

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 53:3** (Parallel theme): He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

**Matthew 20:19** (Parallel theme): And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

**Mark 15:18** (Kingdom): And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews!

**Isaiah 49:7** (Kingdom): Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

**Jeremiah 20:7** (Parallel theme): O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.

**Matthew 26:49** (Parallel theme): And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

**Matthew 27:37** (Kingdom): And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.