

Coronation – Why Care



By A. Abraham

Why would you want to know about the crowning ceremony:

It will open a window into history. The centre piece of the celebration will show you that much of what you like about living in the UK and the West is based on the Christian faith. Even though numerous people do currently not practice Christianity, we still benefit from many of its fruits, such as the dignity of humans, hospitals, hospices, schools, the development of science and much more. Dr Noah J Efron writes about the last specific example:

“Generations of historians and sociologists have discovered many ways in which Christians, Christian beliefs and Christian institutions played crucial roles in fashioning the tenets, methods and institutions of what in time became modern science. They found that some forms of Christianity provided the motivation to study nature systematically.”¹

Historians also agree that the beginning of Europe and its development cannot be understood apart from Christianity. But how do we explain the coalition between church and state for selfish gains, the crusades, religious wars, slavery, colonialism and the two world wars? The answer lies in the fact that only secondary Christian values, such as brotherhood and liberty, justice and equality were accepted by the nations of Europe. The cross of Christ and its personal application was sadly rejected by many. As a result many atrocities were committed by people who were Christians in name only.²

Here is the most important point about the coronation:

God is greater than humans. Therefore, we have no way of getting to know him, unless he tells us. In the Bible God has revealed himself as the good King of kings.³ He is sovereign over all his creation. He is the owner, giver, maintainer of life and ultimately the taker of it.⁴ Therefore, to be rebellious against him and his commandments not to lust, lie, steal, etc., is foolishness.

¹ “Galileo goes to Jail, and Other Myths of Science and Religion”, Harvard University Press, 2010. Edited by Ronald. L. Numbers. Page 80) See also: “The Roman Catholic Church gave more financial support to the study of astronomy for over six centuries, from the recovery of ancient learning during the late Middle Ages into the Enlightenment, than any other, and probably all other institutions.” (“The Sun in the Church - Cathedrals as Solar Observatories”, Harvard University Press 2011 by John L. Heilbron, page 3)

² For many more details about the fruit of the Biblical message see: <https://christianityexplained.net/to/atheists/crime-millennium-year-2000-robbed-ad/>

³ Psalm 103:19, 1 Chronicles 29:10-12, 1 Timothy 6:13-16

⁴ Job 42:2, Matthew 10:29–31

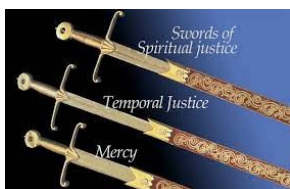
This is why King Charles swears his oath only upon the Bible. It is called, “the most valuable thing that this world affords”, during the ceremony. One of his titles is “defender of the faith” not “defender of faith.” The new king pledges to defend only the Gospel⁵ because it alone solves a divine dilemma:

How can God remain true to both his attributes of mercy and justice? If he forgives without punishment, then he is not just. In the death and resurrection of Jesus, he paid the penalty for all our sins and shame himself on the cross. All those who repent and believe in God’s only way will receive his guaranteed, undeserved mercy through forgiveness and eternal life in heaven.⁶ Moreover, they will be indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit of God to live a purposeful life that pleases him now.

Considering God’s absolute power and majesty, the only way to get saved from hell is not good deeds but God’s mercy.⁷

More symbolism affirming the message of the Gospel

The actual Coronation is a solemn religious service. Since 1066 it has taken place at Westminster Abbey, London. It has almost always been conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The following items among the royal regalia⁸ point to the Christian message:



- *Three swords.* The blunt Sword of Mercy represents forgiveness available to us through repentance and faith in Jesus. The Sword of Spiritual, (unseen, divine) Justice is a sign that God will carry out his justice on the day of judgement. The Sword of Temporal Justice indicates that king Charles commits himself to uphold the civil laws of the United Kingdom.



-*The Sovereign’s Orb* indicates the control of Christ over the world.⁹ It is meant to remind the monarch that their power is derived from God.



-*The Sceptre with the cross* symbolizes the Sovereign’s temporal power under the Cross,
-*The Sceptre with Dove – or Rod of Equity and Mercy* – symbolizes the Sovereign’s spiritual role.

⁵ <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9412/CBP-9412.pdf> (Pages 52-55)

⁶ 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

⁷ Luke 8:9-12, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:3-5

⁸ Symbols of a king's power and majesty, and of the monarchy as a form of government. The word "regalia" is derived from the Latin "Rex" meaning "worthy of a king".

⁹ Book of Daniel 7: 13,14



-*The Anointing* with oil is the central piece of the coronation. In a foreword to the official coronation Souvenir Programme, the Archbishop of Canterbury confirmed that the anointing would be “the only part of the ceremony the public will not see”: In the midst of this glorious spectacle is a moment of stillness and simplicity [...] it is a private moment between a new King and the King of Kings [...] the King is set apart for service: service of the people of this country and service of God.

This is why at this moment he will exchange robes of status and honour for a simple white shirt [...] even as King, he is one of the people, and that even if he has a particular role to fulfil, he shares in our human frailties and vulnerabilities. In its simplicity, the anointing is the only route towards bearing power and responsibility well: asking for God’s help in the task and accepting its responsibility.¹⁰

Invitation

Coronations are full of celebration and pageantry! However, they pale into insignificance, when compared with the greatest feast and celebration of ALL time. We bless you with a unique gift, a personal invitation to it:

The Wedding Supper of the Lamb

As it is written in the book of Revelation, chapter 19 verse 9:

“... Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!”

The unique name points to the fact that Jesus was the final, perfect sacrifice. He came to replace the lambs regularly sacrificed in the temple in Jerusalem for the certain forgiveness of the sins committed by Jews:

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

Will you accept this personal invitation of the King of kings?

For RSVP or more information contact info@christianityexplained.net

¹⁰ [Justin Welby: King’s anointing is ‘moment of stillness’ at coronation](#), The Times (£), 18 April 2023