

The Coronation explained to Muslims

By A. Abraham



Why would you want to know about it:

Many of you, or your ancestors, chose to settle in the UK or in Western countries. This guide will open a window into history. It will show you that much of what you like about living here 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 science¹ 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.”

Historians 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.²

Here is the most important point about the coronation:

According to the Bible and the Quran, God is the King of kings.³ He is absolutely 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 is foolishness. In light of God’s absolute power and majesty, both, Bible and Quran, also agree:

The main reason why people are saved from hell is not good deeds but God’s mercy.⁵

If Christians and Muslims have so much in common, why does king Charles swear his oath only upon the Bible? Why is it called, “the most valuable thing that this world affords”, during the ceremony? Why does the new king pledge to defend only the Gospel? Why is one of his titles, “defender of the faith” not “defender of faith”?⁶

The answer is simple, yet very profound. Only the Gospel 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

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, Surah 3:26

⁴ Job 42:2, Matthew 10:29–31, Surah 3:145; 6:95

⁵ Luke 8:9-12, Ephesians 2:8-10, Titus 3:3-5, Surah 37:57; 11:119, <https://sunnah.com/muslim:2818a>

⁶ <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9412/CBP-9412.pdf> (Pages 52-55)

believe in God's only way will receive his guaranteed, undeserved forgiveness and eternal life in heaven.⁷ Moreover, they will be indwelt and empowered by the Holy Spirit of God to live a purposeful life that pleases him now.

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 Equity¹⁰ and Mercy* – symbolizes the Sovereign's spiritual role.¹¹



- *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.¹²

⁷ 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

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

¹⁰ impartial distribution of justice.

¹¹ <https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9412/CBP-9412.pdf> (Page 50)

¹² [Justin Welby: King's anointing is 'moment of stillness' at coronation](#), The Times (£), 18 April 2023

Invitation

Coronations are full of celebration and pageantry! However, even if taken together with the festivity of Eid al-Fitr, 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, found in the Injeel:

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

The term 'Eid' has only been used once in the Quran (Surah 5:112) and possibly in the context of the Eucharist, the Christian ceremony which commemorates the Biblical Last Supper of Jesus.¹³ According to the New Testament, (Matthew 26:17-30) the festival is celebrated by Jesus's followers as per his instructions to remember what he did for them: giving his life for the forgiveness of their sins. At the end (verse 29) Jesus refers to the Wedding Supper of the Lamb. This points to the fact that he was the final, perfect sacrifice, having come to replace the lambs regularly sacrificed in the temple in Jerusalem for the forgiveness of the Jews only:

“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?

RSVP to info@christianityexplained.net

¹³ <http://quransmessage.com/articles/eid%20FM3.htm>