Claim Your Crown

The People of YHVH have been given a very unique invitation...the opportunity of a lifetime. Each one has the potential to live and rule under Messiah, during His millennial reign on this earth. There are a select few that will be given this chance and it will never be offered again. Firstfruits...of all whom will be eventually born into the kingdom of Elohim.

It is an incredible privilege and honor that is set aside for those who overcome adversity and trials in this life now. It is for those who overcome lusts and desires of the flesh and set themselves not to sin; it is for those who bring their own bodies and minds into subjection and overcome themselves. Each person who responds to YHVH’s call has a reservation in His house.

John 14:2-4
2 “In My Father’s house are many staying places. And if not, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I shall come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, you might be too. 4 “And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

We have a reservation and a place has been prepared for us, but it is up to us individually to be there and occupy our place. Yeshua says we know where He has gone and we know the way there. The responsibility is ours to be there and receive, or claim, what has been reserved and set aside for us. Part of our reward will be receiving a crown

2 Timothy 4:6-8
6 For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure has arrived. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have guarded the belief. 8 For the rest, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Master, the righteous Judge, shall give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all those loving His appearing.

A crown of righteousness will be given to YHVH’s called and chosen people. Everyone, who sees that crown, will know that you overcame and that you were faithful until the very end. It seems like more than we could ever hope for doesn’t it? It seems like more than we could ever dream of...it is overwhelming and it feels like we should not even dare to think about it, yet we have Yeshua’s Words to draw from.
Revelation 3:19-22
19 “As many as I love, I reprove and discipline. So be ardent and repent. 20 “See, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I shall come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. 21 “To him who overcomes I shall give to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. 22 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies.”’

How incredible is that? Think about what Yeshua is offering to those how are His here. He would not offer, if it was not His to give...

We have entered a time of testing and trial like we have never seen before as the People of YHVH. There is a constant sifting and winnowing, and many have fallen by the wayside...it will continue.

It is so important that we recognize that a sifting is taking place, if we are going to stay the course and claim the crown that is waiting for us. It is so important that we maintain a very close relationship with YHVH as we see these things happening. Abba wants everyone to make it into His Kingdom, that is why He has placed this opportunity before all men, but we have to choose Him and His Way. If we are drawing close to Him, He will draw close to us. He will guide us and He will help us, if we are seeking Him out and walking in The Way.

Luke 18:18-23
18 And a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit everlasting life?” 19 So Levshuah said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except One – Elohim. 20 “You know the commands, ’Do not commit adultery,’ ’Do not murder,’ ’Do not steal,’ ’Do not bear false witness,’ ’Respect your father and your mother.’ ” 21 And he said, “All these I have watched over from my youth.” 22 And hearing this, Levshuah said to him, “Yet one you lack: Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven. And come, follow Me.” 23 But when he heard this, he became intensely sad, for he was extremely rich.

This man received a personal invitation to the kingdom! Yeshua stood right before this man and told him that he would receive treasure in the dwelling place of YHVH. What happened here? The man could not bear the thought of parting with his material things...his earthly riches. The sad and tragic thing is that this man clearly believed in Yeshua and His message, because he called Him teacher and asked Him how to receive eternal life. Yeshua recognized that this man understood YHVH’s Word, because He said, “you know the commands.”
The Kingdom of Elohim was not real to this man; he could not touch it, or see it...he could not picture it or imagine it. His faith was weak and he only trusted in what was before him. His material possessions were the things that were real to him.

Luke 18:24-27
24 And when he saw that he became intensely sad, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter into the reign of Elohim!
25 “For it is easier for a camel to enter through a needle’s eye than for a rich man to enter into the reign of Elohim.” 26 And those who heard it said, “And who is able to be saved?” 27 And He said, “What is impossible with men is possible with Elohim.”

Nothing is impossible for YHVH. It takes a close, intimate, relationship with YHVH and the help of His indwelling spirit if we are going to make it to the end and claim our crown. Yeshua left us very serious warnings and we were not promised that it was not going to be easy to follow Him and gain the kingdom.

Luke 18:1-8
1 And He spoke a parable to them, that they should always pray and not lose heart, 2 saying, “In a certain city there was a certain judge, not fearing Elohim nor regarding man. 3 “And a widow was in that city, and she came to him, saying, ‘Do right to me on my adversary.’ 4 “And he would not for a while, but afterward he said with in himself, ‘Even if I do not fear Elohim nor regard man, 5 yet because this widow troubles me I shall do right to her, lest by her continual coming she wears me out.’ ” 6 And the Master said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge said. 7 “And shall Elohim not do right by all means to His own chosen ones who are crying out day and night to Him, and being patient over them? 8 “I say to you that He shall do right to them speedily. But when the Son of Aḏām comes, shall He find the belief on the earth?”

Yeshua was teaching the importance of prayer and of being persistent. If this widow was finally able to get a response from this judge, even though he had no fear of YHVH and respected no man, through her persistence, how much more will YHVH hear and react to his own chosen who cry out to Him? We must keep our direct line of communication open with our Abba. Yeshua makes a very interesting statement at the end of His Parable...

But when the Son of Aḏām comes, shall He find the belief on the earth?”
What is Yeshua trying to tell us here? He literally means despite the fact that YHVH will be hearing His people and intervening for them, that even though He will be helping them and aiding them, will there really be any among them that have a deep and lasting faith in Him? It is just like the parable we read about the rich man, he believed, but lacked the faith to do as Yeshua asked him to do. Are we ready to leave everything and follow Him? It is easy to judge when you are not in that position.

Notice who Yeshua is talking about here, the chosen ones! The set apart people of YHVH! There are two very important things we need to have and to be building on continually if we want to claim our crown. A close intimate relationship with YHVH and a solid unwavering faith in Him, not just an outward profession of faith, but a deep, heartfelt, confidence in YHVH and His Word.

**Mark 13:21-23**

21 "And if anyone then says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'Look, there!' do not believe it. 22 "For false messiahs and false prophets shall rise and show signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, even the chosen ones. 23 "And you, take heed. See, I have forewarned you of it all.

In order for something to be possible, there has to be a chance it could occur. Yeshua said if possible, or if there is a chance, even the elect could be deceived. If possible, means that we will be faced with having to choose between what is truth and what is error and deception.

Everyone who is walking in The Way has experienced this in their lives and for some, multiple times. The only way we are going to make it through to the end, is by a relationship with YHVH and unwavering faith. It is YHVH’s spirit that gives us the spiritual discernment to separate the truth, from error. We cannot do that on our own and many will be deceived because they are relying on their own discernment.

In 1 Corinthians 9, Sha’ul speaks about a crown that is very important to us and one we should be seeking. Sha’ul uses an analogy to compare the pursuit of YHVH’s Kingdom with a sports competition that took place in Corinth called the Isthmian Games. The Corinthians held sports competitions somewhat like the Olympic Games, but on a smaller scale.

**1 Corinthians 9:24-27**

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race indeed all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way as to obtain it. 25 And everyone who competes controls himself in every way. Now they do it to receive a corruptible crown, but we for an incorruptible crown. 26
Therefore I run accordingly, not with uncertainty. Thus I fight, not as one who beats the air (The Corinthian races involved physical contact, the athletes would practice leaping through the air to simulate leaping into their competition. They also swung (flailed) their fists in the empty air to practice hitting their competition. Sha’ul is saying here that he fights as one with meaning and purpose, not wasting his time in meaningless pursuits.). 27 But I treat my body severely and make it my slave, so that when I have proclaimed to others, I myself might be rejected (What Sha’ul means here is that even though he understands the truth and teaches others, he disciplines himself to also put the things he teaches into practice, so that he does not miss the opportunity to claim his own crown.).

We must seek out our crown, if we are to claim it. We must determine where our crown or treasure, lies and then make it the highest priority in our lives to go after it.

Matthew 13:45-46
45 “Again, the reign of the heavens is like a man, a merchant, seeking fine pearls, 46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

A man discovered the pearl and sold all that he had, so that he could seek after the pearl and obtain it. Think about the parable we read earlier about the rich man...he could not bear to part with his material wealth. The man who found the pearl of great price (The Kingdom), sold all that he had and made it his number one priority to seek and possess the pearl. Are we? Will we?

Luke 12:29-31
29 “And do not seek what you shall eat or what you shall drink, and do not keep worrying. 30 “For the gentiles of the world seek all these, and your Father knows that you need these. 31 “But seek the reign of Elohim, and all these shall be added to you.

Our Abba knows our needs; there is nothing that happens on this earth that He is unaware of. If we make the pursuit of the kingdom our number one priority, He will take care of the rest. He wants us to rely on Him, He wants to take care of us and provide for us, so that we can fully concentrate on our goal and be there to claim our crown.

Hebrews 11:6
6 But without belief it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to Elohim has to believe that He is, and that He is a rewarmer of those who earnestly seek Him.

The word translated earnestly comes from the Greek word ekzeteo. Ekzeteo means to seek out, to investigate, to crave and to demand. There is an action being taken...a deliberate action.

**ekzeteo (ek-zay-teh'-o); from NT:1537 and NT:2212; to search out, i.e. (figuratively) investigate, crave, demand,**

People who are earnestly and diligently seeking YHVH, do not take no for an answer. They do not let obstacles in their path slow them down. They do not just give lip service to Abba; they are actively and deliberately seeking Him and His Kingdom.

We cannot just be reckless in our pursuit thought, we must move forward with caution. HaSatan sets all sorts of traps and snares in our path to divert our attention and draw us off. He is constantly seeking ways to make us give up, or tire of our pursuit of The Kingdom of Elohim.

**1 Peter 5:8**

8 Be sober, watch, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Satan is actively hunting us, slinking around and waiting to pounce when our guard is down and when we are at our weakest. A lion smothers its prey and that is precisely how Satan tries to rob us of our future and the opportunity to claim our crown. If he can plant a seed of doubt, cause a wavering in our faith and make us lose hope, that is all the opportunity he needs to take advantage of us. If we are not extremely careful, he will have us by the throat and begin to smother us with deception, lies, false doctrine and wrong attitudes.

**1 Peter 5:9**

9 Resist him, firm in the belief, knowing that the same hardships are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

We can repel Satan’s attacks, by remaining steadfast in the faith and trusting in our Abba and His Promises. We should also realize that we are not alone in our struggle. We are all under constant attack and Satan has more and more resources to use against us all the time.
It is going to get tougher and tougher for the People of YHVH as we draw nearer to the end of the age. We need to support and encourage each other to keep moving forward and to never give up our quest to claim our crown.

**Hebrews 3:13-14**

13 but encourage one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened by the deceivableness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Messiah if we hold fast the beginning of our trust firm to the end,

We cannot go this alone. The People of YHVH have always been strongest when they have stood together as one through His Spirit. It is His Spirit that binds His People together and it is through His Spirit that they overcome.

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

24 And let us be concerned for one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging, and so much more as you see the Day coming near.

No one understands the unique challenges, the tests, the trials and all of the other things that we face in this walk, like someone who is on the same path. The support and encouragement we provide to one another, really makes a difference!

If we have a crown reserved for us, does that mean that we cannot lose it?

**Revelation 3:11**

11 “See, I am coming speedily! Hold what you have that no one take your crown.

Once again, we are warned to be on guard. If you doubt that you have a crown waiting, then consider this...If there were no crown reserved for you, how could someone take it?

**Revelation 1:4-6**

4 Yohanan, to the seven assemblies that are in Asia: Favour to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits that are before His throne, 5 and from Messiah, the trustworthy witness, the first-born from the dead, and the ruler of the sovereigns of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us sovereigns and priests to His Elohim and Father, to Him be esteem and rule forever and ever. Amĕn.
What does it mean to be a king-priest? The people of this world, who are so adamantly opposed to any spiritual, or moral, influence over their lives, are going to be very surprised when they see the way Yeshua’s rule is set up when He returns to this earth. This is speaking about a theocracy! The Word of YHWH will determine the way the world is administrated under Yeshua’s rule!

King-priests are rulers who are bound to administer what is under their control, according to the requirements of YHWH’s Torah. There will not be any need for attorneys, courts, or special interest groups. People will do things according to the Word of YHWH. No appeals, no plea-bargains, and no refusal by anyone to accept responsibility for their actions. YHWH’s Word is very clear...but, the Word of YHWH will be administered with love, with mercy and with compassion.

We have to be tested and tried now, before Yeshua returns, so that we will be ready to serve and carry out the things that are assigned to us when we are changed from flesh to spirit. As Yeshua begins to reign on this earth, order will need to be restored to a world that has been in utter chaos. YHWH has to know that He can rely on us completely and that we will obey Him and carry out the things that He has for us to do without fail.

Luke 19:11-27
11 And as they were hearing this, He spoke another parable, because He was near Yerushalayim and they thought the reign of Elohim was about to be manifested straightaway. 12 He therefore said, “A certain nobleman went to a distant country to receive for himself a reign and to return. 13 “And calling ten of his servants, He gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Trade until I come.’ 14 “But his subjects were hating him, and sent a delegation after him, to say, ‘We do not wish this one to reign over us.’ 15 “And it came to be, when he came back, having received the reign, that he sent for these servants to whom he had given the silver, in order to know what each had gained by trading. 16 “And the first came, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned ten minas.’ 17 “And he said to him, ‘Well done, good servant. Because you were trustworthy in a small [matter], have authority over ten cities.’ 18 “And the second came, saying, ‘Master, your mina has earned five minas.’ 19 “And he said to him also, ‘And you – be over five cities.’ 20 “And another came, saying, ‘Master, here is your mina, which I kept laid up in a handkerchief. 21 ‘For I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take up what you did not lay down, and reap what you did not sow.’ 22 “And he said to him, ‘Out of your own mouth I shall judge you, you wicked servant. You knew that I was a hard man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow. 23 ‘Why did you not put the silver in the bank, that when I come I could have collected it with interest?’ 24 “Then he said to those who stood
by, ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to him who possesses ten minas.’ 25 “But they said to him, ‘Master, he [already] possesses ten minas.’ 26 ‘For I say to you, that to everyone who possesses shall be given; and from him who does not possess, even what he possesses shall be taken away from him. 27 ‘But those enemies of mine who did not wish me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them before me.’”

What we are given to do is dependent on what we do with the gifts YHVH has given us. We must continue to grow and give Abba an increase in what He has invested in each of us. As we grow, Abba will add more to us. But, if we refuse to grow, we will lose far more than that which we have been given. And clearly, what is meant here, is that we will not receive our crown. There is such an amazing and incredible future waiting for us!

1 Corinthians 2:9
9 But as it has been written, “Eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, nor have entered into the heart of man what Elohim has prepared for those who love Him.”

We cannot even begin to comprehend the incredible reward that YHVH is keeping in trust for us. It is all going to come to pass in an incredible and spectacular way.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
16 Because the Master Himself shall come down from heaven with a shout, with the voice of a chief messenger, and with the trumpet of Elohim, and the dead in Messiah shall rise first. 17 Then we, the living who are left over, shall be caught away together with them in the clouds to meet the Master in the air – and so we shall always be with the Master. 18 So, then, encourage one another with these words.

It is comforting to know that for all we endure and suffer now, there is a priceless treasure laid up for us, a crown with our name on it. We need to make that real to us and we need to hold onto that. We are not a people without hope and we are not a people who are holding onto promises that will never be fulfilled. Our Abba does not make promises that He does not intend to keep.

2 Timothy 4:7-8
7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have guarded the belief. 8 For the rest, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Master, the righteous Judge, shall give to me.
on that Day, and not to me only but also to all those loving His appearing.

It is Abba’s earnest and heartfelt desire that each of us be there and be born into The Kingdom of Elohim. Yeshua Himself has prepared a place for each of us; there is a place there with each of our names on it. We know where He is, we know the way there, and it is up to each of us individually to stay on that path that will lead us into The Kingdom.

Let us all fight the good fight, let us all finish the race and let us all keep the faith. The righteous Judge himself will give us our crown on that day. You and I will receive a crown from the hand of Yeshua, He will welcome us into The Kingdom if we are there on that day. When He places that crown upon your head, He will look you in the eye and say “well done good and faithful servant”. Be there on that day, be there at that moment...make it your goal, your focus and your life’s pursuit...claim your crown!

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