

Briers and Thorns

A year ago, I began to see the connection between Jesus' crown of Thorns and the curse spoken by God to Adam in Genesis.

While singing the song Majesty, "**In royal robes, I don't deserve I live to serve your majesty**" that morning I saw something new to me.

In reading **Rev 3 v17 -18 :**

17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

We see Our Lord on the cross took on this curse so that we may take off our **work clothes** and put on **Royal Robes**.

I have just read a book by Derek Prince called 'Blessing or curse, you choose!' In which Derek Prince says "The crown on his head represented the curse of thorns; the purple colour of his robe represented the curse of thistles." He continues to say that Jesus is not just the second Adam taking on the curse of Adam and Eve but "also the curse that their sin had brought upon the Earth."

So as I was gardening on Saturday morning removing a few weeds from an area long neglected, I struggled to pull out briars with deep roots. I became covered in soil and despite the old saying, ladies do not merely glow. My back did not appreciate the effort, either. These briars would have come up easily, if I had dealt with them sooner. Each runner had rooted where it touched the ground. As it is with sin in our lives, the longer we leave it the more painful it becomes to root out and get rid. The apostle Paul had a thorn in the flesh that he had to learn to accept but I am convinced these thorns are not his good and perfect plan for us.

As a young Farmhand, my husband was sent into fields to knock down thistles with a stick. It is not fulfilling work but did allow livestock to graze more readily.

By Sunday morning, I was beginning to wonder why these Scriptures were still much on my mind. By the end of the service I knew what the Lord was saying. It is his work and not ours so it is not human effort that is effective but by his Spirit. A search through the Bible (Thank You, E-Sword) yields many scriptures about thorns and briars. All on the same theme:

Isa_10:17 The light of Israel will become a fire, and his Holy One a flame, and it will burn and devour his thorns and briars in one day.

The Lord deals with briars and thorns *not* by rooting them out *but* by fire – His Holy Spirit.