



ISTANBUL. Although from a later period, this relief located at the Hippodrome illustrates a concept familiar to Revelation. In the midst of a throng of spectators, emperor Theodosius (4th century A.D.) is center stage along with other prominent officials. He is holding a victory wreath to crown the winner of an athletic contest. In Revelation 2:10, Jesus promises a “crown [*stephanos*] of life” to those who are “faithful, even to the point of death” (NIV). In like manner, the apostle Paul admonished the Corinthians to run the Christian race in such a way as to receive the prize. Contrasting the physical and spiritual races, he wrote, “They then do it to receive a perishable wreath [*stephanos*], but we an imperishable” (1 Cor. 9:25).