

# The Gospel of John

## The Trial By Pilate

### John 18:28-19:18

Now that Christ has been arrested by the authorities and condemned by the Jewish leaders, He must stand trial before the Roman governor before He can be put to death as His enemies have planned. This trial is important in showing that Christ was blameless and yet the people rejected Him and sent Him to the cross.

### The Setting

- Early morning of Wednesday, 14th of Nisan
- These events take place before 9:00 a.m., when Christ was crucified.
- Most events seem to take place in the Fortress Antonia located northwest of Temple

### The Story

- Christ is sent to face judgment before the Roman authorities – vs. 28
  - The trial takes place in the *praetorium*, possibly in Fortress Antonia
- The Trial before Pilate – vs. 19-40
  - Pilate asks for the charge against Christ – vs. 29
  - The reply is that He is worthy of death just because He is on trial – vs. 30
  - The Jews refuse to carry out the execution, so Christ is to be crucified as He said in John 12:32-33 – vs. 31-32
  - Pilate asks if Christ is truly King of the Jews, as the Jews accused Him in Luke 18:2 - vs. 33
  - Christ asks who it was that believed He was – vs. 34
  - Pilate asks why the Jews have rejected Christ – vs. 35
  - Christ says that His kingdom is not of this world – vs. 36
    - “What our Lord meant by saying ‘My Kingdom is not of this world’ is, that His Kingdom has not its origin or nature from the world. He will receive the Kingdom promised unto Him from the Father’s hands. (Daniel 7:14)” – Gaebelein
  - The mission of the King – vs. 37
  - Pilate finds no fault in Christ and offers to release Him – vs. 38-39
  - The Jews demand Barabbas instead – vs. 40
- Christ is mocked and scourged by the Roman garrison – 19:1-3
- Pilate presents the beaten Christ to the Jews – vs. 4-5
- The Jews demand and gain crucifixion for Christ – vs. 6
- The Jews claim they are right because of Christ's claims to deity – vs. 7
  - This is a new claim that surprises Pilate.
- The frustrated Pilate demands to know if Christ is truly deity – vs. 8-10

- Christ puts Pilate in his place, telling him he has no authority except God had granted it – vs. 11
  - The one that has the greater sin is referring to Caiphas the high priest who orchestrated the betrayal of Christ.
- The Jews use political pressure on Pilate, threatening to complain to Rome – vs. 12
- The King is offered one last time in Pilate's judgment hall – see Zechariah 9:9 – vs. 13-14
- The Jews officially reject Him – vs. 15
- Christ is sent to be crucified – vs. 16-18