



BOOK *of* JOHN

THE TRIAL BEFORE PILATE

JOHN 18:28-40

There were three stages in both the Jewish “trial” and the Roman “trial” —six in total—all of them handled illegally.

- **John 18-19; Matt. 26-27; Luke 22-23; Mark 14-15**
- In our passage, John focuses primarily on the Roman trial, primarily before Pontius Pilate.
- By the time he wrote this gospel, the Jewish nation had been scattered by Rome, Jerusalem had been destroyed, and Roman power was at its height.

Archeology has proven Pontius Pilate was in office from A.D. 26-36.



PILATE'S QUESTIONS

I. WHAT IS THE ACCUSATION? v. 28-32

Luke 23:2 lists three “official charges”:

- 1.** He led the nation astray.
- 2.** He opposed paying tribute to Caesar.
- 3.** He claimed to be the Jewish Messiah and King.

When you seriously consider the three accusations against Jesus, you quickly see that they were all completely unsupportable. ***Verdict: Innocent***

II. ARE YOU THE KING OF THE JEWS? v. 33-38

- Pilate felt he was safe when he asked about Christ's kingship. However, he was not prepared for His answer: ***"It is as you say."*** **Matt. 27:11**
- Jesus questioned Pilate what kind of king and kingdom he was asking about! **(John 18:34) Who's asking?**
- One day Jesus will return and establish His righteous kingdom on earth. **Dan. 7:13-28**
- Rome's weapon was the sword; but our Lord's weapon was the truth of God, the sword of the Spirit. **Eph. 6:17**

III. WHO WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO RELEASE? v. 39-40

- Hoping to strengthen this suggestion, Pilate offered to bargain with the Jewish leaders . . . *I will give you an option that surely you will not mess up!*
- It was a custom at Passover for the Roman governor to release a prisoner to please the Jews; so why not release this innocent man Jesus?
- The crowd cried, “*Crucify Him!*” (**Mark 15:14**), but perhaps they would be placated if Jesus were scourged.

IV. WHAT DERANGED MAN COULD BEHOLD A SCOURGED PRISONER AND STILL WANT THE VICTIM CRUCIFIED?

- Jesus was innocent, yet He was treated as though He were guilty; and He did it for each of us.
- The forces of hell were having a heyday in Pilate's hall.
- Pilate's courtyard was really my courthouse; the innocent Jesus just simply took my place!

He took my hell and gave me His heaven!