

On the Way to Easter with...John's Gospel
"The Romans: Pilate and Soldiers"

PILATE

^{18:28} Then they took Jesus from **Caiaphas** to **Pilate's headquarters** (*Praetorium*). It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." **The Jews** replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³² (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³ Then **Pilate** entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ **Jesus** answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ **Pilate** replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ **Jesus** answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ **Pilate** asked him, "So you are a king?" **Jesus** answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ **Pilate** asked him, "What is truth?" [*Jews choose Barabbas; and Pilate has Jesus flogged, 19;1-3 below.*]

^{19:4} **Pilate** went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵ So **Jesus** came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. **Pilate** said to them, "Behold the man!" ⁶ When **the chief priests and the police** saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷ **The Jews** answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

⁸ Now when **Pilate** heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked **Jesus**, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater

sin.”¹² From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar.”¹³ When **Pilate** heard these words, he brought **Jesus** outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha.¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to **the Jews**, “Here is your King!”¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The **chief priests** answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

THE ROMAN SOLDIERS

^{19:1} Then Pilate took **Jesus** and had him flogged.² And **the soldiers** wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe.³ They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking him on the face....

So [**the soldiers**] took **Jesus**,¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.¹⁸ There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.¹⁹ **Pilate** also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

²³ When **the soldiers** had crucified **Jesus**, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.²⁴ So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says...

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, **the Jews** did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked **Pilate** to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed.³² Then **the soldiers** came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him.³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.³⁴ Instead, **one of the soldiers** pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.³⁵ (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth, so that you also may continue to believe.)³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.”³⁷ And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”