

The Trial of Jesus

JOHN 18:28-40, 19:1-16

Bible Background

After the Last Supper, a crowd arrested Jesus in the garden of Gethsemani and took him to **Caiaphas**, the high priest. Then the **Sanhedrin**, the supreme council of the Jewish people, accused Jesus of blasphemy. The Sanhedrin said that he claimed to be God. Next, the leaders took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman procurator.

Reading the Word of God

Read **John 18:28-40** and **19:1-16**.

Read about the struggle between the Sanhedrin and Pilate.

Understanding the Word of God

Some of the religious leaders of the Jewish people bring Jesus to the praetorium, the "common hall" of where Pilate lives. The council demands that Pilate, who represents the Roman Empire, put Jesus to death by crucifixion. Jesus had foretold such a death for himself.

To determine if Jesus is a political threat to the empire, Pilate demands a reason for his death. When Pilate questions Jesus, he finds Jesus not to be a threat to Rome. To satisfy the Sanhedrin, Pilate has the Roman soldiers flog Jesus. When Pilate displays Jesus, crowned with thorns, to the chief priests, they cry, "Crucify him!" Pilate resists. But the council members persist. They remind Pilate that Jesus said he was a king. The Sanhedrin insists that if Pilate lets this "king" live, he will be a traitor to Rome. The Jewish leaders threaten to tell the emperor of Pilate's betrayal. Pilate gives in and sends Jesus away to be crucified.

IN BIBLE TIMES

Normally, the Roman procurator of Judaea lived in Caesarea, a city on the Mediterranean shore. But Jewish feasts brought many pilgrims to Jerusalem. Therefore, the procurator stayed at the fortress of Antonia in Jerusalem.

Recording the Trial

During the trial, Jesus, Pilate, and the Sanhedrin engaged in many struggles. Complete the outline to record what happened at the trial.

Title: _____

Setting: _____

Characters: _____

What happened: _____

"My kingdom does not belong to this world."
John 18:36

"My kingdom does not belong to this world."
John 18:36

GOD'S WORD IN MY LIFE

I come to know truth when . . .

With Family or Friends

Retell the trial of Jesus by interviewing friends who will act as Pilate, a Roman soldier, members of the Sanhedrin, and Jesus.

"Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." JOHN 18:37