

THE CIVIL TRIAL OF JESUS—PHASE 1:
JESUS' FIRST APPEARANCE BEFORE PILATE, PART 2
(John 18:33-38)

- I. The INTERVIEW (John 18:33-38a)
 - A. He had Jesus brought into his RESIDENCE
 - [B. The Jews had implied Jesus wanted to OVERTHROW Caesar and make Himself KING (cf. Luke 23:2)]
 - C. He asked, “Are YOU the KING of the Jews?”
 - 1. Pilate asked whether Jesus would plead “GUILTY” or “NOT GUILTY” to the accusation of insurrection
 - 2. Pilate seems to have found the claim RIDICULOUS
 - D. Before entering a PLEA, Jesus asked a question for CLARIFICATION
 - 1. If the charge is INSURRECTION against Rome, the plea would be “NOT GUILTY”
 - 2. If the charge is being the Jews' KING, the plea would be “GUILTY”
 - E. Pilate's information came from “Your own NATION and CHIEF PRIESTS”
 - F. Pilate asked, “WHAT have You DONE?”
 - G. Jesus explained that His “KINGDOM is not of THIS WORLD”
 - 1. If it were POLITICAL, His servants would be FIGHTING
 - 2. They would have PREVENTED His being handed over to the JEWS
 - 3. His kingdom is of the SPIRITUAL “REALM”

- H. Pilate recognized the TWO SIDES of Jesus' plea
 - 1. He said, "So you ARE a KING?"
 - 2. Jesus' answer essentially means, "You could SAY SO" or "I wouldn't DENY IT"
 - I. Jesus explained His MISSION
 - 1. He said, "I have BEEN BORN, and I have come INTO THE WORLD" for one reason
 - 2. That reason is to TESTIFY to the TRUTH
 - 3. "EVERYONE who is of the truth HEARS My voice"
 - J. Pilate expressed DOUBT that the TRUTH was knowable
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- II. The VERDICT (John 18:38b)
 - A. Pilate went back OUT to the JEWS
 - B. He pronounced a verdict of "NOT GUILTY"