

## Pilate and the Jews

The true Church, the one Yahshua established, has no right to exercise authority over worldly matters. The Church in the past attempted to advance “God’s Kingdom” by the use of political and military force. The crusades were such an evil witness of Christ. It has been centuries since the crusades, but even today Muslims hate Christ because of these crusades. So the blood is still on the church today. They are still guilty — one must come out to get the blood off their individual hands.

The Jewish authorities found Yahshua guilty of claiming to be Messiah and the Son of God. That was enough to condemn Him in their eyes — but who had authority to put Him to death? The Roman authorities did, so they brought our Master to Pilate and told Pilate He was claiming to be a king. They were hoping he would think he was provoking Rome. The Jews at this point aligned themselves with Rome, committing fornication with them. This is Lk 22:66-71 and Lk 23:1-5.

The governor couldn’t fail to take the charge seriously. He couldn’t let Yahshua loose in Judea because if it was true He could start a revolt. So Pilate questioned Him in private. Jn 18:36 — Pilate recognized our Master was no revolutionary threat. He was born to bear witness to the truth. Jn 18:37 — *Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Yahshua 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.*” We can rejoice in this. Jn 18:1-16 — Yahshua didn’t deny that He was a king, but insisted that His kingship was in a higher realm that Pilate couldn’t comprehend. Pilate understood enough that our Master wasn’t guilty of any crime (Jn 19:4). The Jews then sealed their own fate by claiming Jn 18:40 — *We have no king but Caesar.* Jn 19:15 — The Jews regarded Yahshua as such a threat that they prepared to deny the God of Abraham, Issac and Jacob as their King and align with Caesar, their true god with an evil spirit. The Jews wouldn’t hear Pilate, but wanted Barabbas. Pilate wanted to release Yahshua, but there was a greater authority over Him. Jn 19:11 — So the Jews have the greater sin here. That’s why the curse came upon the Jews as with Châm — they also have character flaws to bring persecution upon themselves. 1 Ths 2:15-16, 2:14-16; Jn 19:11-16. Jn 10:17-18 — *He who delivered Me up to you has the greater sin.* Pilate understood that Yahshua was the King of the Jews. Jn 18:37 — The guilt is upon the Jews to this day as it is on Châm for what he did to his father.

Yahshua meant that His kingship or authority doesn’t come from this world, but from His Father in Jn 18:36. His authority is from God alone. It consists of His bearing witness to the truth (any authority is this way) — what He knew was true in His heart. Whoever is open or of the truth will listen to the sent one who derives his authority from God. It is the overwhelming reality of God which in Yahshua had made its presence felt among men and women so when you are sent somewhere you will do the same thing. Mt 5:14-16; 24:14-15 — The oneness is the authority of the gospel of the kingdom, the witness making its presence known among men who are of the truth. So we and the message bear witness to the truth as in Jn 17:21; Isa 49:6; Eph 4:11-16; 1 Cor 1:10. This is the evidence that commands respect. The subjects of this kingdom are the responders to the oneness of the Father and the Son. It doesn’t mean we aren’t concerned about the world and its politics. We are concerned about the nations — we want to be a light to them, not like them. Jn 19:11 — Throughout our Master’s ministry we don’t see Him involved in *politics*. But He acted and spoke in ways that *influenced* and made a difference in the world (Lk 22:24; Eph 2:12).

The word *commonwealth* means *body politic*. Our Master, by forming disciples from tax collectors, zealots, and the poor of the society, condemned their social order (Mt 21:43). He was a threat to them. The gospel offers more than heaven — it offers to change society under the kingship of Him when He returns.