



“Jesus Betrayed.” As we’ve studied, Jesus was betrayed by Judas, then bound/arrested and taken to trial. As we learned last week, there were six total trials. There were three religious trials and three secular/civil trials.

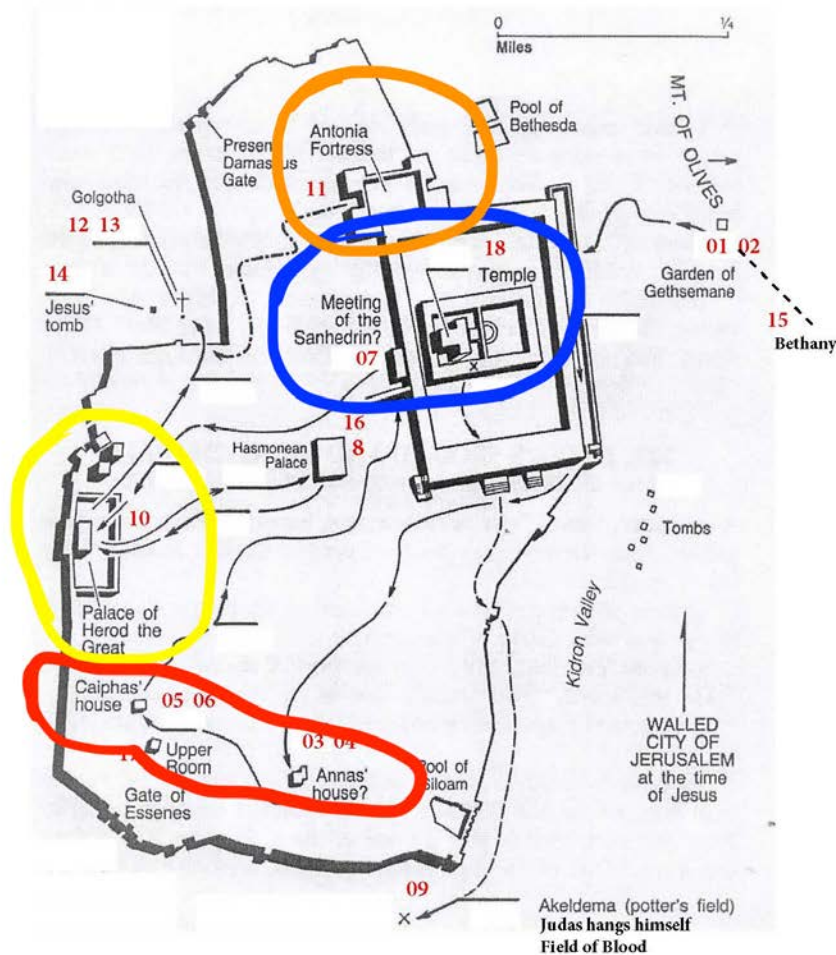
OVERVIEW OF JESUS’ TRIALS				
	Trial	Scripture	Judge	Decision
Religious Trials Jewish	First	John 18:12-14	Annas	OK to proceed
	Second	Matt. 26:57-68	Caiaphas	Death sentence; charge of blasphemy
	Third	Matt. 27:1-2	Sanhedrin	Death sentence made legal
Secular Trials Roman	Fourth	John 18:28-38	Pilate	Not guilty
	Fifth	Luke 23:6-12	Herod	Not guilty
	Sixth	John 18:39-19:6	Pilate	Not guilty; turned over to the Jews

There had to be two types of trials because the Jews could not carry out the death penalty under Roman law

**First** Jesus was taken to Annas, the former High Priest of Israel who had been deposed by Rome because he was a jerk and they hated him...but he was a godfather figure and still called the shots at the top of the pyramid of the religious elites. Think of George Soros. **Second**, Jesus was taken to Caiaphas, the son-in-law of Annas, **third** he was brought before the full Sanhedrin, that’s the Jewish Supreme Court, 71 total men, **fourth**, He was taken to Pilate, the Roman Governor, (we’ll see this in detail today) **fifth** to King Herod, the puppet King (appointed by Rome), and finally, **sixth**, back to Pilate.

Now there has been quite a bit of discussion through the centuries as to the exact details of where (actual locations) that all of these events took place. Here's one example of that.

Trials, Death, Burial, Resurrection and Received up into Heaven



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>01. Jesus is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane</li> <li>02. Judah betrayed Jesus with a kiss and Soldiers arrested Jesus</li> <li>03. 1st Trial: Jesus is taken first to Annas</li> <li>04. Peter 1st denial of Jesus</li> <li>05. 2nd Trial: Jesus is taken to Caiaphas</li> <li>06. Peter 2nd and 3rd denial of Jesus</li> <li>07. 3rd Trial: Sanhedrin Condemns Jesus</li> <li>08. 4th Trial: Jesus is taken to Pilate</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>09. Judas hangs himself in the potter's field</li> <li>10. 5th Trial: Jesus is taken to Herod</li> <li>11. 6th Trial: Jesus is taken to Pilate, condemns Jesus to death</li> <li>12. Soldiers lead Jesus to the place called the Skull</li> <li>13. Jesus is crucified at the place called the Skull</li> <li>14. Jesus is laid in nearby tomb by Joseph</li> <li>15. Jesus is taken up to heaven at Bethany</li> <li>16. Hasmonean Palace, Pilate Official Residence</li> <li>17. Upper Room</li> <li>18. Temple</li> </ul> |
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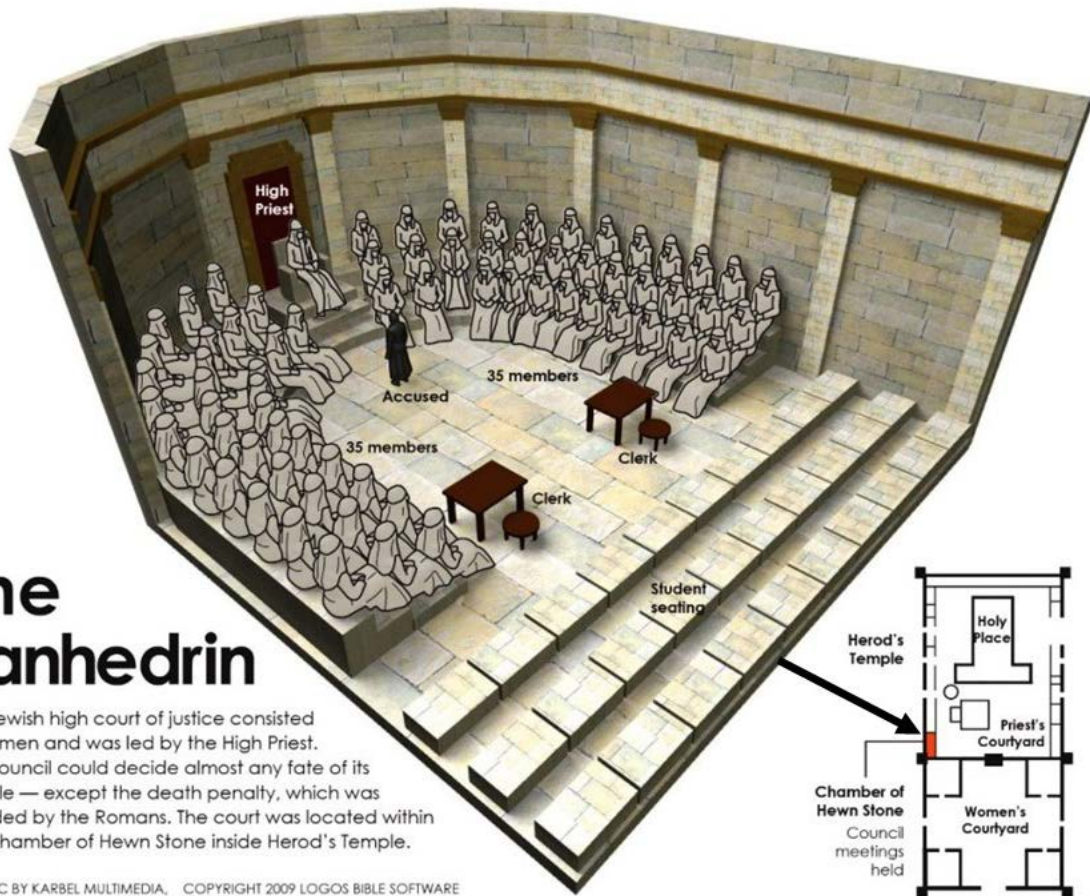
Notice first the red circle. That indicates the fact that some scholars believe Annas had his own home and that only Caiaphas lived in the Mansion of the High Priest. Some say Annas could have lived in that massive house as well. We're just not sure. We do know Annas sent Jesus to Caiaphas and that would have been to what is shown as Caiaphas' house on that map. You'll notice also where they believe the upper room was located there in the middle.

Ultimately, Jesus was led from Caiaphas' House to the Temple, that's in the Blue Circle, to a place called the Chamber of Hewn Stone. See the depiction:

# The Sanhedrin

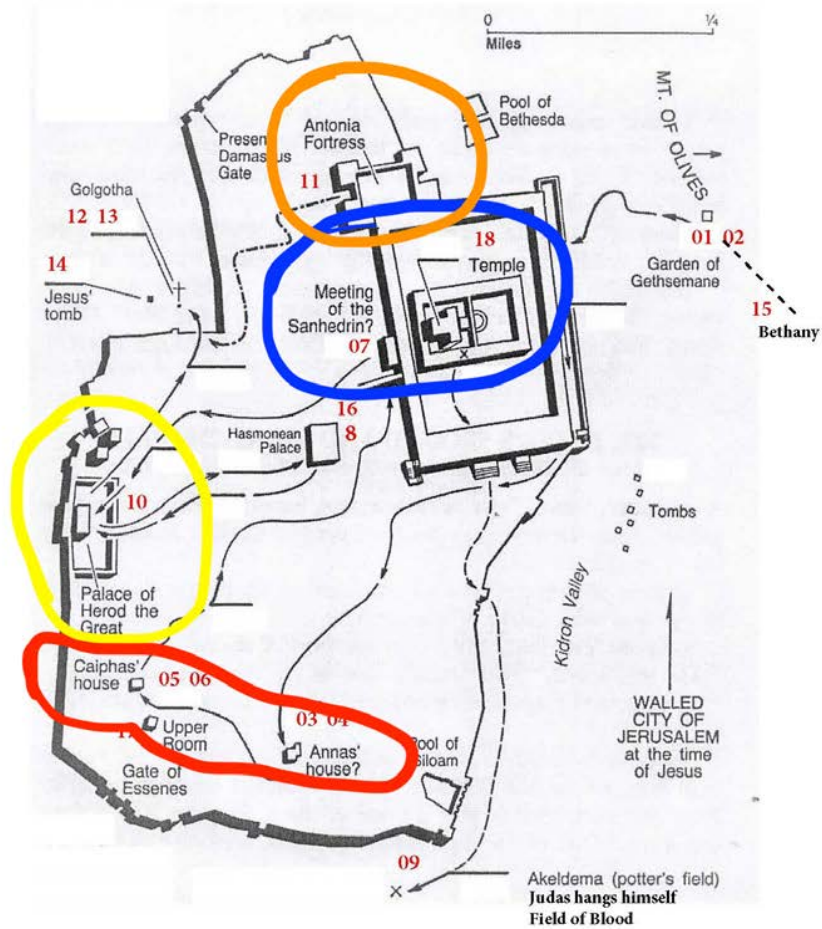
The Jewish high court of justice consisted of 71 men and was led by the High Priest. The council could decide almost any fate of its people — except the death penalty, which was decided by the Romans. The court was located within the Chamber of Hewn Stone inside Herod's Temple.

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That's the place where the Sanhedrin (the Jewish Supreme Court, if you will) a total of 71 men, would meet. Now we return to our map.

## Trials, Death, Burial, Resurrection and Received up into Heaven



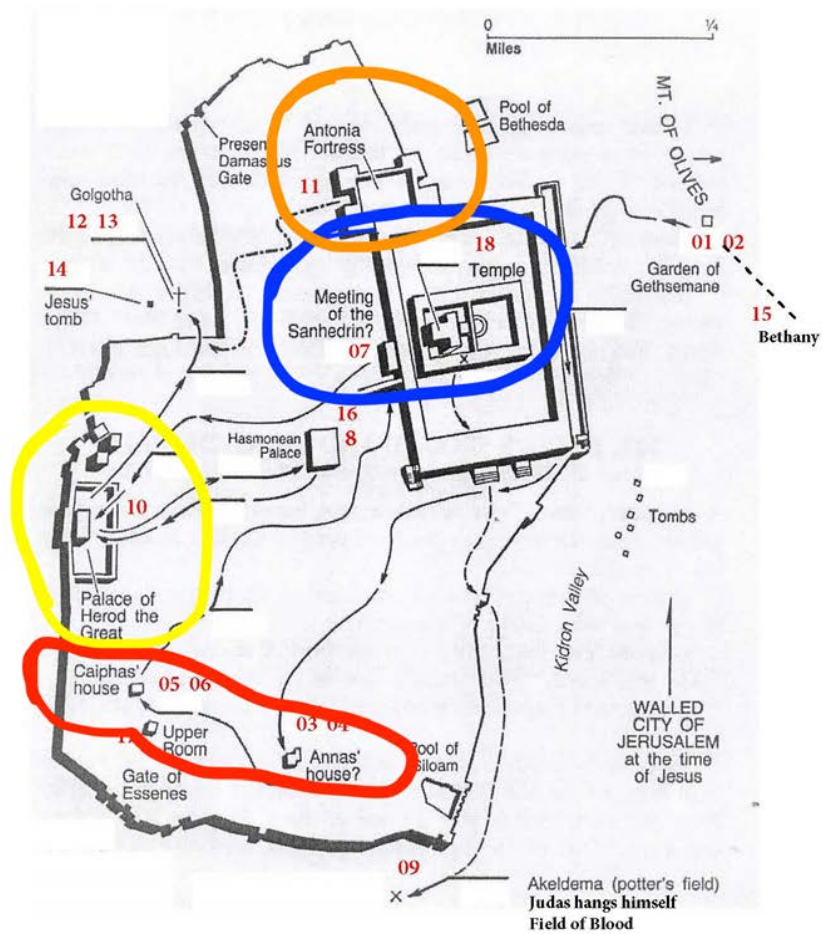
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Jesus would be led from there to the **Orange Circle**, that's Antonia's Fortress, where He would be tried by Pilate. Pilate would ultimately try to pass Him off to King Herod, that's **Yellow Circle**, but Herod, after making fun of Jesus, sent back to Pilate. What a mockery of justice!

Now, Bible commentators tell us that Jesus would have likely spent some time in a place called the Pit during the night of his arrest. The Pit was a dungeon beneath Caiaphas' house...(remember, that house is where current High Priest lived). See this depicted in the **red circle** again.

## Trials, Death, Burial, Resurrection and Received up into Heaven



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Now, last week, I showed you some pictures of the church that they've built over top of the original site. Here's a picture of one of the walls...



a depiction of Jesus, under arrest. You will remember this picture I showed you last week:

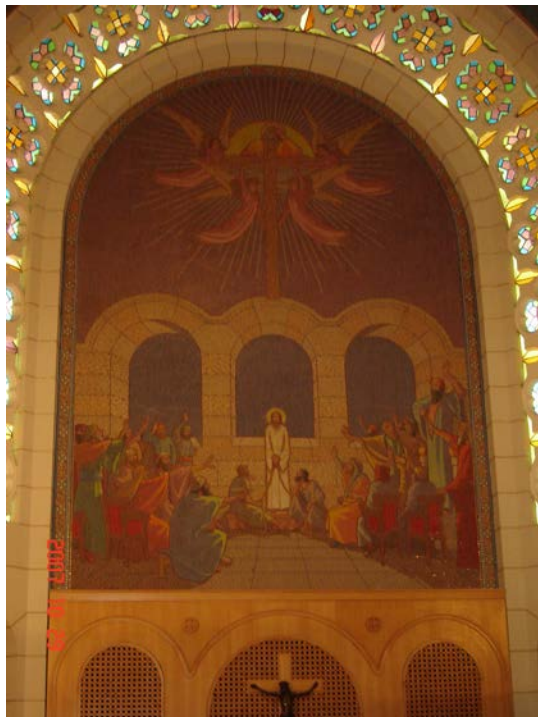
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the outside of the church, and on top of that dome is a:



rooster. We know Peter would deny Jesus three times in the courtyard outside of this home. But, if you go inside, as I did in 2007, you will see it's a very beautiful place. See a painting, a depiction of Jesus being questioned:



and then the beauty of the stained, glass windows

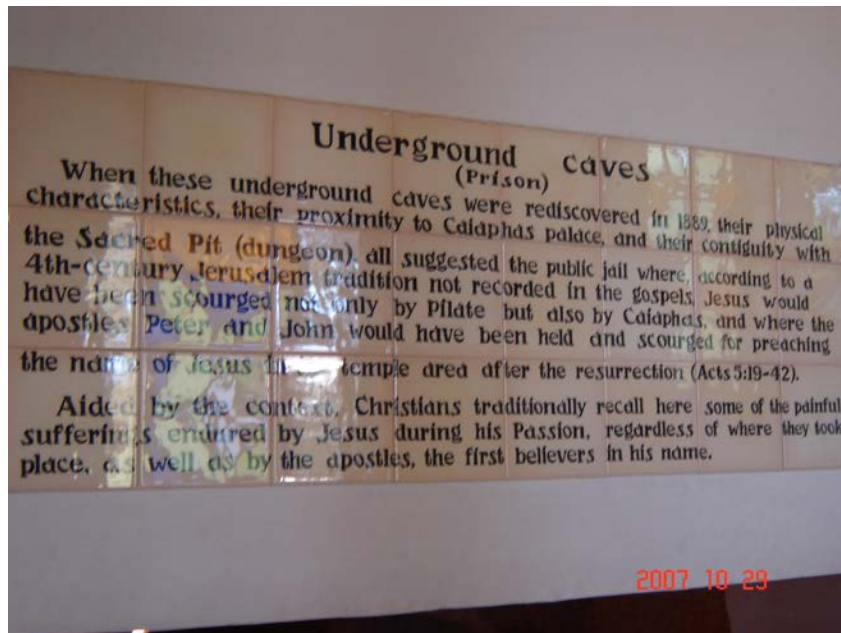


And you may notice a little sign beside of that window. Here it is:

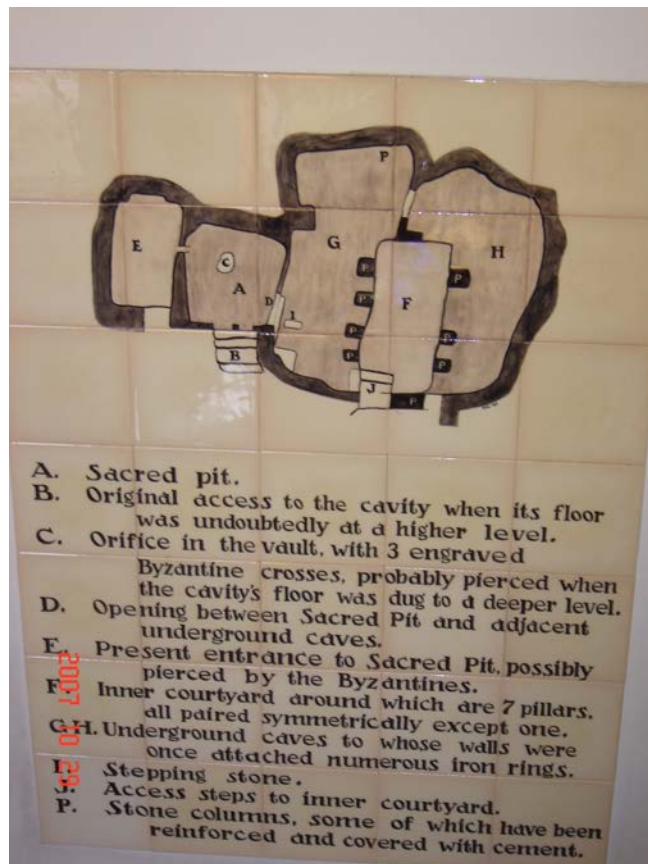


“Sacred Pit/Dungeon.” And there’s a description of these caves/dungeons, prison cells:





and then there's a map:



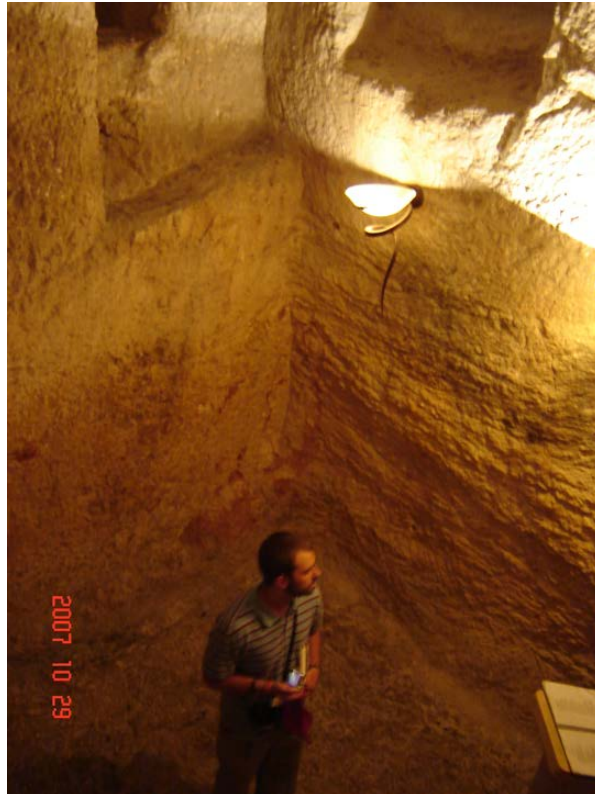
Just as you start to go down the stairs, there is this statue:



Jesus bound on his knees. (Keep that image in your mind.) We took the steps down to the PIT, and I took this picture looking up from inside the PIT.



Here's another picture, looking down into the Pit.



Once down there, our guide told us to look up and we did. And there was a hole in the roof.



He said, "In Jesus' day, that was the only way in and the only way out. Those steps we came down were cut into the Pit centuries earlier." While we were down in the Pit, our guide asked someone to read Psalm 88.

**Psalm 88:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>You have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep. <sup>7</sup>Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. *Selah* <sup>8</sup>You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a horror<sup>[b]</sup> to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; <sup>9</sup>my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you.

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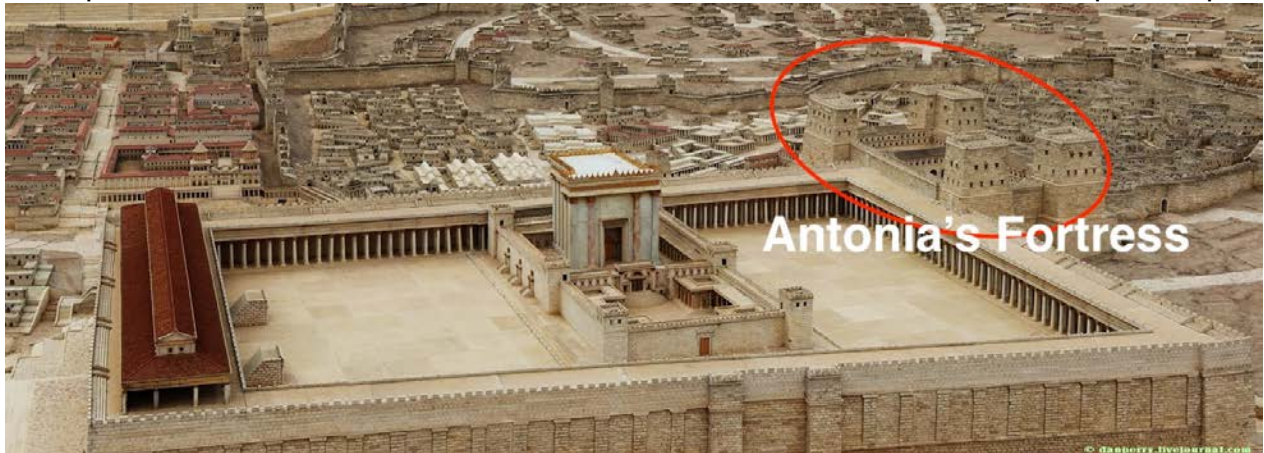
Can you imagine Jesus down in that Pit...in that dungeon? Church, we grow callous and numb to all that Jesus endured for us. It becomes old hat...common...familiar. May that not be the case today. Might we have a new appreciation for what He endured JUST SO that you and I could escape the eternal Pit of Hell. **Turn in your Bible now to our text, found in John 18 verses 28-38.** This morning we're going to see Jesus before Pilate. Pick up with me in verse 28. Jesus is on the move:

**John 18:28**

**28 Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters.<sup>[1]</sup> It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover.**

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See the depiction of Antonia's Fortress, located at the northeast corner of the Temple compound:



This is where the Roman guards were kept and where Pilate would stay when he was visiting Jerusalem, having come from the city called Caesarea by the Sea. Down inside that fortress was a place called the Praetorium. Here's a depiction of it.



It had an open courtyard where Pilate could meet with the people. And yes, he was asked to come out and meet with the Jewish leaders because they didn't want to become defiled by going under the roof of Roman, a Gentile, by coming inside. Here's a depiction of how that looked:



Think about that scene: What brazen hypocrisy! They didn't hesitate to condemn an innocent man, but were so concerned about not being able to carry on with the Passover festivities by walking into a Gentile building. What hypocrites! What legalists! So meticulously bent on keeping their own rules, living in their echo chamber of hypocrisy!

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By the way, if you go to Israel, the Via Dolorosa begins there. "The Way of Suffering," the walk to the cross. I got to walk on the pavement in that area...the actual stones Jesus walked on. See it:



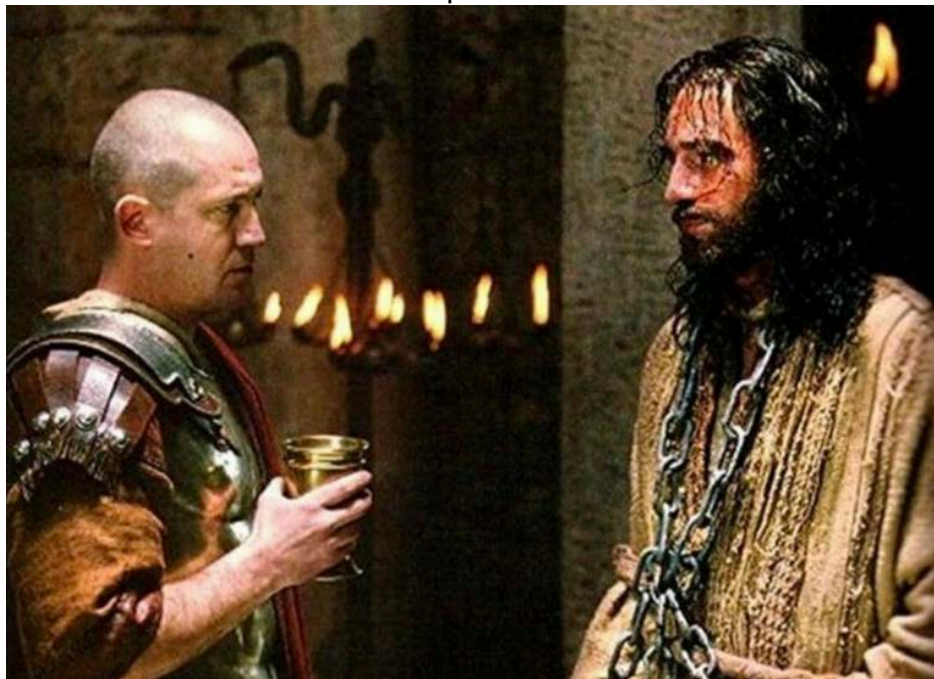
And it's on those stones, the Roman soldiers had cut circles and gameboards



for where they played games waiting for the criminals to be turned over to them so they could be taken to Calvary. It's surreal thing to see such things...knowing Jesus was there.

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Well, Jesus is in front of Pilate now. Here's a depiction:



And I want to take a moment to tell you some things about Pilate, perhaps you didn't know. According to Roman historian Tacitus, Philo of Alexandria and Jewish historian Josephus, we learn some things about Pilate. For instance: small provinces like Israel would often have procurators or governors who were in charge of administrative as well as judicial duties for that area. These procurators were forbidden to accept bribes; they were not to raise taxes...that was Rome's call. It's also important to know these governors could be removed if they could not adequately govern the people and quell problems. Pilate's tenure as procurator was from 26 A.D. to 35 A.D. Bottom line: Pilate was a disaster. For instance:

When Pilate became governor in 26 A.D., he got the idea that he would ride into Jerusalem with hundreds of soldiers to show who was "Charles in Charge." The soldiers had banners affixed to

poles, and at the top of those poles Pilate had metal busts of Caesar made, (the Emperor), of Rome. Pilate, then, had these banners and poles placed throughout Jerusalem. This did not go over well. Think PRIDE FLAGS on our church property.

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To the Jews, these were graven images and they refused to have them in the city. What's interesting is that no previous Roman governor had come into Jerusalem with such offensive images. Why the stir the pot? Pilate returned to his headquarters in Caesarea and the Jews followed him back. They hounded him for five straight days to have the "idols," as they called them, removed. Pilate finally told them: "Meet me in the amphitheater tomorrow." It's still there. I saw it 2007 and took this picture.



I didn't take this picture...but, it's a better one.



It's a beautiful place.

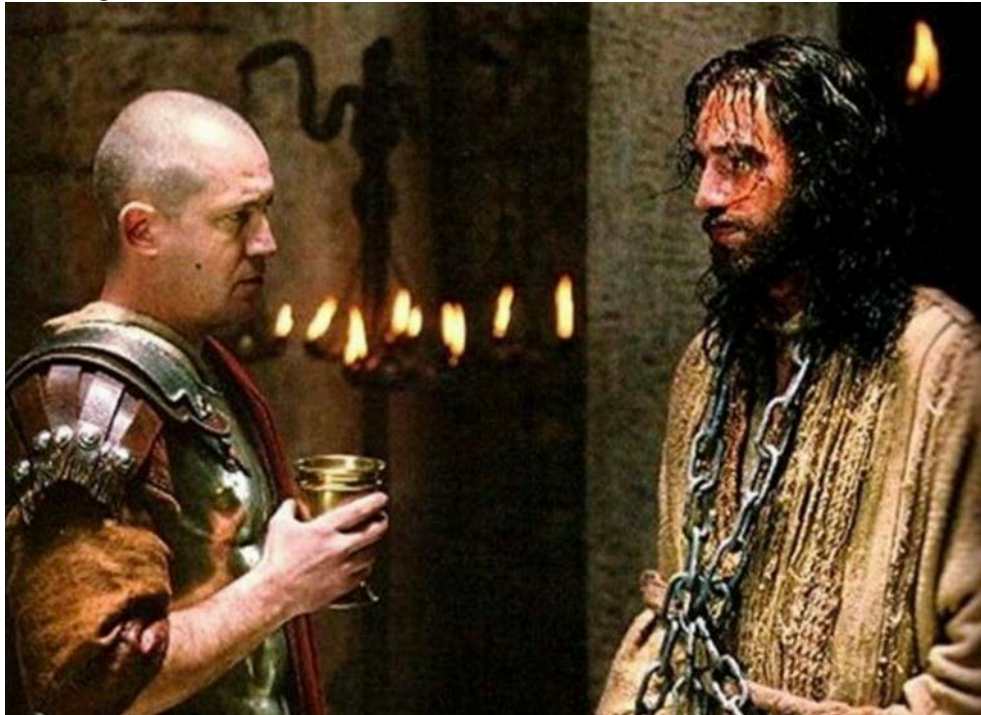
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Well, they came back the next day as ordered, and Pilate said, "Stop your requests and go home or you'll be killed." At the time he was saying this, Pilate had the people surrounded by Roman soldiers. But, they called Pilate's bluff and bared their necks and said, "Go ahead, kill us." Well, not even Pilate could bring himself to massacre defenseless men. He was humiliated and beaten. He relented and had the poles with the images removed.

However, as time went along, a few years later, Pilate once again made another terrible political misstep with the Jews. He had shields made with Caesar's image on it. He was trying to score brownie points with Tiberias the Emperor/Caesar. Again, the Jews protested, but this time to Rome. They sent an emissary to Tiberias and complained about Pilate; and Tiberias sent an emissary back and told Pilate, "Remove the shields. Why are you creating animus?" Well, Pilate, again, was humiliated; and thus, he was constantly under the threat of being reported by the Jews to Caesar.

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And so with that background, here we are...



Jesus before Pilate and Pilate is scared of the people, but he hated the Jewish leaders because he felt he was under the constant threat of blackmail. He was trapped. It wasn't Jesus who was on trial...it was Pilate. I want to show you something we'll eventually see:

**John 19:12**

**<sup>12</sup> From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."**

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Oh, the political blackmail. And you know it still happens today...just take trip to Washington! Well, the Jewish leaders, in the height of their religious hypocrisy, told Pilate to come outside.

**John 18:29-30**

**<sup>29</sup> So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" <sup>30</sup> They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you."**

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Oh church, can you see how arrogant these elites are? And that's how Elites act. I dare you question me! We wouldn't have sent him to you if this man wasn't doing what? EVIL!! They think He's evil! They think "God in the flesh" is evil! Wow! Just wow! The blindness of Elites. They are so full of themselves.

**John 18:31-32**

<sup>31</sup> Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." <sup>32</sup> This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

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You know I believe Pilate was sick and tired of being blackmailed... "You take Him and judge Him yourself." Pilate knew that the Jews could stone people (according to their law) for blasphemy. After all, they would eventually stone Stephen to death (the first martyr of the church). But, the Jews were like, "Oh no, we don't want to be seen as the bad guys, you kill him."

But, here's the key in the whole deal. Jesus was supposed to hang on a cross. Why? Because it was prophesied 1,000 years earlier exactly how Jesus would die...execution on a cross and that form of death hadn't even been invented yet. I'll show you...

**Psalms 22:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet<sup>[b]</sup>— <sup>17</sup> I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me; <sup>18</sup> they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

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The Apostle Paul summed it up when he wrote to the Galatian churches:

**Galatians 3:13**

<sup>13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

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Listen, if Jesus **had not died on the cross, but was stoned instead, the Bible would not be true and Jesus would have been a liar, because He said:**

**John 12:32-33**

<sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

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The Bible is true...Jesus is THE TRUTH...we can rest in those facts! Well, Pilate heads back inside...

**John 18:33-36**

<sup>33</sup> So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" <sup>35</sup> Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

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Church, Jesus just lays it out... "I'm not of this world, and you can see for yourself, there has been no rebellion or uprising coming from my followers." And that's true...the only one who has shown any violence at all was Peter when he pulled his sword, but just as quickly Jesus told him (in front of the Roman soldiers and the Temple Guard), put it up!! "No more of this!!" No, Jesus wins people, not through force, but through the truth. Rome's weapon was the sword. Jesus' weapon was truth...his word! No, at that moment, Jesus' kingdom was sacred, not secular, but one day, His

kingdom will be both (sacred and secular) as He sets up His rule and reign on this earth for His 1000 year, Millennial Reign. Pilate keeps pressing...

**John 18:37**

<sup>37</sup> Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

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You know, all Jesus had to do was say He wasn't a king and that would have gotten Him off. Because, you see, it was this idea that Jesus was claiming to be a King that the Jews wanted to use to pin on Jesus the crime of treason against Rome, which would have required the death penalty. Jesus said, “I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth,” and Pilate says:

**John 18:38**

<sup>38</sup> Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, “I find no guilt in him.”

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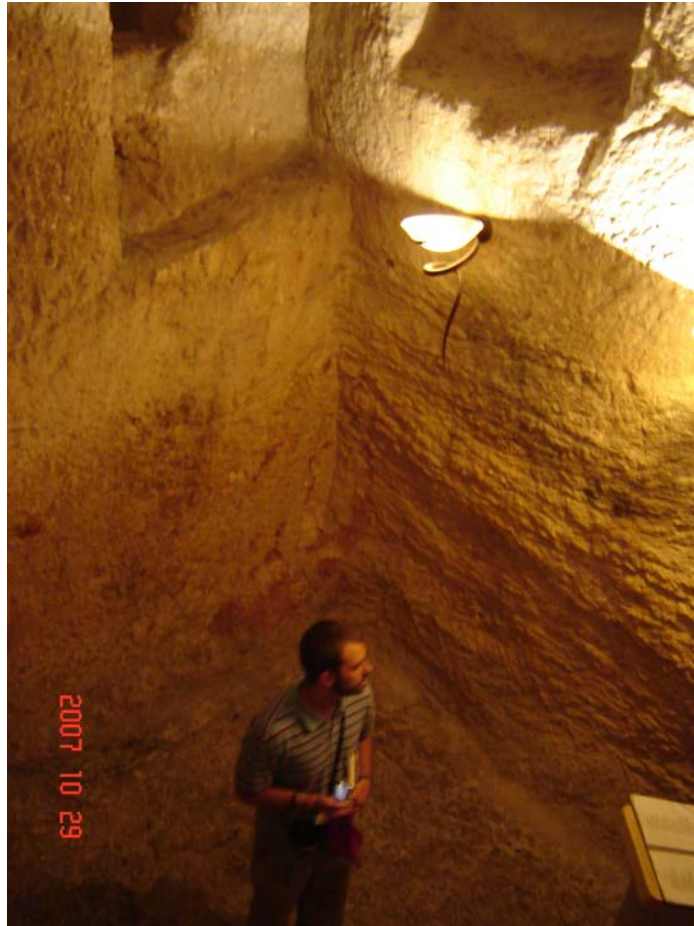
Pilate is asking: “What is truth?” He’s supposed to be the one who is able to get to the truth. Pilate knew Jesus posed no threat to Rome. As far as Pilate was concerned, Jesus was just some kind of religious quack. Pilate’s question: “What is truth?” was not really a question about the scene in front of him, but instead, a question about the meaning of life. Pilate was soul searching. But he wilted!

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Historians tell us that in 35 A.D., Rome finally got fed up with Pilate and removed him as governor. Less than one year later he was dead...having committed suicide. Pilate was a disaster. From one stupid act to another...and then to wash his hands of Jesus.



What a tragic end to a man who had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. But that’s the same tragic end to any person who encounters Jesus and walks away. See the PIT...



He went down into that pit...lowered through that hole



so you could have eternal life. I pray you will not be like Pilate...but would, instead, follow Jesus and have the greatest joy you could ever know!