

THE **ACTS** OF FAITH

PIONEERS

WHATEVER, WHENEVER, HOWEVER... I'M IN



MY WITNESSES

THE TWELVE APOSTLES

PETER Influential Leader

JAMES Passionate Fighter

JOHN Man of Conviction

ANDREW Servant Leader

PHILIP Detail Guy

BARTHOLOMEW The Scholar

MATTHEW Recovering Rebel

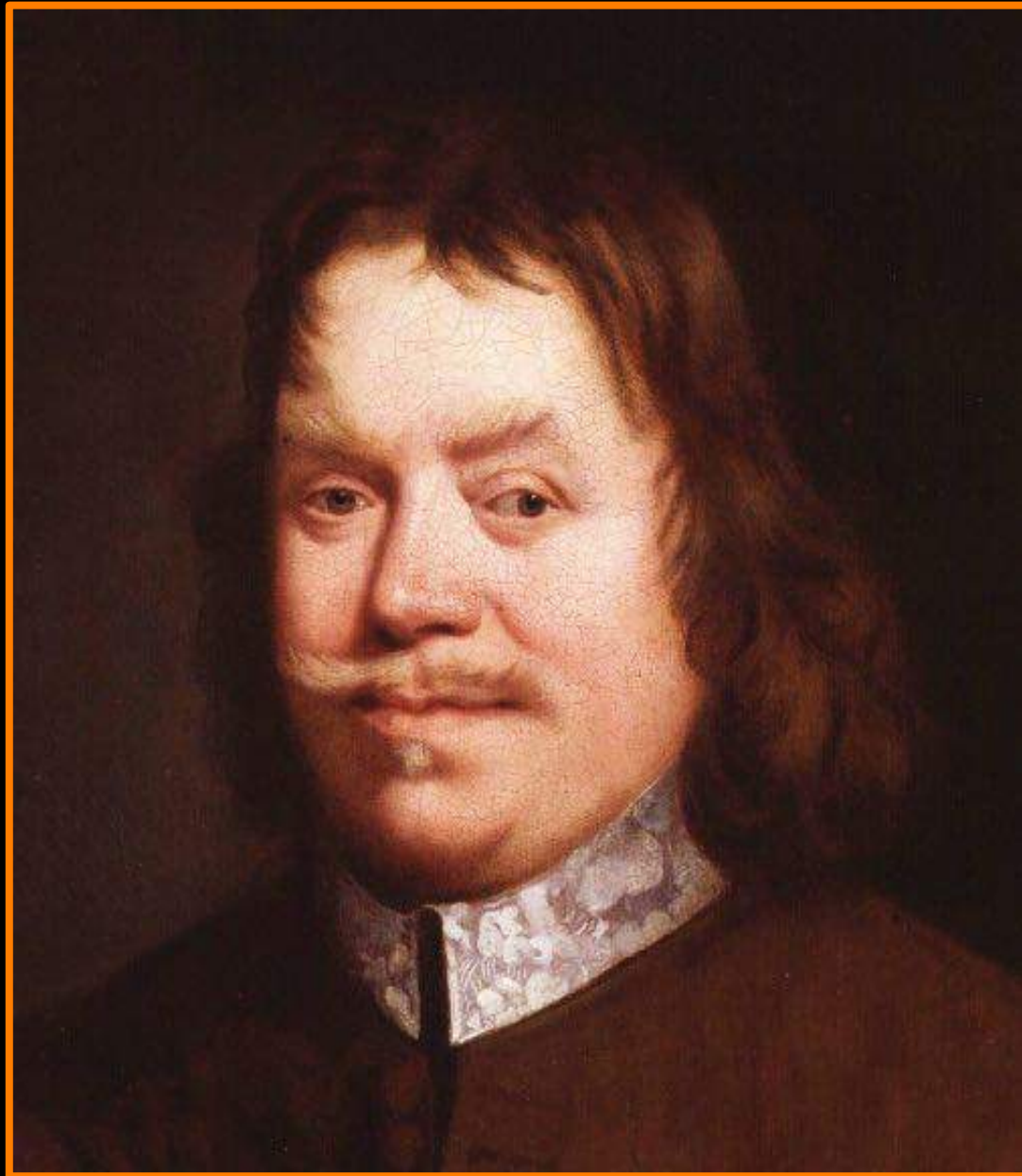
THOMAS Faithful Follower

JAMES Obscure One

THADDAEUS Hype Guy

SIMON An Activist

MATTHIAS The Replacement



PIONEERS

WHATEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY COMFORTS)

WHENEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY PLANS)

HOWEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY WAYS)



Illustration © 2009 by Michael Wimmer. Published in The Pilgrim's Progress
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PIONEERS

WHATEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY COMFORTS)

WHENEVER

(I WILL SURRENDER MY PLANS)

HOWEVER


(I WILL SURRENDER MY WAYS)



JESUS IN PRISON

JOHN 18:33-40


PIONEERS



“Are you the king of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew?




JOHN 18:33-40



Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done? **If my kingdom were of this world,** my servants would have been fighting that I might not be delivered over to the Jews.




JOHN 18:33-40



But **my kingdom is not from the world.**
Then Pilate said to him,
"So you are a king?"
Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king."




JOHN 18:33-40



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. Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

PIONEERS


JOHN 18:33-40



After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, **"I find no guilt in him."** But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover.

PIONEERS


JOHN 18:33-40



So do you want me to release to you **the King of the Jews?** They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber. Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him...




JOHN 18:33-40



...Pilate said to them,
**“Take him yourselves
and crucify him, for I
find no guilt in him.** The
Jews answered, “we have
a law, and according to
the law he ought to die
because he has made
himself the Son of God.”

PIONEERS


JOHN 19:6-11



When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" **But Jesus gave him no answer.**

PIONEERS

JOHN 19:6-11



Will you not speak to me?
Do you not know that I
have authority to release
you and authority to crucify
you? Jesus answered him,
**"You would have no
authority over me at all
unless it had been given
from above."**

PIONEERS

JOHN 19:6-11



ALL AUTHORITY



ESTABLISHED BY GOD JOHN 19:11

"You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given to you from above."

GOVERNED BY GOD DANIEL 4:17

"... The Most-High rules the kingdom of men and give it to whom he will and sets over it the basest of men."

REPLACED BY GOD DANIEL 2:21

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings."



ALL AUTHORITY





Why should I BE SUBJECT TO AUTHORITY?

PIONEERS

3 REASONS FROM PETER

1. THE LORD'S SAKE **1 PETER 2:13**

"Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him..."

2. YOUR TESTIMONY'S SAKE **1 PETER 2:15**

"For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people."

3. YOUR MISSION'S SAKE **1 PETER 2:16-17**

"Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover up for evil but living as servants of God. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor."



Why should I BE SUBJECT TO AUTHORITY?

4 REASONS FROM **PAUL**

1. When we honor Authority, **WE HONOR GOD'S ESTABLISHMENT.**

Romans 13:1 "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God."

2. When we resist Authority, **WE OPPOSE GOD'S ORDINANCE.**

Romans 13:2 "Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves."



Why should I BE SUBJECT TO AUTHORITY?

4 REASONS FROM **PAUL**

3. When we obey Authority, WE AVOID BEING FEARFUL

Romans 13:3-4 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same; for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid..."

4. When we submit to Authority, WE AVOID THE GUILT OF DEFIANCE

Romans 13:5 Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.

A black and white photograph of a man in a suit and tie, adjusting his tie with his hands. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the suit and tie.

SUFFERING UNDER
AUTHORITY



“Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, **when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows** while suffering unjustly.”

1 PETER 2:18-19

"ON WHOSE AUTHORITY?"

ACTS 4:1-31



IMAGE: THE TEMPLE - HEROD'S CROWNING GLORY



YOU ASKED FOR A MURDERER
AND YOU KILLED THE AUTHOR OF LIFE.

ACTS 3:14-15

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees **came upon them.**



Greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.



And they arrested them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.



But many of those who had heard the word believed, and **the number of the men came to about five thousand.**



On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

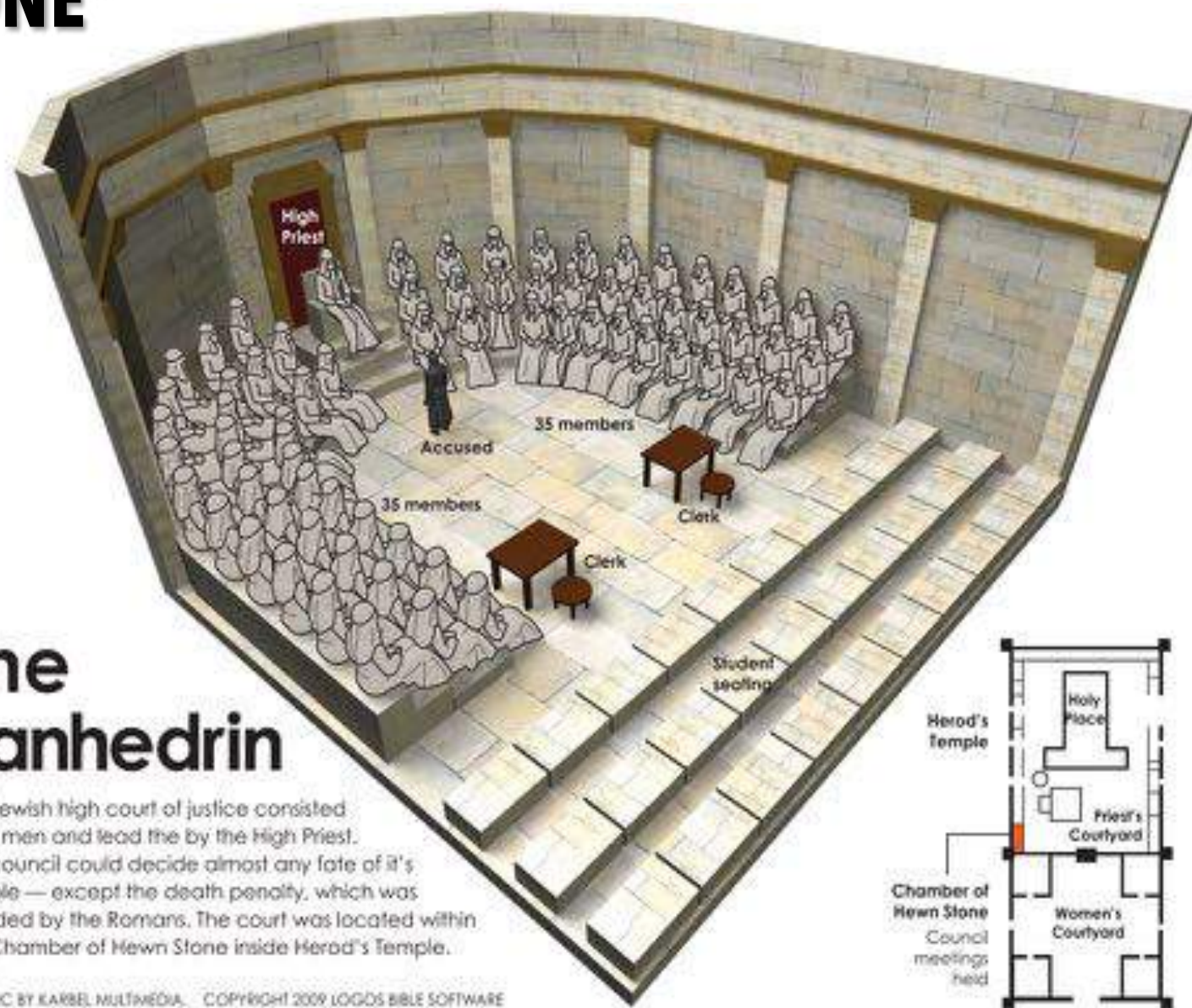
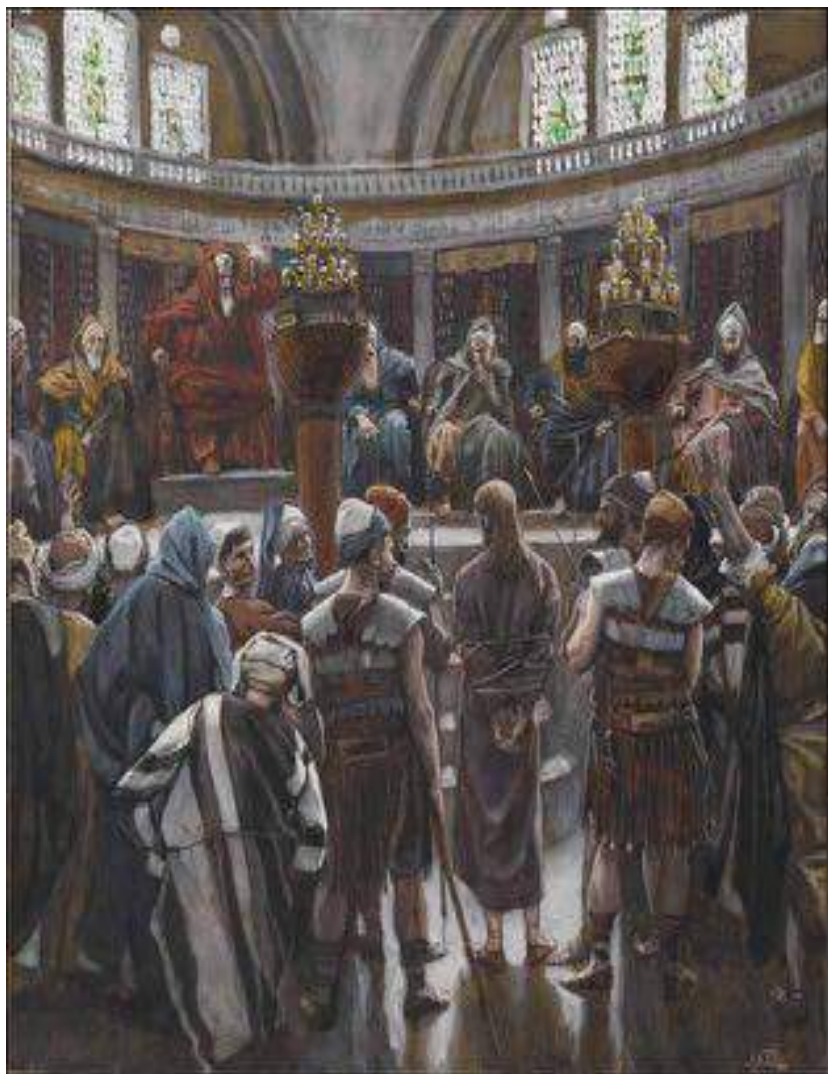


IMAGE: THE TEMPLE - HEROD'S CROWNING GLORY

CHAMBER OF HEWN STONE



"CHAMBER OF HEWN STONE"



The Sanhedrin

The Jewish high court of justice consisted of 71 men and 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.

GRAPHIC BY KARBEL MULTIMEDIA. COPYRIGHT 2009 LOGOS BIBLE SOFTWARE

And when they had set them in the midst,
they inquired, "**By what power or by what
name did you do this?**"

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed,



Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.



This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. **And there is salvation in no one else,** for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."



Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. **And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.**



But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, **they had nothing to say in opposition.** But when they commanded them to leave the council, they conferred with one another, saying “What shall we do with these men?”

For that a notable sign has been performed through them is evident to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. But in order that it may spread no further among the people, **let us warn them to speak no more to anyone in this name."**

So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered them, **“Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge,** for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

A person wearing a blue t-shirt and dark blue jeans is leaning against a brick wall. They are holding a silver microphone in their right hand. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting with a brick wall and a doorway.

Testify to the TRUTH

WHATEVER - WHENEVER - HOWEVER

PIONEERS

And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened. For the man on whom this sign of healing was performed was more than forty years old.

When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders said to them.

And when they heard it...



Prayer

OF THE CHURCH

AMID AN ALARMING AND UNCERTAIN FUTURE

ACTS 4:23-31




And when they heard it,
**they lifted their voices
together to God** and
said,

ACTS 4:23-31



"Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit,"

ACTS 4:23-31

A dark, arched stone tunnel with a barred window at the end, illuminated from within. The walls are rough and textured, and the floor is uneven stone. The light from the window creates a strong contrast with the surrounding darkness.

“Why did the Gentiles rage,
and the peoples plot in vain?
The kings of the earth set
themselves, and the rulers were
gathered together, **against the
Lord** and against His Anointed”

ACTS 4:23-31



“For truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and people of Israel, to do **whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place.**

ACTS 4:23-31



And now, Lord, look upon their threats and **grant to your servants to continue to speak Your word with boldness**, while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.

ACTS 4:23-31



Prayer

OF THE CHURCH

AMID AN ALARMING
AND UNCERTAIN FUTURE

UNIFY US in Prayer

They lifted their voices together.

REMINDE US to Trust

Whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place.

PREPARE US for Opposition

The rulers were gathered together, against the Lord

STRENGTHEN US to be Bold

Grant to your servants to continue to speak Your word with boldness.

EMPOWER US for the Mission

While you stretch out your hand to heal,

A young baseball player in a purple helmet and black jersey is captured in the middle of a powerful swing on a baseball field. The player is wearing white pants and red cleats. The background shows a grassy field with a chain-link fence and other people, including a catcher and a pitcher, slightly out of focus. The scene is set during the day under natural light.

Fake it
TIL' YOU MAKE IT!



@PASTORCHRISHELLER



**Faith it
TIL' YOU MAKE IT!**

PIONEERS

@PASTORCHRISHELLER

PRAY FOR COURAGE

Don't fight your battles without God.

STAY IN THE MOMENT

Don't borrow trouble from the future.

RELEASE CONTROL

Don't be consumed by self-preservation.

STAND IN TRUTH

Don't succumb to the enemies lies.

FACE YOUR FEARS

Don't let fear cripple opportunity.



Faith it
TIL' YOU MAKE IT!

PIONEERS

@PASTORCHRISHELLER

"CHEER UP, CHRISTIAN!
THINGS ARE NOT LEFT TO CHANCE:
NO BLIND FATE RULES THE WORLD.
GOD HATH PURPOSES,
AND THOSE ARE FULFILLED.
GOD HATH PLANS,
AND THOSE PLANS ARE WISE,
AND NEVER CAN BE DISLOCATED."

CHARLES SPURGEON