

# THE MAN WHO KILLED JESUS

John 18:28-19:16

November 18, 2007 pm

## INTRODUCTION

- A. The Apostle's Creed is the oldest Christian Creed in existence (See the back of your outline).
  - 1. It was written around 150 A.D.
  - 2. It was not written by the Apostles. But could imply "this is what the Apostles believed".
  - 3. The word "Creed" means "I believe".
  - 4. It is a summary of what early Christians believed.
  - 5. It is "Trinitarian" .
  - 6. Baptists don't insist we all believe certain creeds, due to our concept of "The Priesthood of Each Believer". However, we do have "Statements of Faith" that summarize what most Baptists believe. (2000 Baptist Faith and Message is an example and "The Apostles Creed is another).
- B. We have already examined the section relating to "God the Father".
  - 1. We have started the section "God the Son".
  - 2. Tonight we consider the phrase, "Suffered under Pontius Pilate...."

## I. WHY IS THIS PHRASE INCLUDED IN THE CREED?

- A. First, because it demonstrates that the crucifixion of Jesus is an historical event and not a myth-18:28-32
  - 1. Who was Pontius Pilate? He was the governor of the Roman Province of Israel from A.D. 26 until 36.
  - 2. Although little is known about Pilate aside from tradition, one historical artifact was discovered in 1961 that is undisputed evidence that Pilate really lived and was the governor of Judea at the time of Christ.

This physical evidence relating to Pilate was discovered in 1961, when a block of black limestone was found in the Roman theatre at Caesarea Maritima, the capital of the province of Iudaea, bearing a damaged dedication by Pilate of a *Tiberieum*.<sup>[5]</sup> This dedication states that he was [...]ECTVS IUDA[...] (usually read as *praefectus iudaeae*), that is, *prefect/governor* of Iudaea. The early governors of Iudaea were of prefect rank, the later were of procurator rank, beginning with Cuspius Fadus in 44.

The inscription is currently housed in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, where its Inventory number is AE 1963 no. 104. Dated to 26–37, it was discovered in Caesarea (Israel) by a group led by Antonio Frova.
- B. This phrase was also included because it gives insight into the suffering of Jesus.
  - 1. The Creed moves directly from Jesus' virgin birth to his death at the hands of Pilate. Why? Because everything that happened in between can be summarized by the word, "suffered".

**Isaiah 53:3** He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
  - 2. How did Jesus suffer?
    - a. He suffered publicly-crucified in public.
    - b. He suffered physically-crucifixion was a horrific death.
    - c. He suffered personally-rejected by his own, the Jews.
  - 3. In 2004 actor-director Mel Gibson financed and produced the controversial movie about the crucifixion of Jesus called, "The Passion of Christ".

Here's a fact most people don't know. Although Mel Gibson financed, produced and directed the movie, he appears in only one scene. As Jesus is being nailed to the cross, a man's hand appears, making a fist, holding the nail above Jesus' outstretched

palm, showing the soldiers how to do their grisly work. The hand holding the nail belongs to Mel Gibson. It's the only place he appears, and his fist is all you see. He wanted it that way so the world would know that it was his sin that nailed Jesus to the cross. As he said when asked during an interview with Diane Sawyer who killed Jesus? Gibson replied, "We all did."

## II. WHY DIDN'T PILATE LET JESUS GO?

- A. Pilate was afraid of Rome and the Jews-19:12-13.
- B. What about us? Are we afraid to stand up for Jesus in front of our family or friends? Are we afraid of what others might think of our being a Christian?

## CONCLUSION

- A. Why did Jesus suffer under Pontius Pilate?
- B. So we wouldn't suffer under God's judgment on our sin.  
**Romans 8:1** Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,