

John 63 – Gentile Kingdoms Trial of Christ

Dr. Leon L. Sanders
John 18:28-35

Jews Rejected Mashiach {God}

- The Jews, God's chosen people, have rejected Jesus as Mashiach (מָשִׁיחַ), Messiah
 - Jesus reference to sitting at the Father's right hand called for the Jewish leaders to recognize the primacy of Scripture and Himself as David's heir (Mk 11:1-4)
 - Those who rejected Him sided with Lucifer; thus, they revealed themselves - False Jews (Synagogue of Satan) (Re 2:9-10, 3:9)

Jew and Gentile Unholy Union

Jews – Without Excuse

- Jews had the oracles of God (Ro 3:1-4)
- Jews had the prophets whom they killed (Lk 11:47-50)
- Jews joined with Lucifer's government(s) (Re 11:8, 17)

Gentiles – Without Excuse

- Existence of God known to all peoples (Ro 1:18-20)
- Rejection of God required philosophy: man's truth
- Gentile governments live by Lucifer's truth

Christ Brought Before Pilate

- Jews have executed blasphemers before and since without consent of Rome; however, (Ac 7:54-60)
 - Pilate moved his HQ to Jerusalem during Passover to instantly quell any disturbances
 - Jews could not simply stone Jesus as a *fait accompli* since they would face swift Roman intervention (Stephen)
 - Pilate represents Rome which represents Gentile governments (Da 2:31-45; 7)

Understanding Governments

- We need to understand Pilate spoke for governments revealed in Daniel to understand the depth of the dialogue between Christ and Pilate
 - Just as Caiaphas unwittingly *prophesized* the reason for Christ's death - Die for *all* peoples
 - So also Pilate unknowingly speaks for Gentile governments as his worldview was received from these cultures; esp., Greco-Roman (Western Culture)

Stepping Stones to Satan's Rule

- Dragon stands on sea shore (Re 12:17b)
- Each government called from the raging sea (Da 7)
- Antichrist and False Prophet called from the sea (Re 13)



Role of These Governments

- Each of the four Gentile Kingdoms contribute to the Satan's final Kingdom
 - Babylon - King receives worship; answerable to higher authority {Nebuchadnezzar answered to God} (Dn. 4)
 - Medo-Persian - King accountable to laws {Truth} (Dn. 6)
 - Greco - Unify Diversity: Common language unites diverse truths - societies

Final Kingdom in Two Forms

- Ancient Rome - Worship the leader who rules through laws {Truth}
 - Other beliefs allowed if subordinate to Emperor Worship
- Revived Roman Rule - Basis of modern Western Culture as sovereignty moves from nationalism to regionalism toward globalism {*Apotheosis of Washington*}

Ultimate Goal of Government

- Lucifer knows Christ will establish His government after His Substitutionary Death (Is. 54:7)
 - Christ's government represents God on earth
 - Lucifer's government based on *his* truth
 - Antichrist will represent Lucifer on earth
 - False Prophet will legitimize Antichrist's laws through Gnosticism that joins all diverse beliefs in one union

Whose Truth?

- Discussion between Pilate and Jesus - Whose Truth
 - Lucifer, Pilate: Truth based on power over the material body: Power of Death (Lk 12:4)
 - Christ: Truth based on power over the immaterial eternal soul: Power over Death (Lk 12:5; He 2:14; Re 20:14)
 - Death is separation: Physical death is separation of soul from body; spiritual death is separation from God
 - Lake of Fire is eternal search for God's righteousness in lost

Jews Present Christ to Pilate

- In their hypocrisy, the Jews will not enter Pilate's Praetorium though they are already unclean by their unjust condemnation of Christ as anti-God (Antichrist)
 - Pilate comes out to meet them showing them more consideration than they show him
 - Pilate asks for the charges and they defensively answer that they would not have brought Jesus if he were not guilty - They have no Roman charges (King of Jews)

Judge Him Yourself

- Pilate tells the Jews to judge Jesus themselves, showing deference to keep the peace
 - Rome allowed certain provinces to live under their own laws if:
 - Submission to the Emperor
 - Peace maintained so economy would flourish (Ac 19:23-40)
 - Taxes collected and sent to Rome

Jews Refuse His Deference

- Jews hypocritically refuse to execute Christ
 - Jews wanted His execution to be by Rome so they could distance themselves should the populace decry the death of this popular Rabbi
 - If they killed Jesus, they would be unclean for seven days and unable to eat the Passover until the next month (In God's eyes they were already unclean by rejecting Christ)
(Nu 9:6-12; 19:11; Mt 23:27-28)

Scriptures Fulfilled

- The Jews refusing to execute Christ themselves and bringing in the Romans to do the deed fulfilled Scripture though it was not their intention
 - Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree (Pole)
(De 21:22-23; Ga 3:13)
 - By hanging Christ on a tree (Stauros) He was declared cursed of God (Ps 22:6-8; Mt 27:39-43; Jo 12:32)
 - The innocent to die for the guilty (Ro 5:6-8)

Pilate Speaks to Jesus Alone

- Pilate takes Jesus into the Praetorium to question Him beyond the influence of the Jews
 - Pilate (Lucifer) asks, "Are You The King of the Jews?"
 - Christ asked Pilate why he asked the question
 - Was he told this or did he know this?
 - The question displays ignorance of His mission: Christ did not come to die for only Jews; He came to die for all sinners throughout time who believe

Pilate: I am no Jew

- Pilate states the obvious, he is not a Jew, he does not believe in God (Mt 8:6-13)
 - It was the Jews who gave Jesus to him
 - Pilate wants to know what Jesus has done to offend the Jews who want Him dead
 - Pilate wants to determine if Jesus was an insurrectionist; that would be a Roman problem

Pilate's Duplicity

- Pilate understands the manipulation of the Jews having been reprimanded in the past
 - He seeks answers apart from the Jews to ascertain the true nature of this political intrigue
 - Pilate is the living representation of Lucifer according to Philo's description: Pilate's only concern is Pilate
 - Pilate does not grasp his failures; neither does Lucifer

In describing [Pilate's personality](#), Philo writes in the 1st century that Pilate had "vindictiveness and furious temper", and was "naturally inflexible, a blend of self-will and relentlessness". Referring to Pilate's governance, Philo further describes "his corruption, and his acts of insolence, and his rapine, and his habit of insulting people, and his cruelty, and his continual murders of people untried and uncondemned, and his never ending, and gratuitous, and most grievous inhumanity".

Roman Justice

Understanding the trial requires we understand the role of Rome in Satan's grand scheme

Revelation of Powers

- Christ's trial is not between individuals but between powers behind the scene (Jp 6:12)
- Lucifer is the power behind the Jewish leaders and the Roman governor; willing children following their father (Jo 8:40)
- The Jews reject Christ as God
- The Romans reject Christ as King, source of Truth

What is the Point?

- Lucifer *knows* Christ is God and thus, eternal, meaning He cannot be destroyed; so, what is the purpose? (Mt 8:28-29)
- Lucifer seeks to have Christ do His will against the Father's will: Rebellion to save Himself (Jc 4:7)
- If Christ can be forced to fail, then Lucifer escapes eternal punishment for his rebellion
- The Point: Whose Truth is The Truth - Lucifer claims God is source of sin and unfit to judge (Theodicy)

Christ Tried by Each Sinner

- Pilate (Satan) labeled Christ: King of the Jews
 - Christ is not King of the Jews; He is King over all peoples by virtue of being Creator (Jo 1:1-3, Jc 1:12,28)
- Every sinner tries Christ and finds Him wanting
 - The basis for rejecting Christ is rejection of God's truth
 - Each person develops their own truth, morality, by which they judge themselves guiltless, condemning Jesus