

Restoring Imago Dei: through Jesus as King

Jesus referred to himself as "son of man" from Daniel's vision

In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven.

He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:13-14

At trial before the Sanhedrin, Jesus affirmed he was Messiah

But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

"I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven. Mark 14:61-62

With Pilate, Jesus claimed a kingdom not of this world

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world.

If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth.

Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

"What is truth?" retorted Pilate.

With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said,

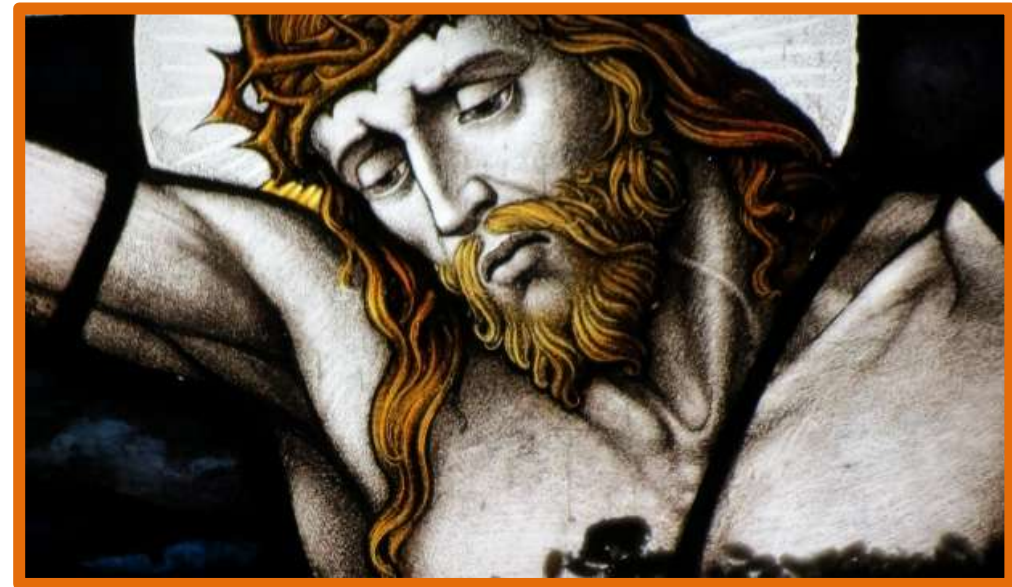
"I find no basis for a charge against him. John 18:33-38

Pilate craved to the crowd's demand but insisted on a sign

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others-- one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read:

JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.



They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him,

"Hail, king of the Jews!"

Mark 15:17-18



Jesus is the perfect King

He handles absolute power without corruption
He has all authority yet empowers his people
He is obedient to the Father, even to death

Jesus is the perfect King for each of us

When we belong to him, our problems are his
We are never without hope in his love for us
Because we love him, we keep his commands

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority
in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Matthew 28:18

The Commands of Jesus

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul
and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.

Portions of Matthew 22:37-38



ART WORK CREDITS:

Page 1 Painting: *What is Truth. Jesus Before Pilate* by Nikolai Ge, 1890 (wikiart.org)

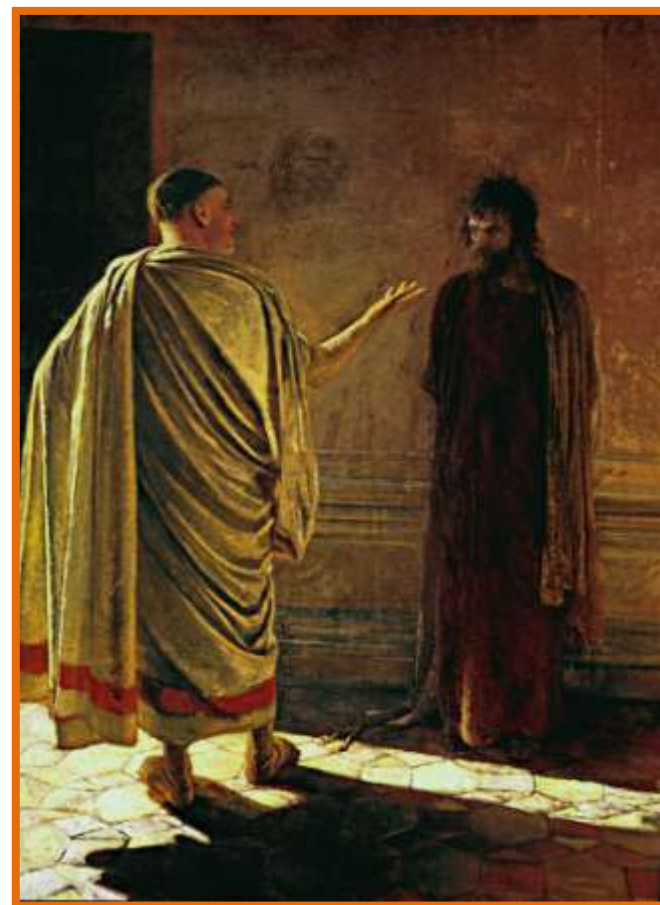
Page 3 Stained Glass detail: *Jesus on the Cross* (kimberlinglutheran.com)

Page 4 Stained Glass: *Christ...* by Tiffany, Hackensack 2nd Ref.Ch. (flickr.com)



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Meanwhile Jesus stood before Pilate, the governor, and he asked him,
"Are you the king of the Jews?" "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. Mt. 27:11

(NIV)

"What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him. John 18:38