

November 24th - Gospel of John Chapter 18, verses 33 – 37 – Christ the King:-

Read also Daniel chapter 7, verses 9 – 10 and 13 – 14. (The Old Testament Reading for this Sunday). Again, with the subject and theme of this week's readings we look forward to the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ when He returns in glory - the theme of Advent.

Verse 33 :-

The scene is set in the 'Praetorium'. The centre of the headquarters of the Roman Governor. Translated as "*Hall of Judgement*" in some versions. This interrogation by Pilate was conducted in private. The Jewish leaders would not enter a 'pagan' building because of the strict purity laws as they prepared for the Passover. The key question comes "*Are you the King of the Jews?*"

Verse 34 :-

This question by the Lord Jesus suggests that his appearance before Pilate is 'a put up job'! The Jewish leaders want his death and will use Pilate to achieve it.

Verses 35 – 36 :-

Pilate puts the onus back onto the chief priests and wonders what has provoked the anger of the Jewish authorities. Remember that at the beginning of this Gospel there are the words "*He came to his own home and his own people received him not.*" (Gospel of John chapter 1, verse 11). Again remember those tragic words in Luke chapter 19, verses 41 – 42. The Lord Jesus wept over Jerusalem because the people did not recognise his 'Kingship'. They were looking for an earthly Messiah but his kingdom was "*not of this world*".

The Jewish priestly leadership would have known about the 'Kingdom of God'. Read for example Psalm 93 and Psalm 96 verses 10 – 13. If they regarded the Lord Jesus Christ as claiming to be 'King' then he was claiming the throne of the 'Kingdom of Heaven'. In their eyes he was guilty of blasphemy!

Verse 37 :-

In this verse the Lord Jesus claims the Kingship "*For this I was born, and for this I came into the world . . .*". The truth is that the Kingdom of God is a reality! The child born at Bethlehem **is** Lord. For a glimpse of Him in all his glory read Revelation chapter 1, verses 12 – 18. Remember that it is only a 'glimpse'. The reality will be far greater – indescribable in human language because at present "*we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face*" 1 Corinthians chapter 13, verse 12.

In this present age the word 'truth' appears to be subjective and not a reality. We look for the coming of the One who is 'the truth'. Jesus himself said "*I am the way, the truth and the life . . .*" (Gospel of John chapter 14, verse 6). We acknowledge Him as Lord and we look for the coming of His Kingdom!

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon". Amen. Come Lord Jesus.
(Revelation chapter 22, verse 20.)

*Hail, Thou Once Despised Jesus!
Hail, Thou Galilean King!
Thou Didst Suffer To Release Us;
Thou Didst Free Salvation Bring.
Hail, Thou Agonizing Saviour,
Bearer Of Our Sin And Shame!
By Thy Merits We Find Favour;
Life Is Given Through Thy Name.*

*Jesus, Hail! Enthroned In Glory,
There For Ever To Abide:
All The Heavenly Host Adore Thee,
Seated At Thy Father's Side;
There For Sinners Thou Art Pleading,
There Thou Dost Our Place Prepare,
Ever For Us Interceding,
Till In Glory We Appear.*

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