

The trial of Jesus - Matthew 26:57-27:26 & Luke 22:54-23:25



After Jesus was arrested in the garden, they brought Jesus to the High Priest's courtyard to face trial. Peter followed, but at a long distance back. He wanted to see what would happen to Jesus.



That night, Jesus was questioned by the High priest and the religious leaders. But Jesus had not done any harm. He had only done good and told the truth. So, the religious leaders got evil people to tell terrible lies about Jesus.



Outside in the courtyard, Peter was standing by the fire warming himself. He was asked, 'Aren't you one of His disciples too?' 'No,' he said. 'I never even knew the man!' Peter said this three times just as Jesus had predicted.



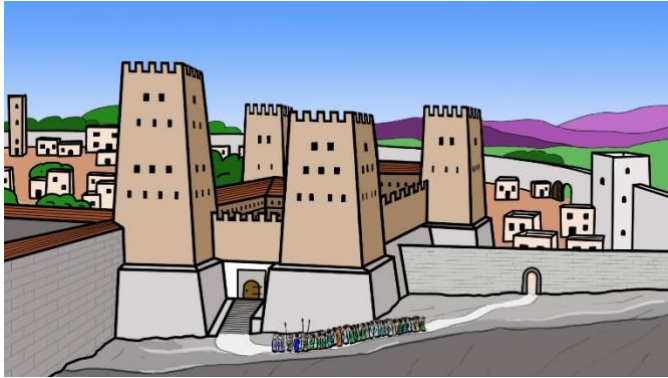
Just then the first rooster was heard crowing in Jerusalem that early morning and Peter cried and cried. He had let Jesus down.



Now the Priests and Jewish leaders decided that Jesus should be judged by the Grand Council - the Sanhedrin. They studied God's law.



The High Priest was very angry and asked the Grand Council what should be done with Jesus. They agreed he should be put to death for saying he is God. However, they did not have the power to give a death sentence. So, it was decided to bring Jesus to the Roman governor named Pilate who did have the power to sentence Jesus to death.



Pilate lived with 600 Roman soldiers in a great fortress, next to the temple in Jerusalem. Jesus was taken during the early morning to see Pilate.



When Pilate opened the door, they shouted: 'Here is a man who said He is the Son of God. You have to kill Him.' But Pilate did not want to do that. He did not think this charge deserved the death penalty. So, they shouted, 'he has made himself king!'



Pilate took Jesus inside and asked Him if He was the king of the Jews. Jesus replied, 'My kingdom is not of this world.'



Pilate knew that Jesus did not deserve to be killed and that the Jewish leaders were jealous of Him.



The large crowd that had gathered outside shouted, 'He has made himself king! We have no king but the Roman emperor!' Pilate was amazed to hear this as the Jews hated having the Romans rule over them.



Because Jesus was from Galilee, Pilate decided to send Jesus to King Herod. Herod was glad to see Jesus. He wanted to know about all His miracles. He asked Him lots of questions but Jesus said nothing. He didn't do any miracles for him! Annoyed, Herod sent him back to Pilate.



Pilate got a letter from his wife, begging him not to judge or harm Jesus. She'd had a very disturbing dream about an innocent man, who looked like Jesus. Pilate read the letter, 'Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, I have dreamed about him.'



Pilate wondered what to do. But then he had an idea. Every Passover he released a prisoner. There was a terrible murderer in prison called Barabbas. Why not give the people a choice, Barabbas or Jesus?

Surely, they would choose to release Jesus!



Pilate went out to the people and shouted: "You must choose who I am to release. Barabbas or Jesus? To his great surprise they shouted that Barabbas should be released. 'What shall I do with Jesus?' Pilate asked. The Jewish leaders asked the crowd to shout 'Crucify Him! Crucify Him!'



Pilate sentenced Jesus to be crucified. To show that he did not want to be responsible for the decision, he washed his hands. 'I wash my hands of this,' he exclaimed. The people shouted that they would take the blame for what happened to Jesus!

Last week we thought about how Jesus died for all the bad things people do and that Jesus being arrested was all part of God's plan.

The people in this week's story didn't realise who Jesus was. They didn't understand that Jesus is God's son; God living among us. They didn't understand what Jesus had come to earth to do. Even his own disciples didn't really understand. All that happened that night in Jerusalem was part of God's plan; God's plan to rescue people who are lost. In the Old Testament it says of Jesus...

'He was treated badly, but he never protested.' Isaiah 53:7

Jesus trusted that everything that happened that night was part of God's plan. God is in control and we can trust him

Dear Lord,

Thank you so much that you went through all this for me. Thank you that you want to find me when I'm lost and that if I ask you; you will stay with me for ever.

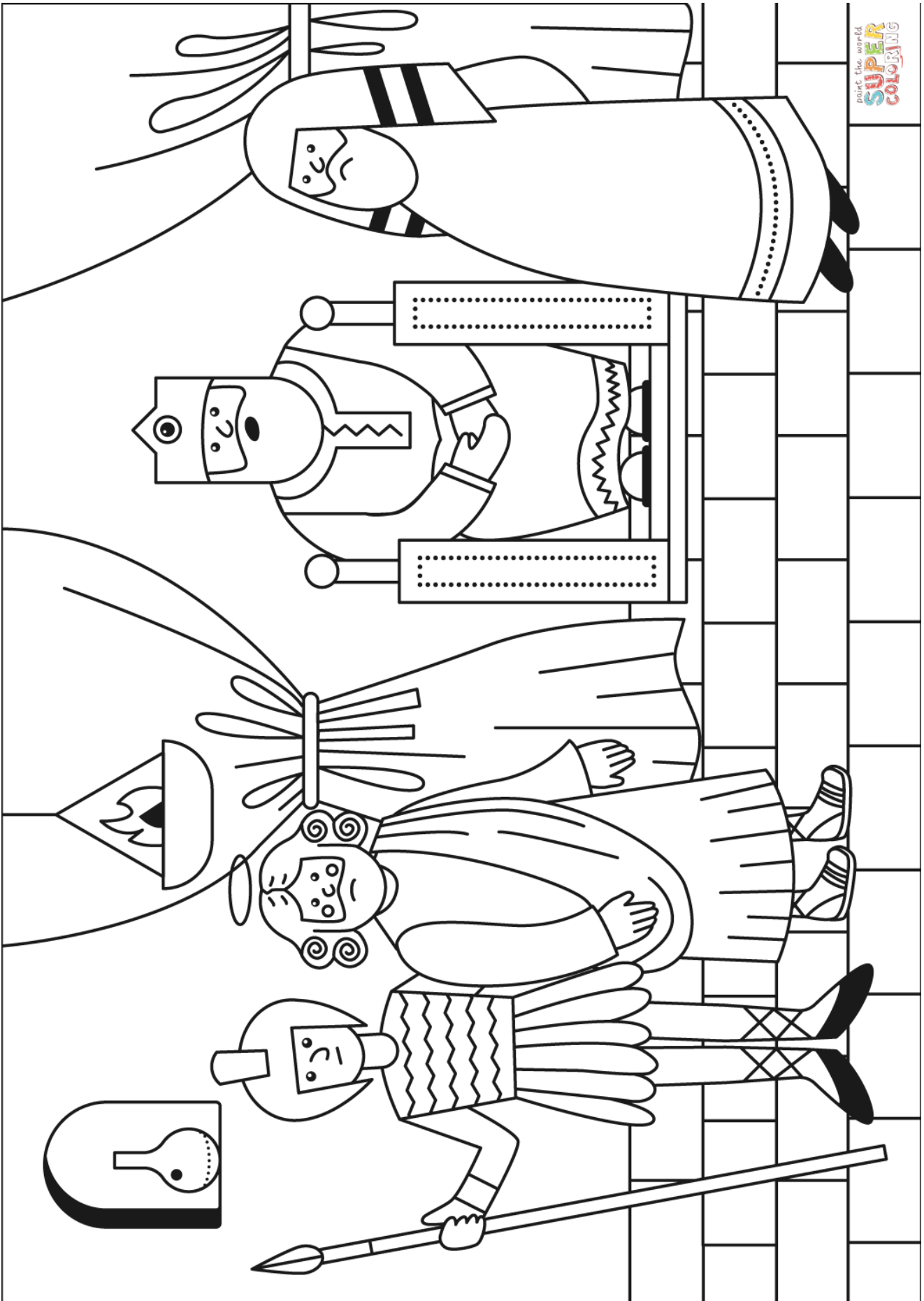
Thank you for your love.

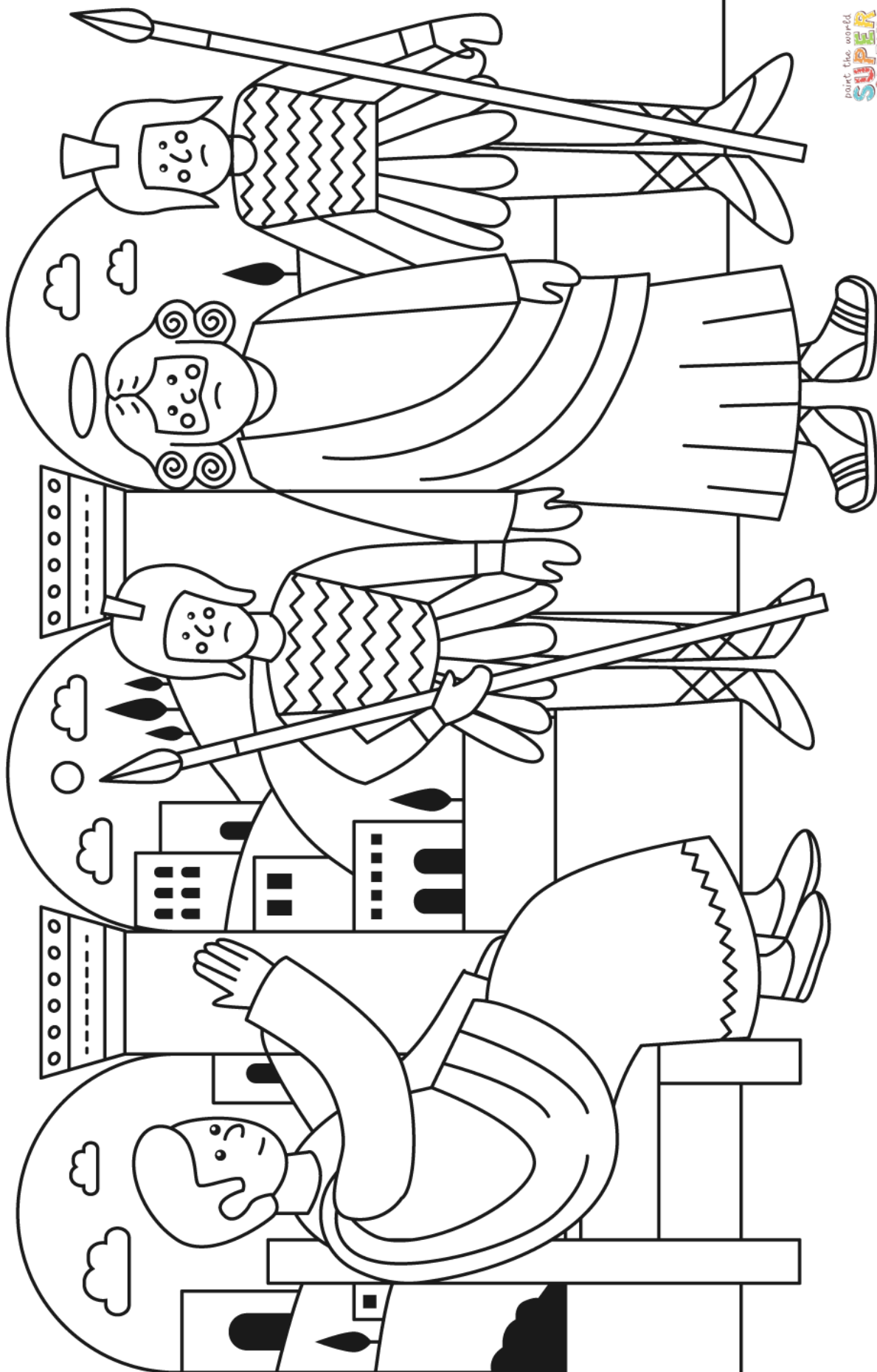
Amen

[Jesus on trial read by Heather](#)

[Jesus on trial](#) (fun film with children telling the story)

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Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

BETRAYAL OF THE KING

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PILATE
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