
LUKE, CHAPTER 13

1. What was Pilate guilty of doing? _____

* Pilate washed his hands with water in a public display of his innocence. Water cannot cleanse man from sins. Critics of the infallibility of the Bible rejected this account of Pilate, claiming that historical records did not prove that such a man ever existed. Then in 1961, an Italian excavation uncovered an inscription bearing his name on a huge block of limestone. Pilate's name was also recorded by a well known Roman historian of the first century A.D., Cornelius Tacitus, who wrote: "Christus, the founder of the name (Christians), was executed by Pontius Pilate, the Judean procurator, during the rule of Tiberius." Justin Martyr wrote around 150 A.D. that Pilate's report to Rome was filed in the imperial archives. Here are his words: "The statement, 'They spiked my hands and my feet' he says, are they not an accurate portrayal of the nails that were fixed in his hands and his feet on the cross, and after he was executed, those who crucified him cast lots and divided his clothing amongst themselves; these things did occur, and you may find them in the "Act's recorded under Pontius Pilate".

Martyr further described Jesus as follows: "At his coming, the lame shall leap, tongues that stammer shall speak clearly, the blind shall see, and the lepers shall be cleansed, and the dead shall rise and walk about. And you can learn that he did all these things from *The Acts of Pontius Pilate*."

Historians describe Pilate as a proud and stubborn leader. He was accused of cruelty, violence, thefts, assaults, and executing prisoners without a trial. Flavius Josephus, another historian of that time, referred to a mob who surrounded Pilate because he stole the treasures from the temple. Pilate had sent his soldiers, disguised as civilians, among the crowd. When he motioned to the armed men, they killed large numbers of the crowd. Many were trampled to death as they tried to flee. Jesus may have been referring to this event in this portion of Scripture. Don't allow false claims of Bible critics make you doubt the Scriptures. Archaeology *always* proves, and *never* disproves the Word of God. In this case, it took men nearly 20 centuries to catch up to the Bible!

2. Did Jesus say that those who die in such a tragedy are greater sinners than other men? _____ * Death comes to everyone. See Psalms 89:48 and Hebrews 9:27. Jesus came, not to prevent our physical deaths, but so we could be resurrected to eternal life! Read Romans 6:23.

3. What is the only way to escape perishing? _____ * Study I Corinthians 15: 51-57.

4. What had fallen upon 18 people in Siloam and killed them? _____

5. Did Jesus say they were worse sinners than anyone else in Jerusalem? _____

6. What did Jesus again say that we must do, lest we perish? _____

* Study John 3:15-16 & 10:28 and II Peter 3:9.

7. What did the man hope to find on his fig tree? _____

* This is what Jesus expects to see on us. Study John 15:2 + 4-8 & 16 and Jude 1:12.

8. If the fig tree did not bear fruit in the extra time given to it, what was to be done?

9. Describe the physical condition of the woman Jesus met. _____

10. How long had she been in this condition? _____

11. Did she go to Jesus for healing, or did He call out to her? _____