

# John 18:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

## Analysis

Christ affirms His kingship while defining its purpose: 'to this end was I born...that I should bear witness unto the truth.' His kingdom is built on truth, not power. 'Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice' divides humanity into two groups: truth-lovers who recognize Christ's voice, and truth-rejecters who don't. This explains why some believe and others don't—it's a matter of spiritual orientation toward truth.

## Historical Context

Pilate's cynical response (v. 38), 'What is truth?', reflects Roman pragmatism that valued power over principle. Greek philosophy debated truth's nature; Christ claims to embody it (14:6). This confrontation shows the gospel dividing people.

## Related Passages

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How do you see Christ's kingdom advancing through truth in a world that denies absolute truth?
2. What does it mean practically to be 'of the truth' in contemporary society?

## Interlinear Text

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εἶπεν οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Πιλᾶτος Οὐκοῦν βασιλεύς εἰ  
said therefore unto him G3588 Pilate then a king Art  
G2036 G3767 G846 G4091 G3766 G935 G1488

Σὺ ἀπεκρίθη ὁ Ἰησοῦς Σὺ λέγεις ὅτι βασιλεύς είμι  
Thou answered G3588 Jesus Thou sayest that a king am  
G4771 G611 G2424 G4771 G3004 G3754 G935 G1510

ἐγὼ ἐγὼ εἰς τοῦτο γεγέννημαι καὶ εἰς τοῦτο ἐλήλυθα  
I I To this born and To this cause came I  
G1473 G1473 G1519 G5124 G1080 G2532 G1519 G5124 G2064

εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἵνα μαρτυρήσω τῇ ἀληθείᾳ πᾶς  
To G3588 the world that I should bear witness G3588 the truth Every one  
G1519 G2889 G2443 G3140 G3588 G225 G3956

ὁ ὅν ἐκ τῆς ἀληθείᾳς ἀκούει μου τῆς φωνῆς  
that is of the truth heareth my G3588 voice  
G3588 G5607 G1537 G225 G191 G3450 G3588 G5456

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 John 4:6** (Truth): We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

**John 8:47** (Parallel theme): He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

**John 8:14** (Truth): Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

**1 John 3:19** (Truth): And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

**Isaiah 55:4** (Witness): Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

**John 14:6** (Truth): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**John 7:17** (Parallel theme): If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

**1 Timothy 6:13** (Witness): I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

**1 Peter 1:22** (Truth): Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

**1 John 5:20** (Truth): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.