

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

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

εἶπεν	οὖν	αὐτῷ	ὁ	Πιλᾶτος	Οὐκοῦν	βασιλεύς	εἶ	
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	εἰμι
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	ἀληθείας	πᾶς	
To	G3588	the world	that	I should bear witness	G3588	the truth	Every one	
G1519		G2889	G2443	G3140		G225	G3956	
ὁ	ὢν	ἐκ	τῆς	ἀληθείας	ἀκούει	μου	τῆς	φωνῆς
G3588	that is	of	G3588	the truth	heareth	my	G3588	voice
	G5607	G1537		G225	G191	G3450		G5456

Additional Cross-References

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.