

Letter of Pilate to Tiberius

The Letter of Pontius Pilate, Which He Wrote to the Roman Emperor, Concerning Our Lord Jesus Christ.

[Pontius Pilate](#) to [Tiberius Cæsar](#) the emperor, greeting.

Upon [Jesus Christ](#), whose case I had clearly set forth to you in my last, at length by the [will](#) of the people a bitter punishment has been inflicted, myself being in a sort unwilling and rather afraid. A man, by Hercules, so [pious](#) and strict, no age has ever had nor will have. But wonderful were the efforts of the people themselves, and the unanimity of all the [scribes](#) and chief men and elders, to crucify this ambassador of [truth](#), notwithstanding that their own [prophets](#), and after our manner the sibyls, warned them against it: and supernatural signs appeared while he was hanging, and, in the opinion of [philosophers](#), threatened destruction to the whole world. His [disciples](#) are flourishing, in their work and the regulation of their lives not belying their master; yea, in his name most beneficent. Had I not been afraid of the rising of a sedition among the people, who were just on the point of breaking out, perhaps this man would still have been alive to us; although, urged more by fidelity to your dignity than induced by my own wishes, I did not according to my strength resist that innocent blood free from the whole charge *brought against it*, but [unjustly](#), through the malignity of [men](#), should be sold and suffer, yet, as the [Scriptures](#) signify, to their own destruction. Farewell. 28th March.

About this page

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