

RESEARCH AND BIBLE STUDY

THE CHIEF RESPONSIBILITY

The accounts of the death of Christ place the burden of chief responsibility upon the representatives of the Jewish nation. Pilate had his share to be sure, but it was purely secondary and personal.

Pilate really had no wish that Jesus should be put to death; he desired rather to deliver him; and he consented to his death at last only as a matter of expediency.

But the Jews were intent upon destroying Jesus. They had long plotted to compass his death. They had bribed Judas to betray him. They condemned him with indecent haste in their own council. They pressed the suit against him before Pilate with malignant earnestness.

When Pilate washed his hands in the presence of Christ's enemies and declared, "*I am innocent of the blood of this just person,*" it did not acquit him of responsibility; but when the rulers cried out, "*His blood be on us and our children*" (Matthew 27:25), they took upon themselves the dreadful burden of guilt.

And in harmony with this they were made the principals in his crucifixion; for it is said by John, at the close of the account of the trial, that Pilate "*delivered him therefore to them to be crucified.*" To THEM---the Roman soldiers were only their agents.

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.....METHODIST

The real conquest of Christianity began with the crucifixion of Christ.

Men have been known to despair of light just at break of day.

The stars begin to shine just after the sun sets.

From the viewpoint of God the cross was no calamity to his cause.

The felling of a great tree may be the beginning of a great Temple.

You cannot hang truth on a tree, nor crucify it on a cross.

The supreme meaning of Calvary was in the sufferings of his soul.

Jesus said: "*My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.*"

Not the thorns on his brow, nor the nails in his hands, nor the spikes through his feet were the source of his suffering, ---but the SINS of the world. (Kosmos)

Infinite capacity is capable of infinite anguish.

You can be MUSICAL and not be a MUSCIAN. So you may APPREHEND what you cannot comprehend.

It were better to be crucified in company with Christ---Than to have angels for companions in crime and sin...