# [A grey square with black text Description automatically generated](https://andrewkarr.org)

# [**John 18:1-40**](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/John%2018.1-40)**– Jesus Taken Into Custody**

[**1**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-1.htm)When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples. [**2**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-2.htm)Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-3.htm)Judas then, having received the *Roman* cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. [**4**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-4.htm)So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” [**5**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-5.htm)They answered Him, “Jesus the Nazarene.” He said to them, “I am *He.*” And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. [**6**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-6.htm)So when He said to them, “**I am***He,*” they drew back and **fell** to the **ground**. [**7**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-7.htm)Therefore He again asked them, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus the Nazarene.” [**8**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-8.htm)Jesus answered, “I told you that I am *He;* so if you seek Me, let these go their way,” [**9**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-9.htm)to fulfill the word which He spoke, “Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one.” [**10**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-10.htm)Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave’s name was Malchus. [**11**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-11.htm)So Jesus said to Peter, “Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?”

[**12**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-12.htm)So the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, [**13**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-13.htm)and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. [**14**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-14.htm)Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people.

[**15**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-15.htm)Simon Peter was following Jesus, and *so* *was* another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, [**16**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-16.htm)but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in. [**17**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-17.htm)Then the slave-girl who kept the door said to Peter, “You are not also *one* of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” [**18**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-18.htm)Now the slaves and the officers were standing *there,* having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself.

[**19**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-19.htm)The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. [**20**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-20.htm)Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. [**21**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-21.htm)“Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said.” [**22**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-22.htm)When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, “Is that the way You answer the high priest?” [**23**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-23.htm)Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?” [**24**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-24.htm)So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

[**25**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-25.htm)Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, “You are not also *one* of His disciples, are you?” He denied *it,* and said, “I am not.” [**26**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-26.htm)One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, “Did I not see you in the garden with Him?” [**27**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-27.htm)Peter then denied *it* again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

[**28**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-28.htm)Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. [**29**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-29.htm)Therefore Pilate went out to them and said, “What accusation do you bring against this Man?” [**30**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-30.htm)They answered and said to him, “If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him to you.” [**31**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-31.htm)So Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law.” The Jews said to him, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death,” [**32**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-32.htm)to fulfill the word of Jesus which He spoke, signifying by what kind of death He was about to die.

[**33**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-33.htm)Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” [**34**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-34.htm)Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own initiative, or did others tell you about Me?” [**35**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-35.htm)Pilate answered, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests delivered You to me; what have You done?” [**36**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-36.htm)Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm.” [**37**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-37.htm)Therefore Pilate said to Him, “So You are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say *correctly* that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the **truth**. Everyone who is of the **truth** hears My voice.” [**38**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-38.htm)Pilate said to Him, “What is **truth**?”

      And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, “I find no guilt in Him. [**39**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-39.htm)“But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover; do you wish then that I release for you the King of the Jews?” [**40**](http://biblehub.com/john/18-40.htm)So they cried out again, saying, “Not this Man, but Barabbas.” Now Barabbas was a robber.

**Interesting Words**

##### I am

**I** – (ἐγώ – Greek) – egó [►](https://biblehub.com/greek/1473.htm) I, me, the first-person pronoun.  
  
**am** – (εἰμί – Greek) – eimi [►](https://biblehub.com/greek/1510.htm) to be, to exist, to happen, to be present.  
  
▪︎ phrase “**I am**” used throughout the Gospel of John – [John 8:12](https://ref.ly/John%208.12;nasb95?t=biblia), [58](https://ref.ly/John%208.58;nasb95?t=biblia), [14:6](https://ref.ly/John%2014.6;nasb95?t=biblia); [Rev 1:8](https://ref.ly/Rev%201.8;nasb95?t=biblia);  
▪︎ It is also used in the Greek version of the Old Testament (LXX) – [Exod 3:14](https://ref.ly/Exod%203.14;nasb95?t=biblia); [Isa 48:12](https://ref.ly/Isa%2048.12;nasb95?t=biblia)

##### fell

(πίπτω – Greek) – piptó [►](https://biblehub.com/greek/4098.htm) to fall, fall under (as under condemnation), fall prostrate – [Matt 17:5-6](https://ref.ly/Matt%2017.5-6;nasb95?t=biblia), [Luke 8:41](https://ref.ly/Luke%208.41;nasb95?t=biblia);

##### ground

(χαμαί – Greek) – chamai [►](https://biblehub.com/greek/5476.htm) On the ground, to the ground, two occurrences in the NT – [John 9:6](https://ref.ly/John%209.6;nasb95?t=biblia)

##### truth

(ἀλήθεια – Greek) – alétheia [►](https://biblehub.com/greek/225.htm) truth, but not merely truth as spoken; truth of idea, reality, sincerity, truth in the moral sphere, divine truth revealed to man, straightforwardness – [John 1:17](https://ref.ly/John%201.17;nasb95?t=biblia), [3:21](https://ref.ly/John%203.21;nasb95?t=biblia), [8:32](https://ref.ly/John%208.32;nasb95?t=biblia), [14:6](https://ref.ly/John%2014.6;nasb95?t=biblia), [15:26](https://ref.ly/John%2015.26;nasb95?t=biblia), [16:13](https://ref.ly/John%2016.13;nasb95?t=biblia);

**Cross References**

▪︎ [Matt 26:48](https://ref.ly/Matt%2026.48;nasb95?t=biblia)  
▪︎ [Mark 14:43](https://ref.ly/Mark%2014.43;nasb95?t=biblia), [44-45](https://ref.ly/Mark%2014.44-45;nasb95?t=biblia);  
▪︎ [Luke 22:47-48](https://ref.ly/Luke%2022.47-48;nasb95?t=biblia)

**Discussion Questions**

Download questions to Word document (click here). Enter your answers, then meet with some friends to discuss. You can also compare your answers to mine for a virtual discussion… to return… back.

###### 1. Explain [John 18:4](https://ref.ly/John%2018.4;nasb95?t=biblia) in terms of the character of God (e.g. Sovereignty, Omniscience)

###### ▪︎ ▪︎

###### 2. What does [John 18:6](https://ref.ly/John%2018.6;nasb95?t=biblia) tell you about the power that Jesus had at His disposal?

###### ▪︎ ▪︎

###### 3. What support does Judas’ identification of Jesus give to the plan of God (see also Synoptic gospels, i.e. [Matt 26:48](https://ref.ly/Matt%2026.48;nasb95?t=biblia))?

###### ▪︎ ▪︎

###### 4. What does [John 18:13-14](https://ref.ly/John%2018.13-14;nasb95?t=biblia) tell you about the Jewish leadership’s political empire?

###### ▪︎ ▪︎

###### 5. Matthew said “all the disciples abandoned Him” (e.g. [Matt 26:56](https://ref.ly/Matt%2026.56;nasb95?t=biblia); [John 16:32](https://ref.ly/John%2016.32;nasb95?t=biblia)). How do you reconcile this with [John 18:15](https://ref.ly/John%2018.15;nasb95?t=biblia), [16](https://ref.ly/John%2018.16;nasb95?t=biblia)?

###### ▪︎ ▪︎

###### 6.How did Jesus respond to the apparent conflict He had with the high priest ([John 18:21-22](https://ref.ly/John%2018.21-22;nasb95?t=biblia))? What was the result?

###### ▪︎ ▪︎

###### 7.What does [John 18:28](https://ref.ly/John%2018.28;nasb95?t=biblia), [30-31](https://ref.ly/John%2018.30-31;nasb95?t=biblia) tell you about the religious leaders?

###### ▪︎ ▪︎

###### 8. In your opinion, what is the most important aspect of Jesus’ encounter with Pilate?

###### ▪︎ ▪︎

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