

THE BULWARK

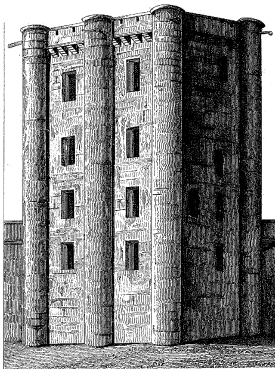
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*"Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following"*
Psalms 48:13

"SO THEN YOU ARE A KING..."

It had been an extremely long and draining night. Now as dawn cast its opening rays, Jesus stood before Pilate. Emotions were exceptionally on edge as accusations were being hurled at Him, not the least of which was political in nature. *"We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."* (Luke 23:2) Pilate upon hearing the so-called charges, turned to Jesus and inquired of Him, *"Are you the King of the Jews"* (Luke 23:3), Jesus replied, *"It is as you say."* (ibid.) Whereupon Pilate said that he found no guilt in Jesus. However, Pilate was a politician and sought to appease the Jewish hierarchy, so he sent Jesus to see Herod. As the 23rd chapter of Luke unfolds, it makes it evident that neither Herod nor Pilate found in Jesus any guilt. Yet Pilate eventually succumbed to the pressure of the people (see vs. 23-25)



as well what is seen in Acts 8:12. *"But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike."*

On the day of Pentecost, Peter presented a powerful sermon that showed the linkage from David to Jesus and that Jesus was the prom-

ised descendant that would sit upon the throne (see Acts 2:25—36); albeit not over a physical kingdom but a spiritual kingdom. *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."* By Jesus going to the cross, He set in motion a chain of events that to this day saves the souls of mankind; provided one is willing to obey. *"For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."* (Colossians 1:13-14)

Jesus would go to tell Pilate, *"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."* (John 18:36) From the very outset, Jesus affirmed He was the promised King, but He also affirmed, much to the chagrin of most, that His kingdom would not be physical in nature. All glory and praise to God, for Jesus did indeed take on the position of *"...the only Sovereign, King of kings and Lord of lords."* (1Timothy 6:15) Consider

Interesting to note that prior to the day of Pentecost the kingdom was talked about in the future tense, whereas after it is spoke of in the present tense. Jesus, the Christ seated on His throne, King over His kingdom, which is the church. He is an absolute monarch, with all authority residing in Him. *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."* (Colossians 3:17) Who can doubt the kingship or the kingdom of Christ? (wbe)