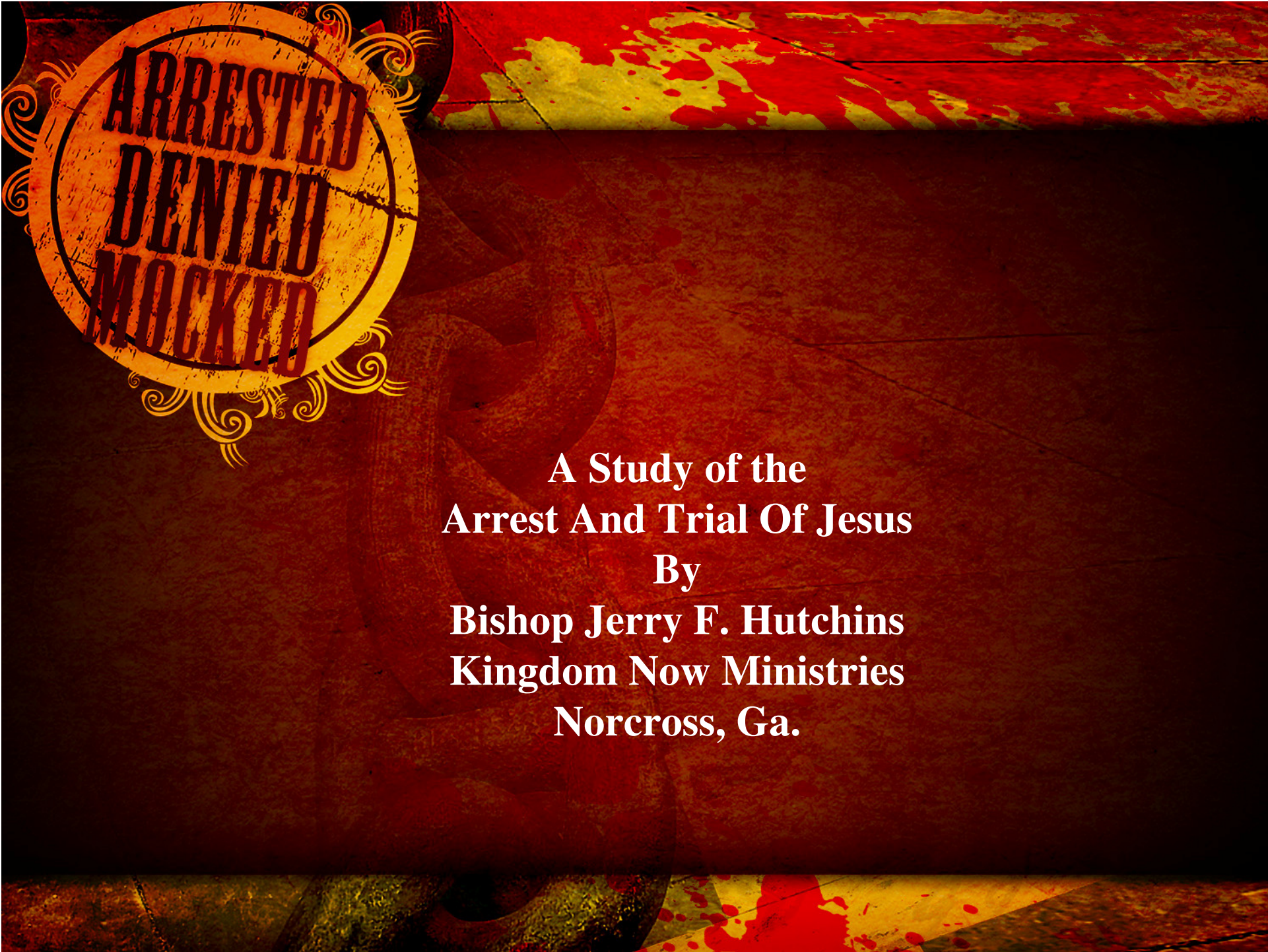



**ARRESTED
DENIED
MOCKED**



**ARRESTED
DENIED
MOCKED**

**A Study of the
Arrest And Trial Of Jesus
By
Bishop Jerry F. Hutchins
Kingdom Now Ministries
Norcross, Ga.**

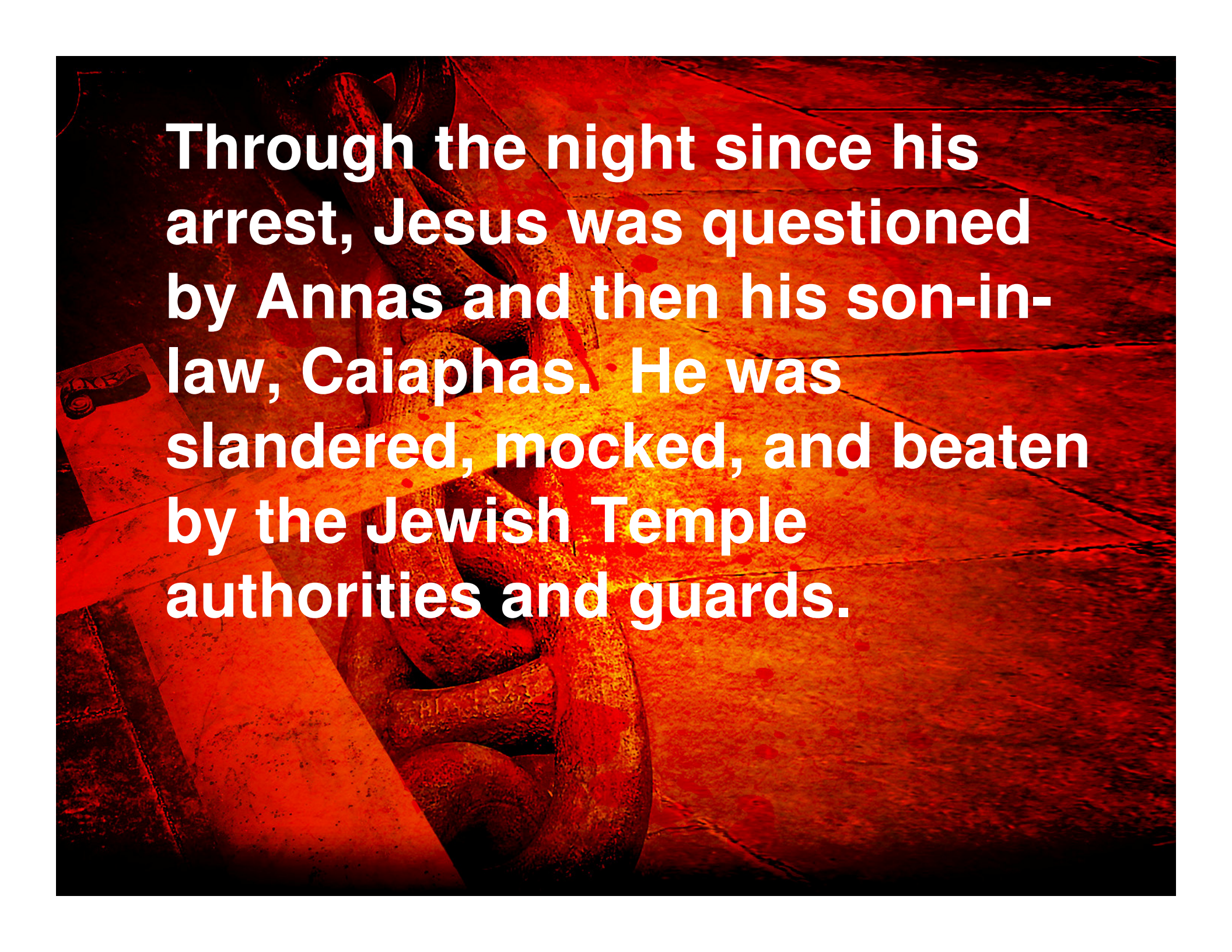


John 18:28-19:16

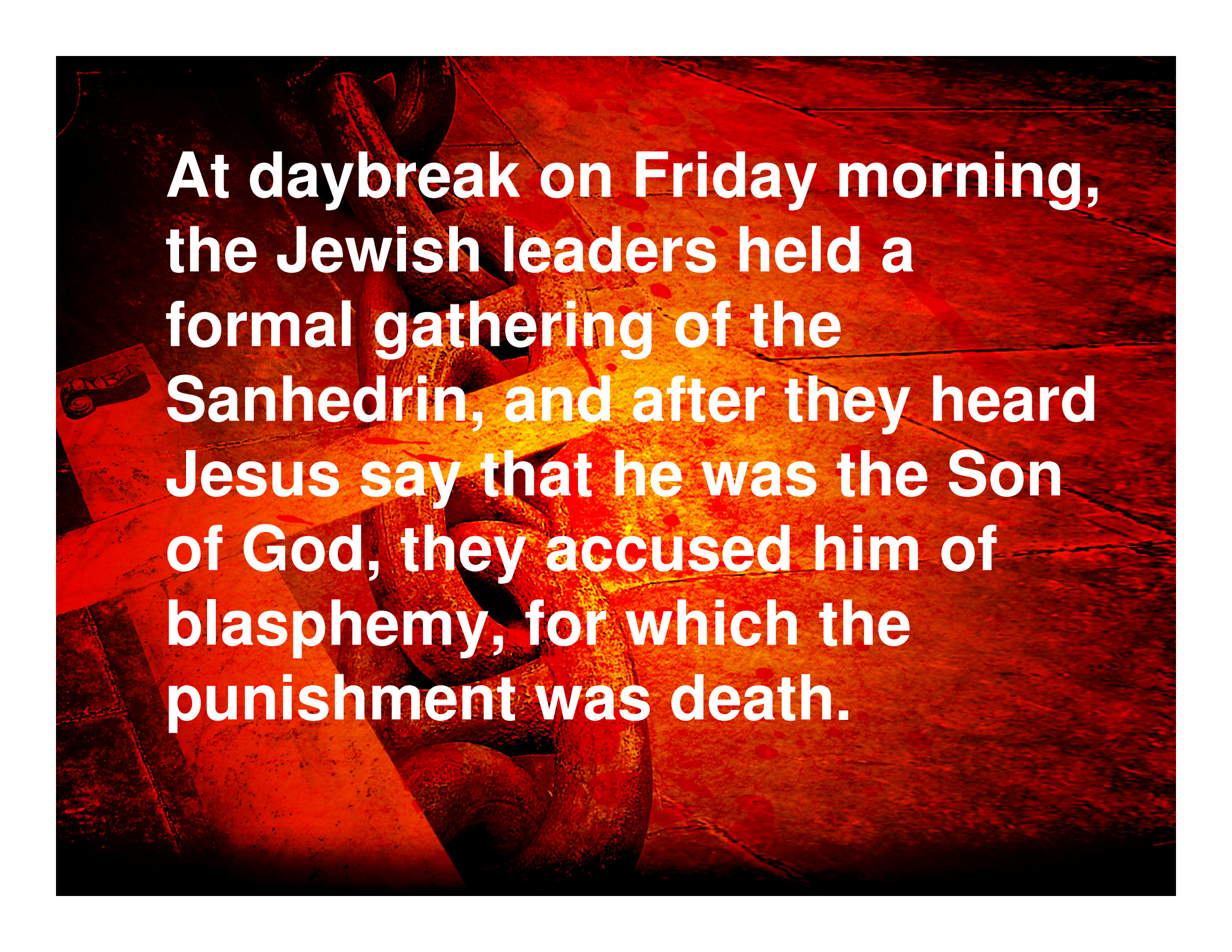
Luke 23:1-25

Matt. 27:1-2, 11-26

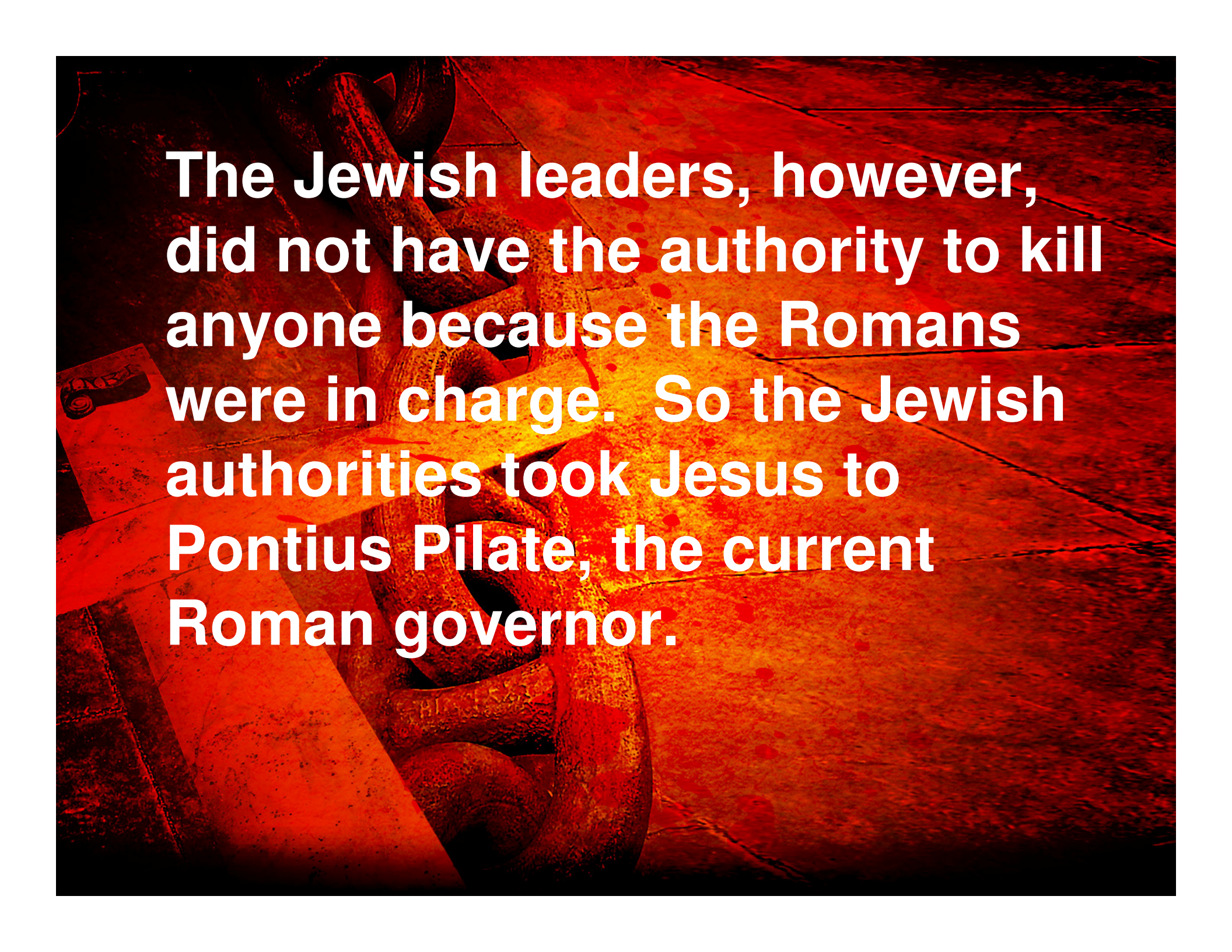
Mark 15:1-15



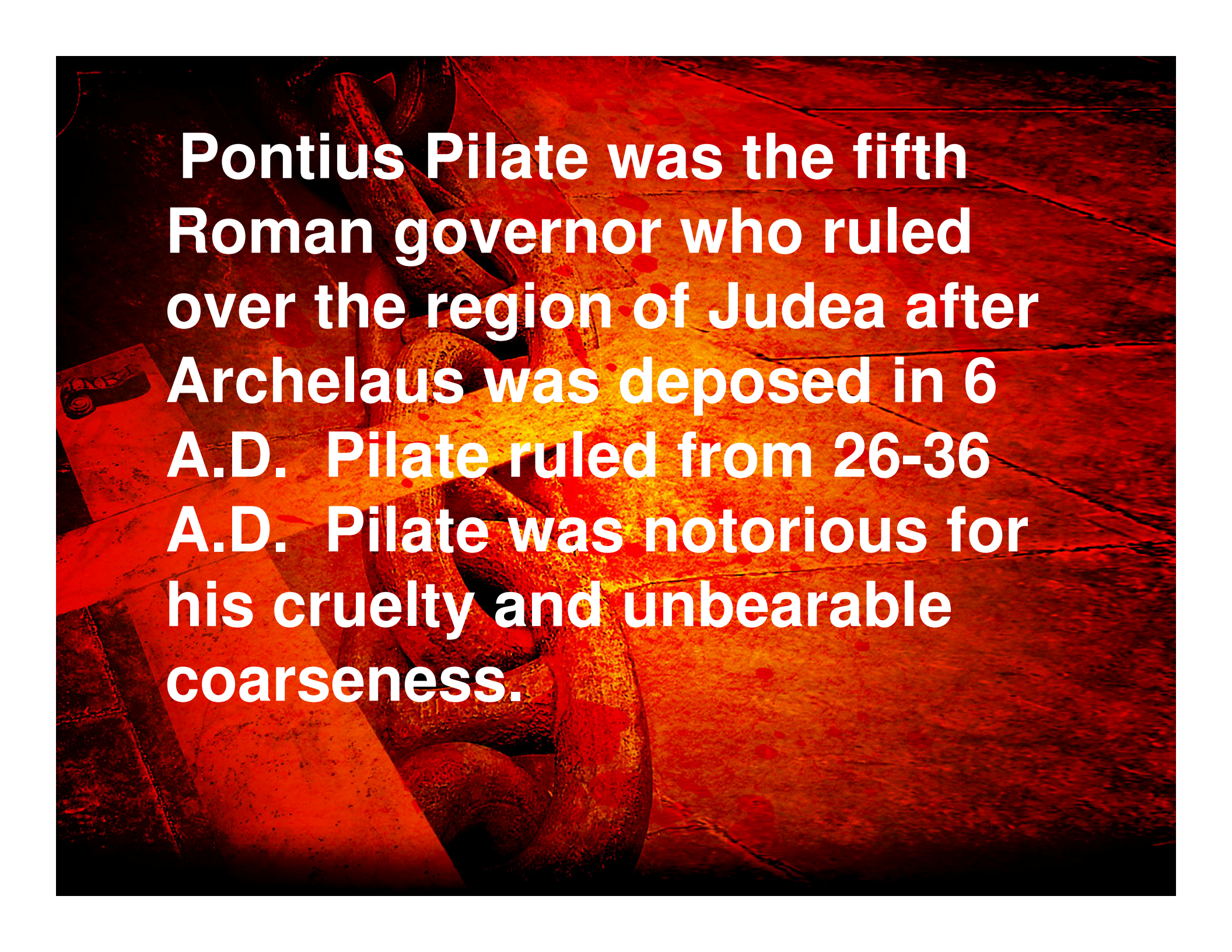
Through the night since his arrest, Jesus was questioned by Annas and then his son-in-law, Caiaphas. He was slandered, mocked, and beaten by the Jewish Temple authorities and guards.



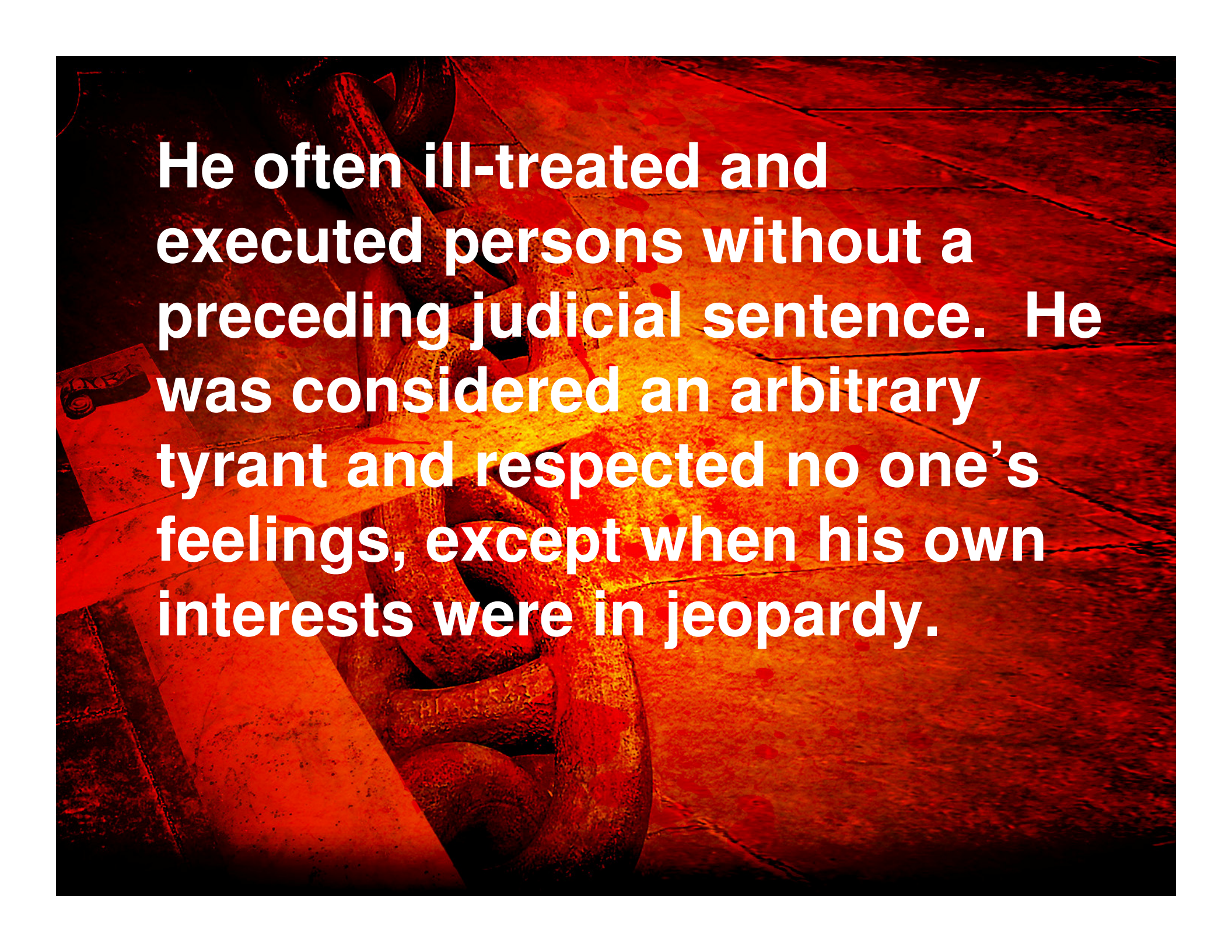
At daybreak on Friday morning, the Jewish leaders held a formal gathering of the Sanhedrin, and after they heard Jesus say that he was the Son of God, they accused him of blasphemy, for which the punishment was death.



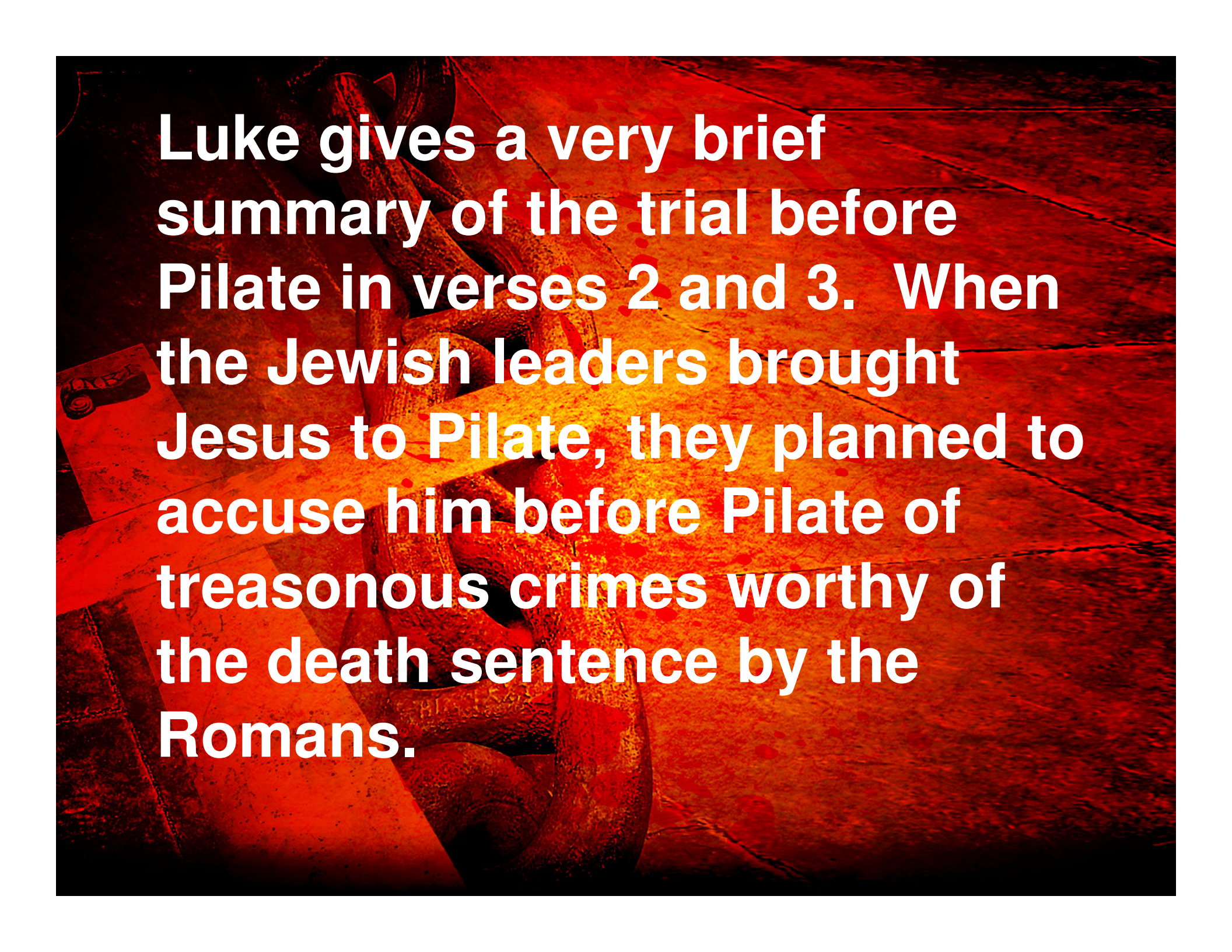
The Jewish leaders, however, did not have the authority to kill anyone because the Romans were in charge. So the Jewish authorities took Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the current Roman governor.



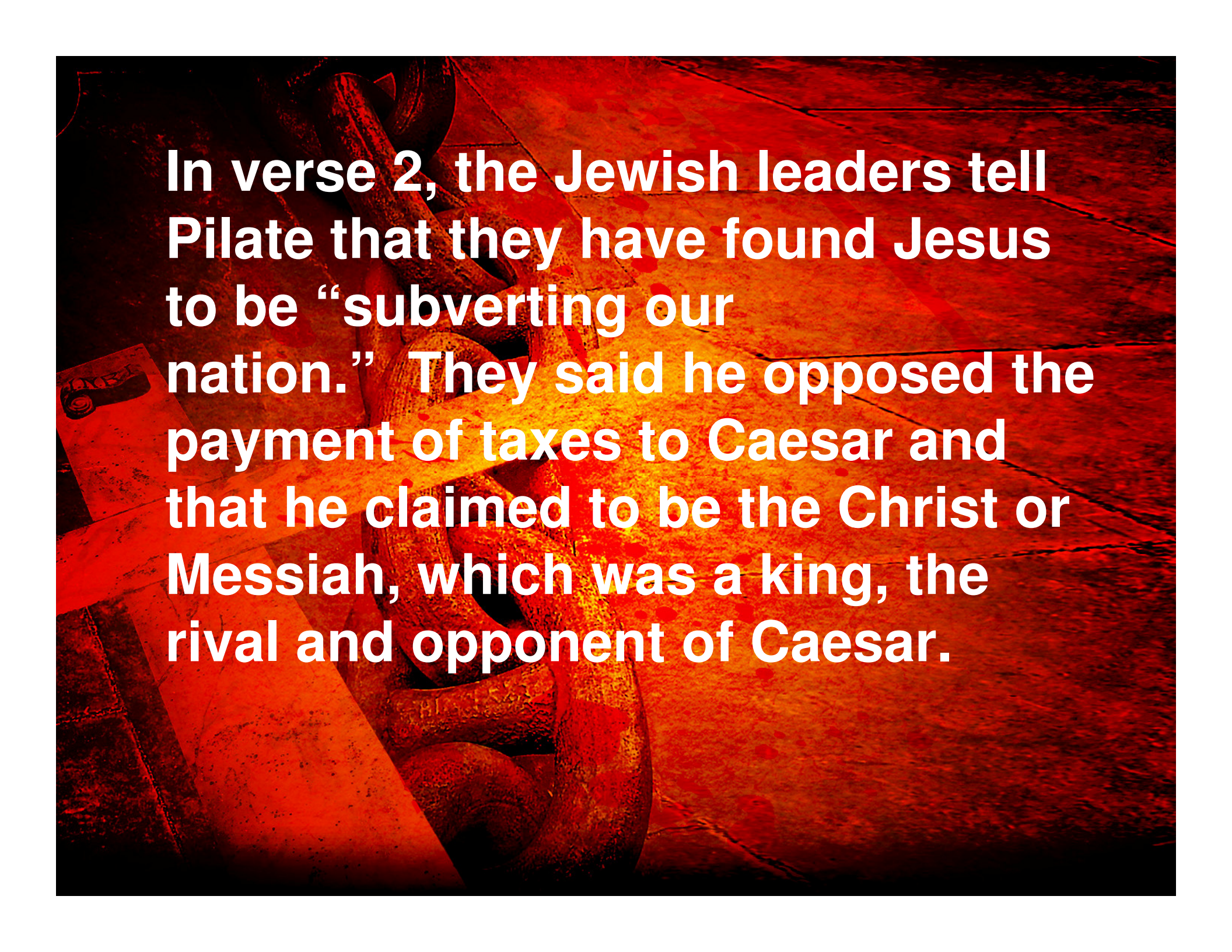
Pontius Pilate was the fifth Roman governor who ruled over the region of Judea after Archelaus was deposed in 6 A.D. Pilate ruled from 26-36 A.D. Pilate was notorious for his cruelty and unbearable coarseness.



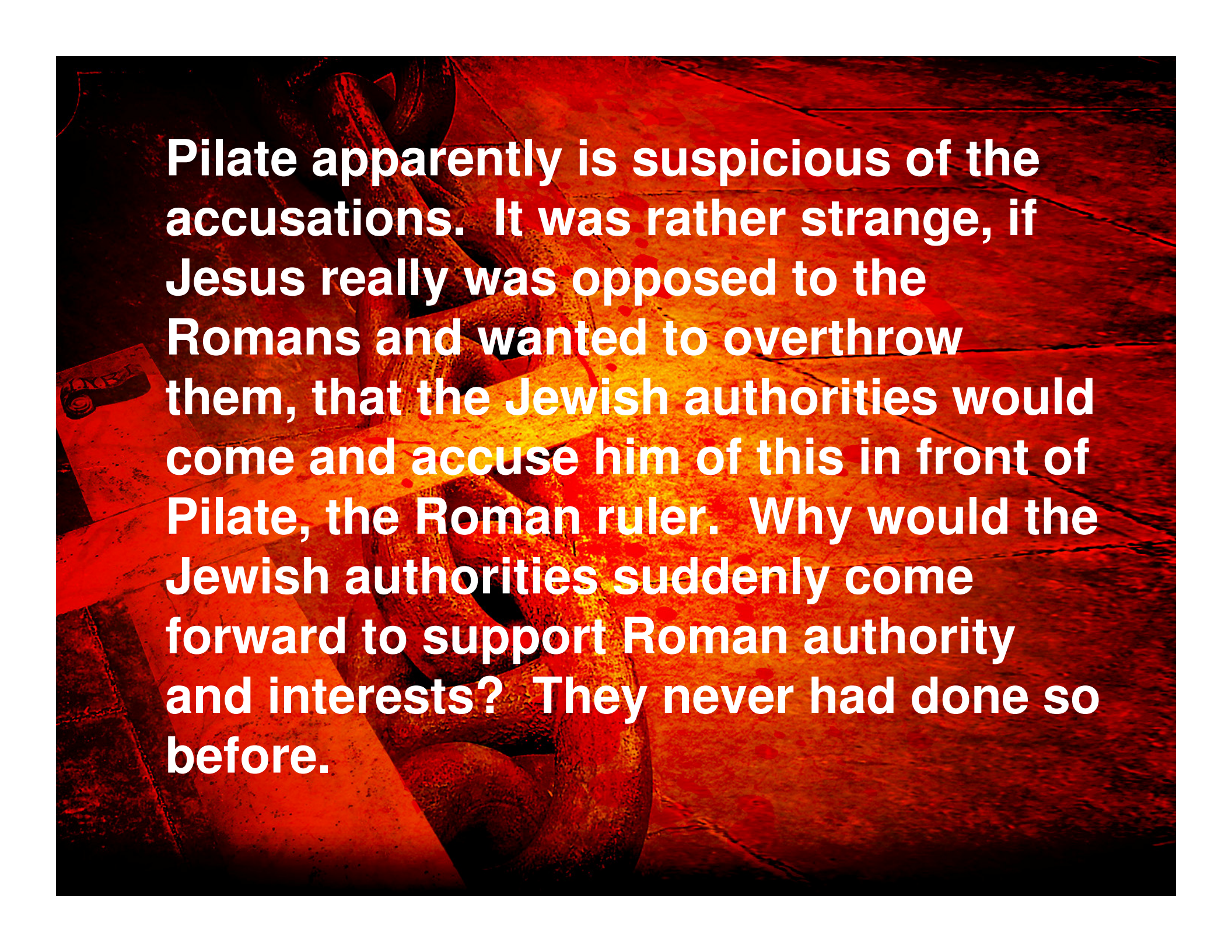
He often ill-treated and executed persons without a preceding judicial sentence. He was considered an arbitrary tyrant and respected no one's feelings, except when his own interests were in jeopardy.



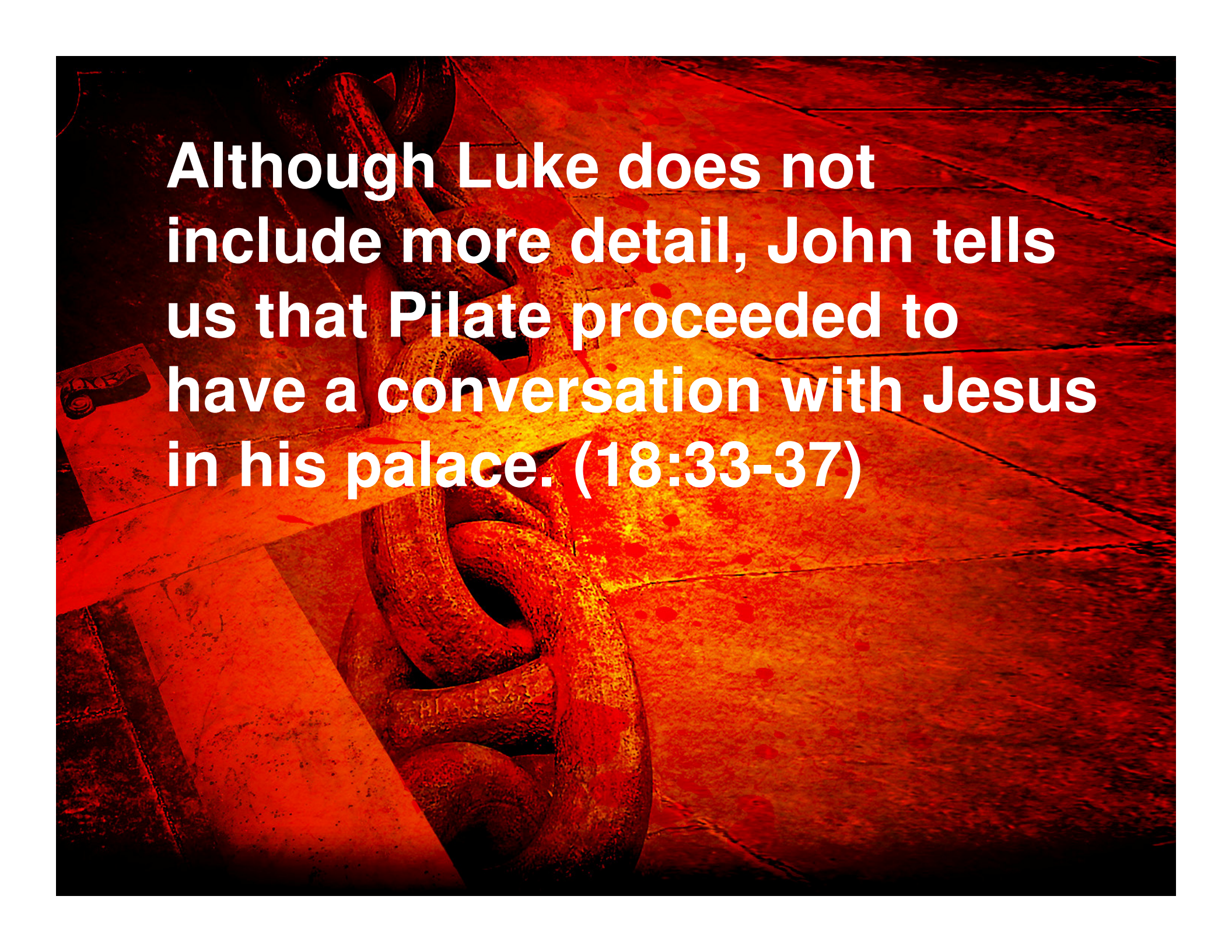
Luke gives a very brief summary of the trial before Pilate in verses 2 and 3. When the Jewish leaders brought Jesus to Pilate, they planned to accuse him before Pilate of treasonous crimes worthy of the death sentence by the Romans.



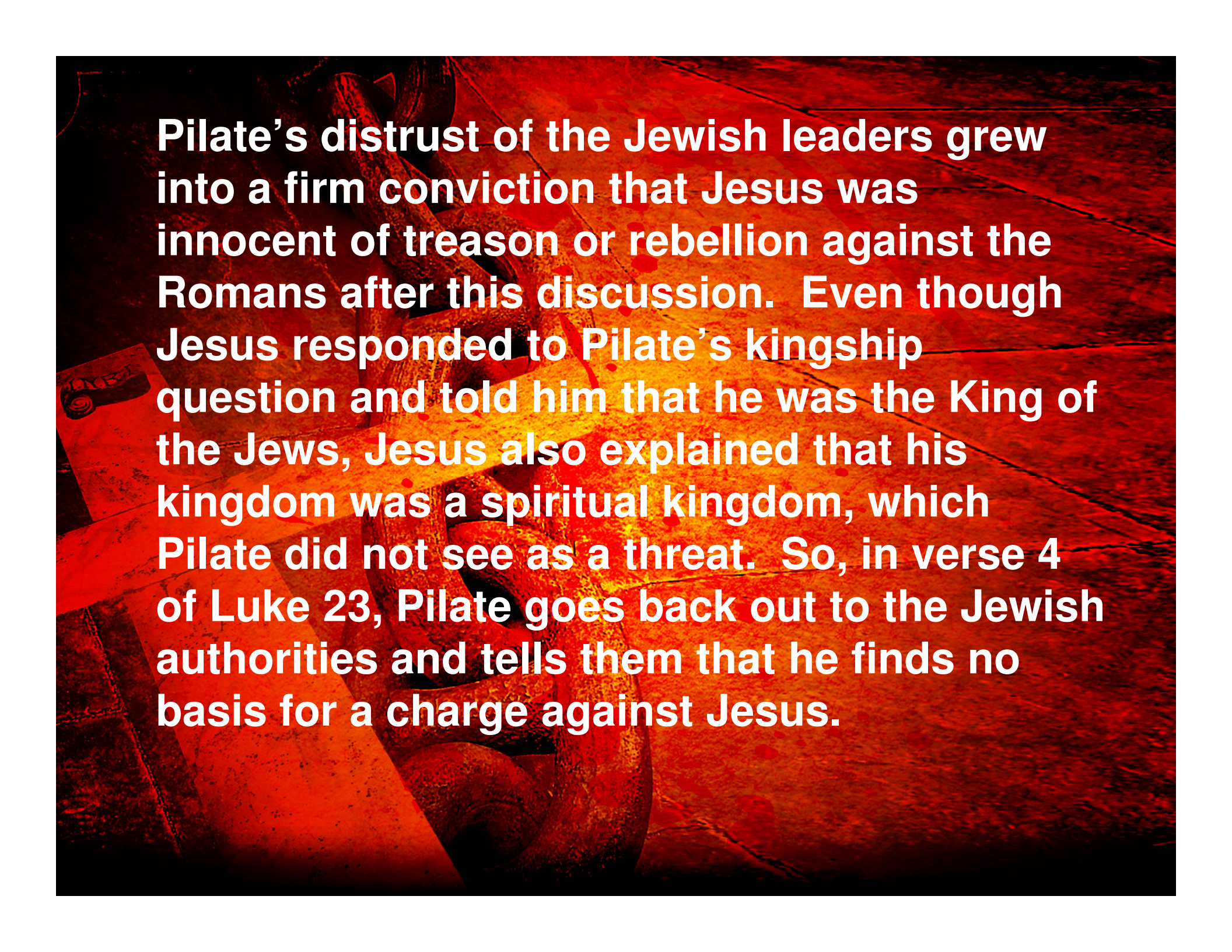
In verse 2, the Jewish leaders tell Pilate that they have found Jesus to be “subverting our nation.” They said he opposed the payment of taxes to Caesar and that he claimed to be the Christ or Messiah, which was a king, the rival and opponent of Caesar.



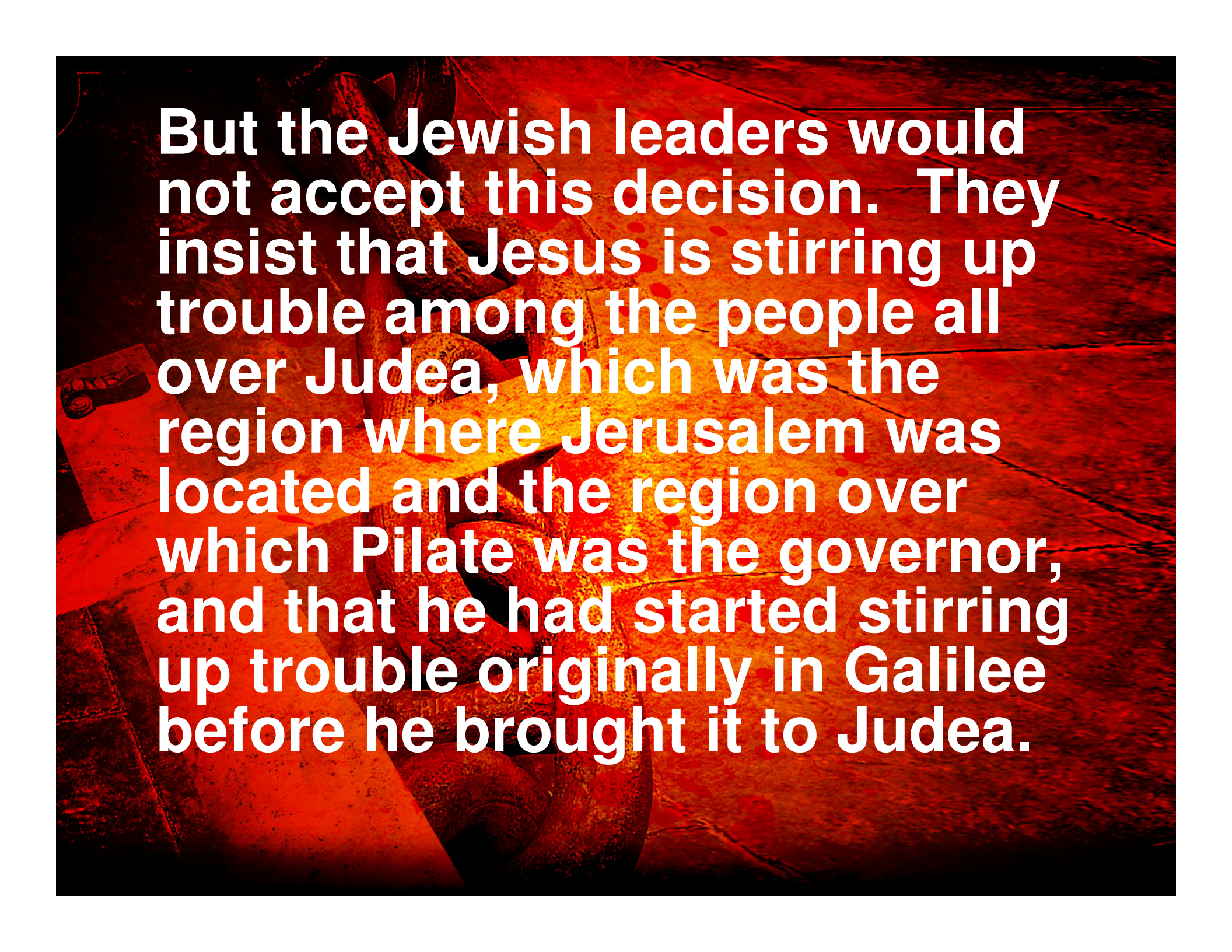
Pilate apparently is suspicious of the accusations. It was rather strange, if Jesus really was opposed to the Romans and wanted to overthrow them, that the Jewish authorities would come and accuse him of this in front of Pilate, the Roman ruler. Why would the Jewish authorities suddenly come forward to support Roman authority and interests? They never had done so before.



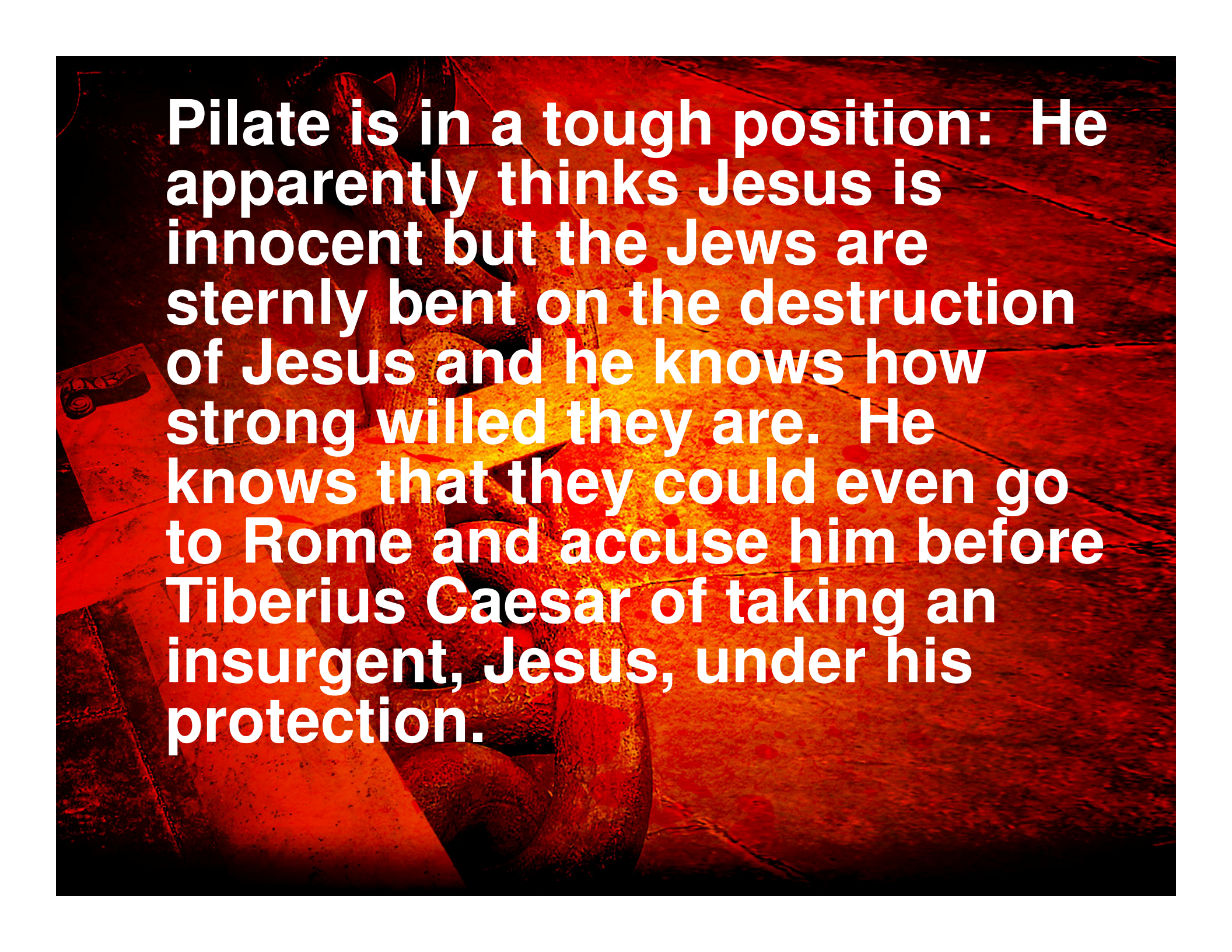
Although Luke does not include more detail, John tells us that Pilate proceeded to have a conversation with Jesus in his palace. (18:33-37)



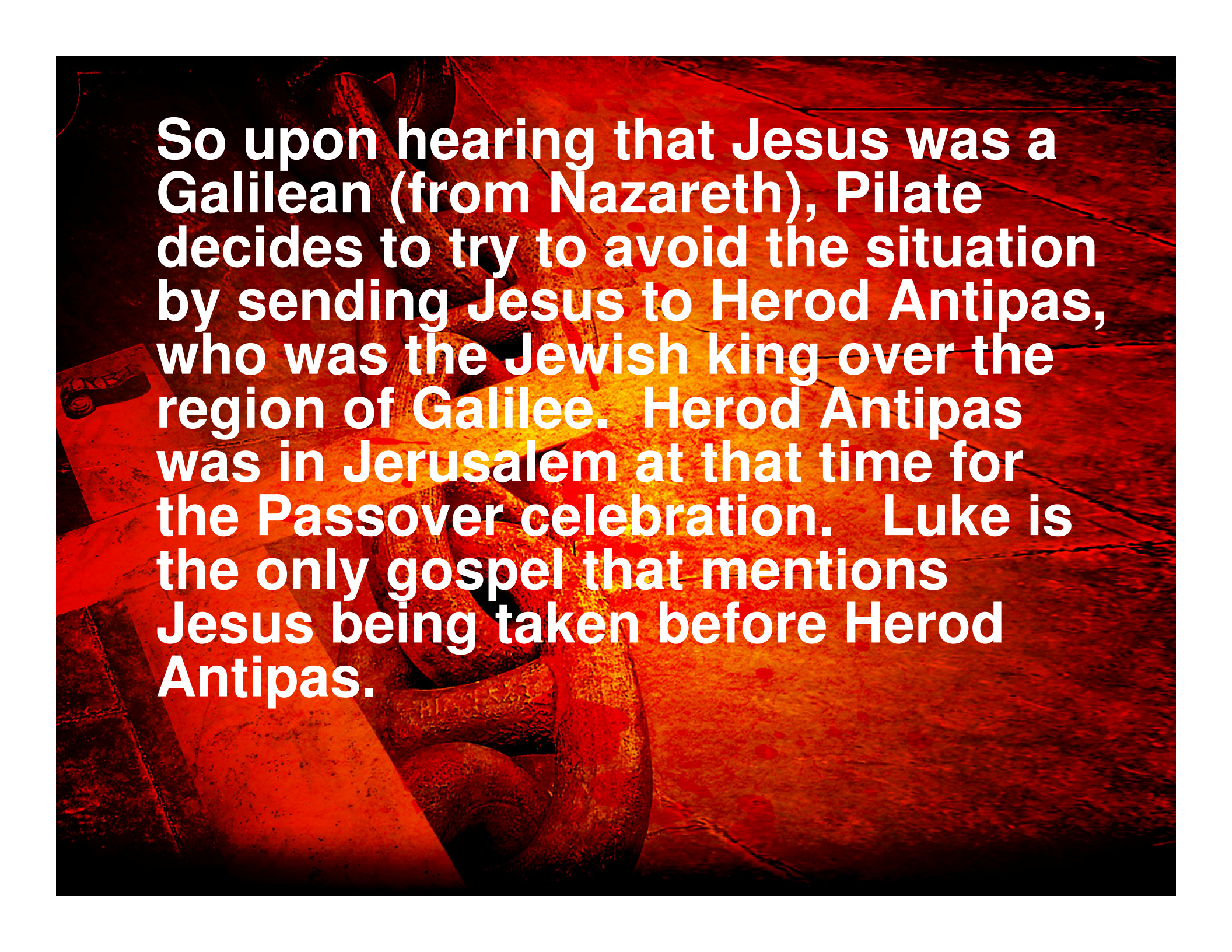
Pilate's distrust of the Jewish leaders grew into a firm conviction that Jesus was innocent of treason or rebellion against the Romans after this discussion. Even though Jesus responded to Pilate's kingship question and told him that he was the King of the Jews, Jesus also explained that his kingdom was a spiritual kingdom, which Pilate did not see as a threat. So, in verse 4 of Luke 23, Pilate goes back out to the Jewish authorities and tells them that he finds no basis for a charge against Jesus.



But the Jewish leaders would not accept this decision. They insist that Jesus is stirring up trouble among the people all over Judea, which was the region where Jerusalem was located and the region over which Pilate was the governor, and that he had started stirring up trouble originally in Galilee before he brought it to Judea.



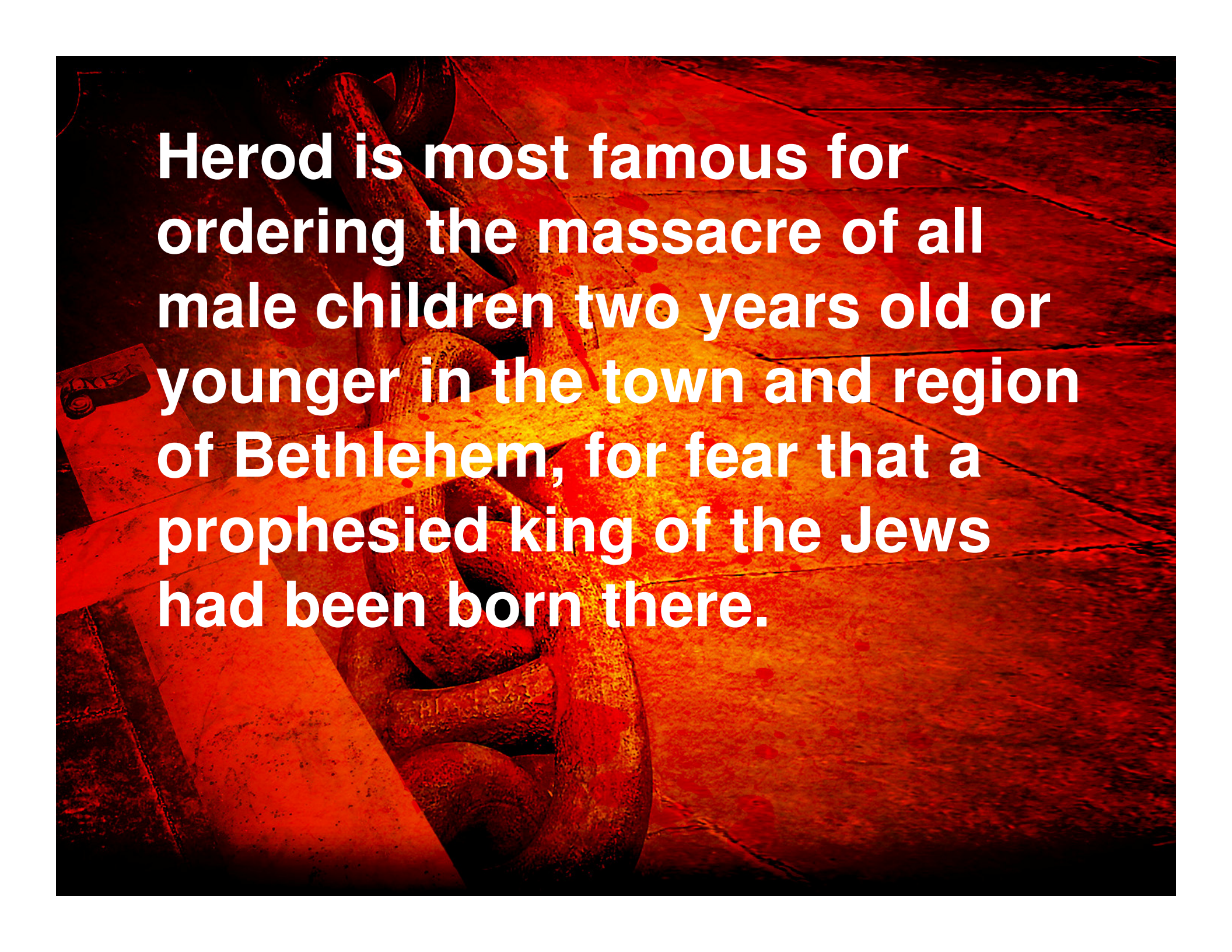
Pilate is in a tough position: He apparently thinks Jesus is innocent but the Jews are sternly bent on the destruction of Jesus and he knows how strong willed they are. He knows that they could even go to Rome and accuse him before Tiberius Caesar of taking an insurgent, Jesus, under his protection.



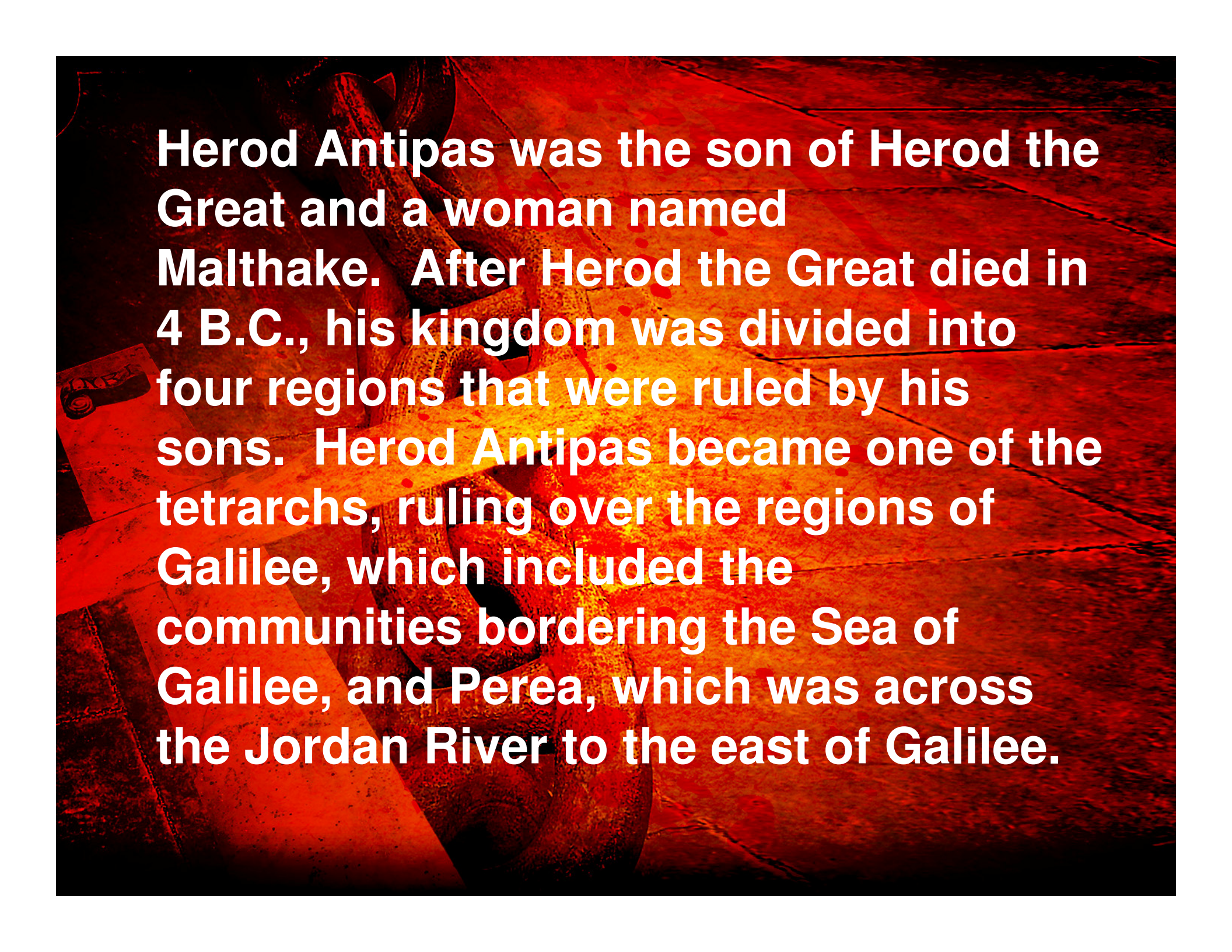
So upon hearing that Jesus was a Galilean (from Nazareth), Pilate decides to try to avoid the situation by sending Jesus to Herod Antipas, who was the Jewish king over the region of Galilee. Herod Antipas was in Jerusalem at that time for the Passover celebration. Luke is the only gospel that mentions Jesus being taken before Herod Antipas.

The Herods

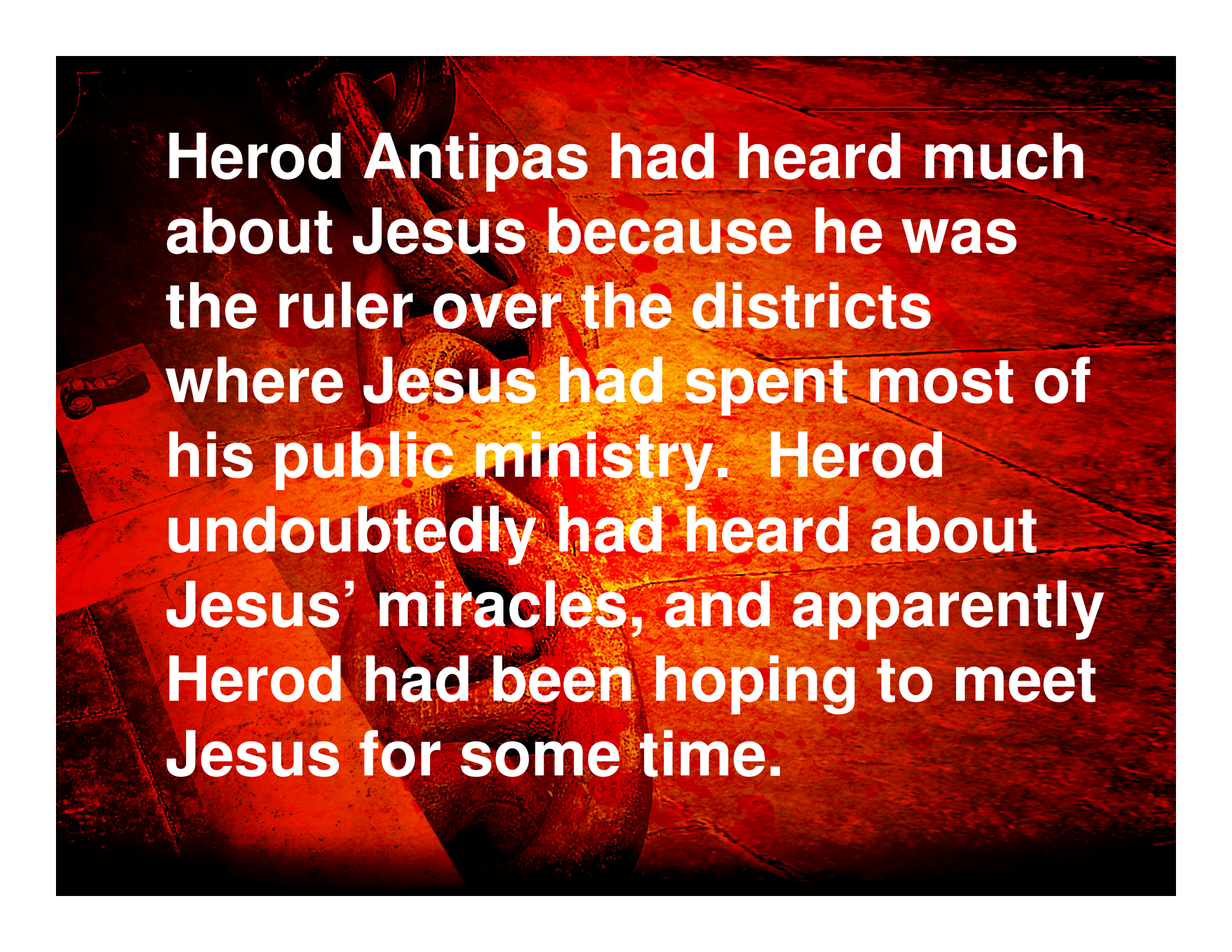
Herod the Great (74-4 B.C.), the son of an Idumean (Edomite) father and Arabian mother, became king of Judea in 37 B.C. through the favor of Rome. Though of non-Jewish blood, Herod professed to observe Jewish law, and rebuilt the ruined temple in Jerusalem. But he also taxed the people excessively and was notoriously ruthless. Herod executed three of his own sons and Mariamne, one of his ten wives.



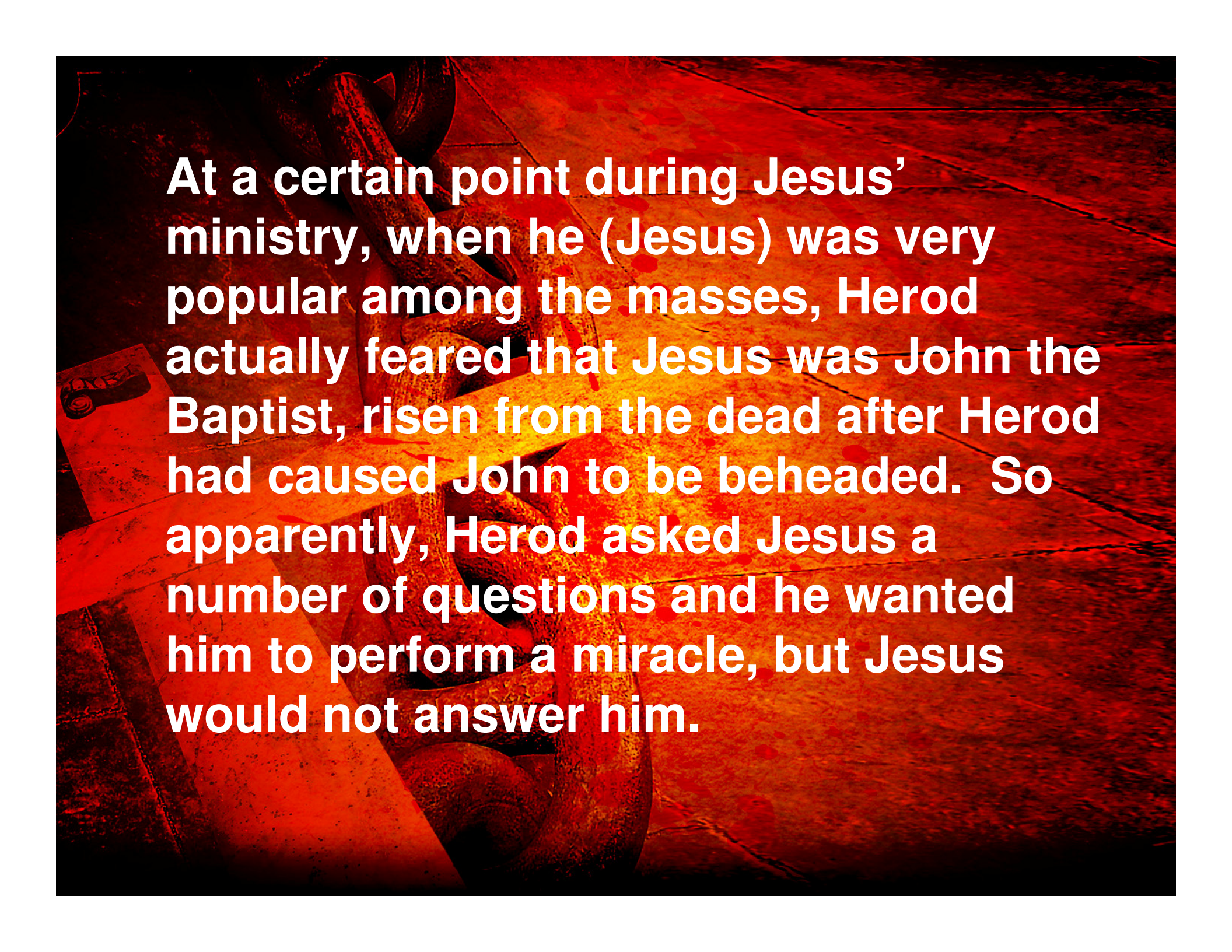
Herod is most famous for ordering the massacre of all male children two years old or younger in the town and region of Bethlehem, for fear that a prophesied king of the Jews had been born there.



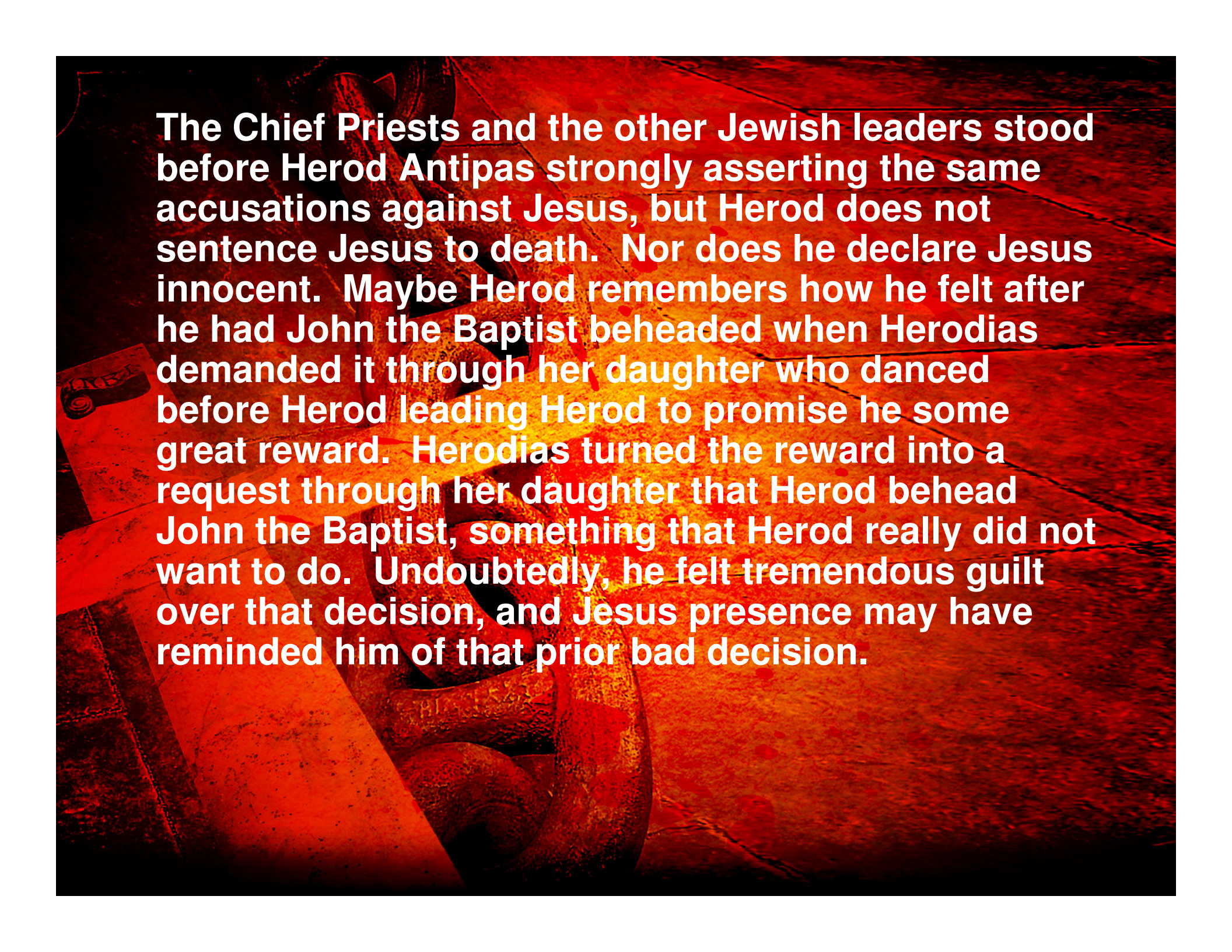
Herod Antipas was the son of Herod the Great and a woman named Malthake. After Herod the Great died in 4 B.C., his kingdom was divided into four regions that were ruled by his sons. Herod Antipas became one of the tetrarchs, ruling over the regions of Galilee, which included the communities bordering the Sea of Galilee, and Perea, which was across the Jordan River to the east of Galilee.



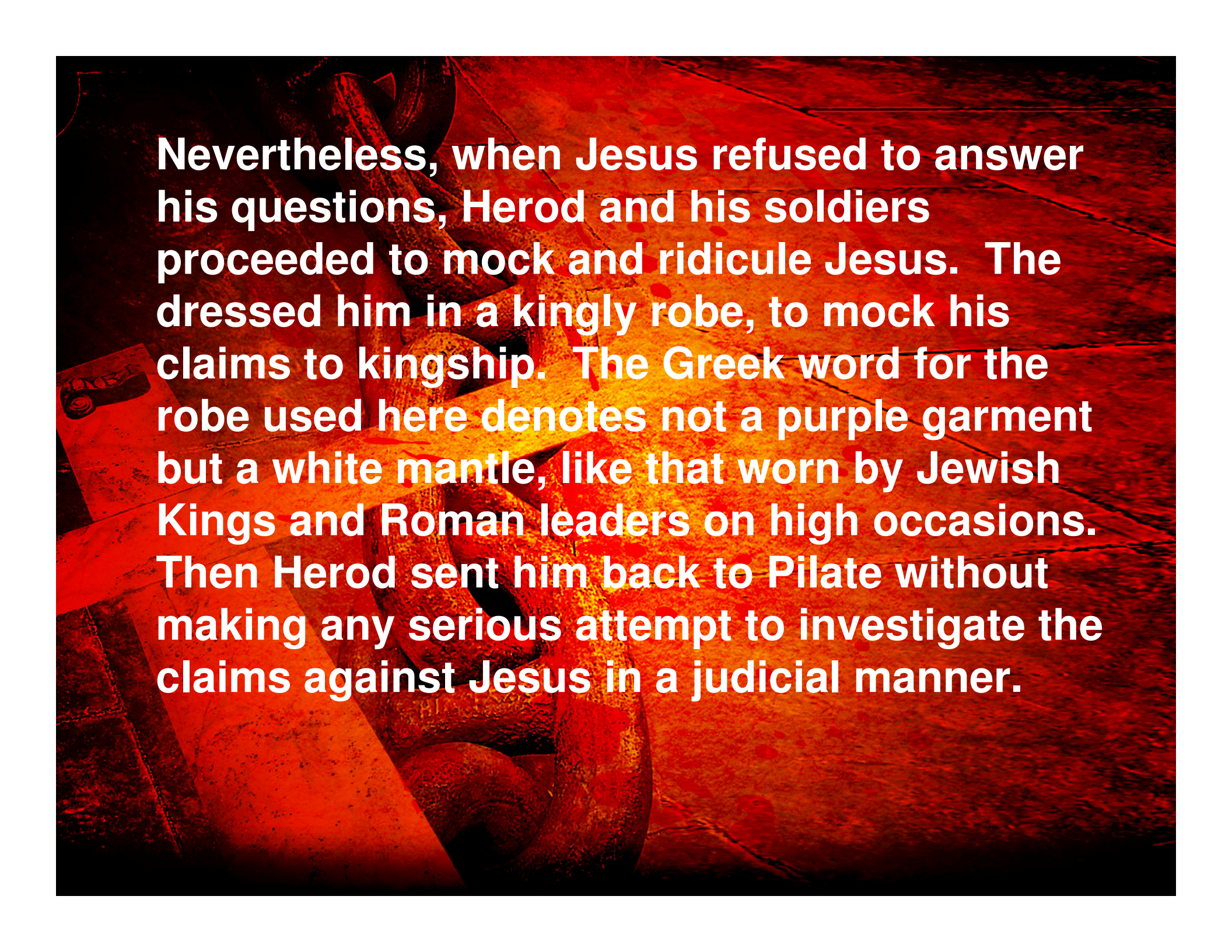
Herod Antipas had heard much about Jesus because he was the ruler over the districts where Jesus had spent most of his public ministry. Herod undoubtedly had heard about Jesus' miracles, and apparently Herod had been hoping to meet Jesus for some time.



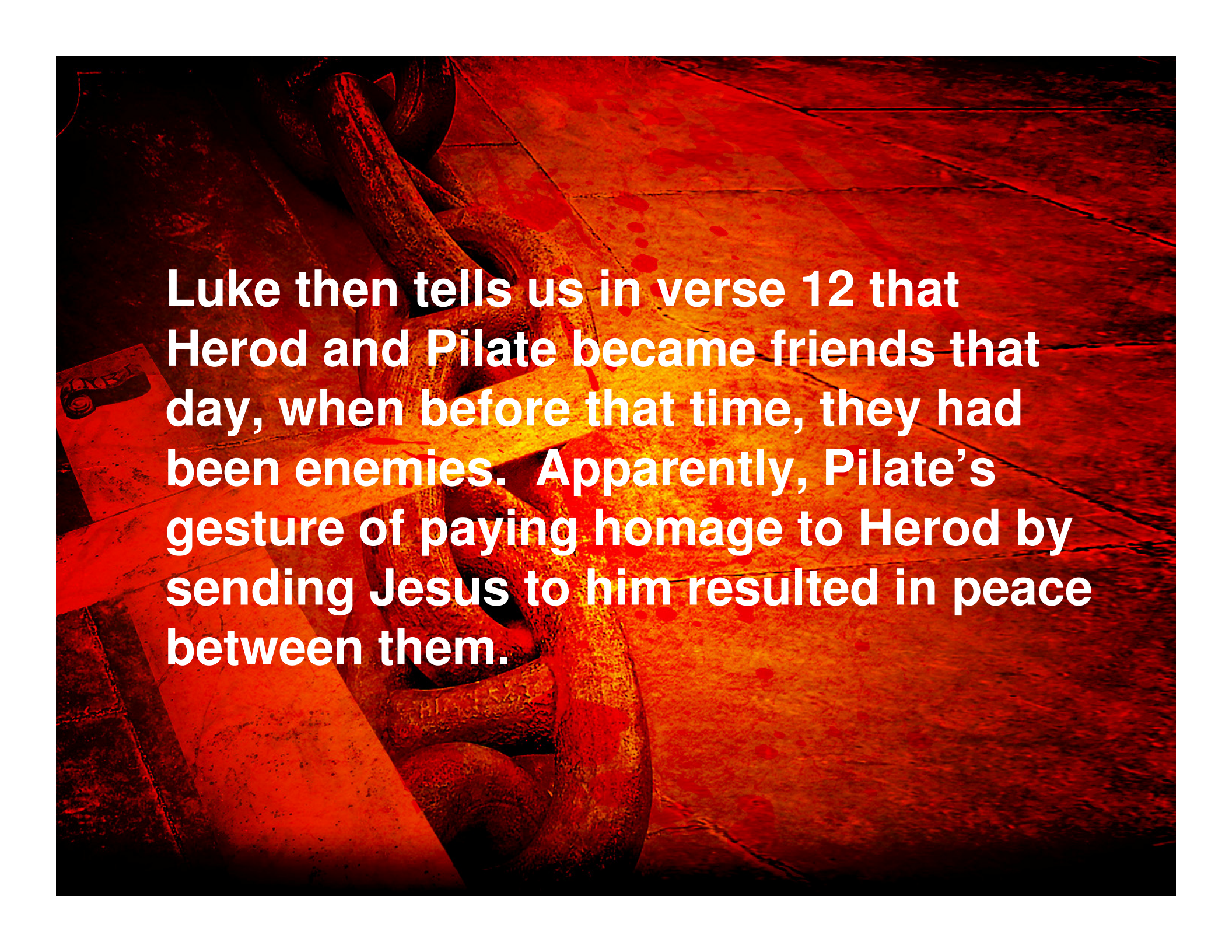
At a certain point during Jesus' ministry, when he (Jesus) was very popular among the masses, Herod actually feared that Jesus was John the Baptist, risen from the dead after Herod had caused John to be beheaded. So apparently, Herod asked Jesus a number of questions and he wanted him to perform a miracle, but Jesus would not answer him.



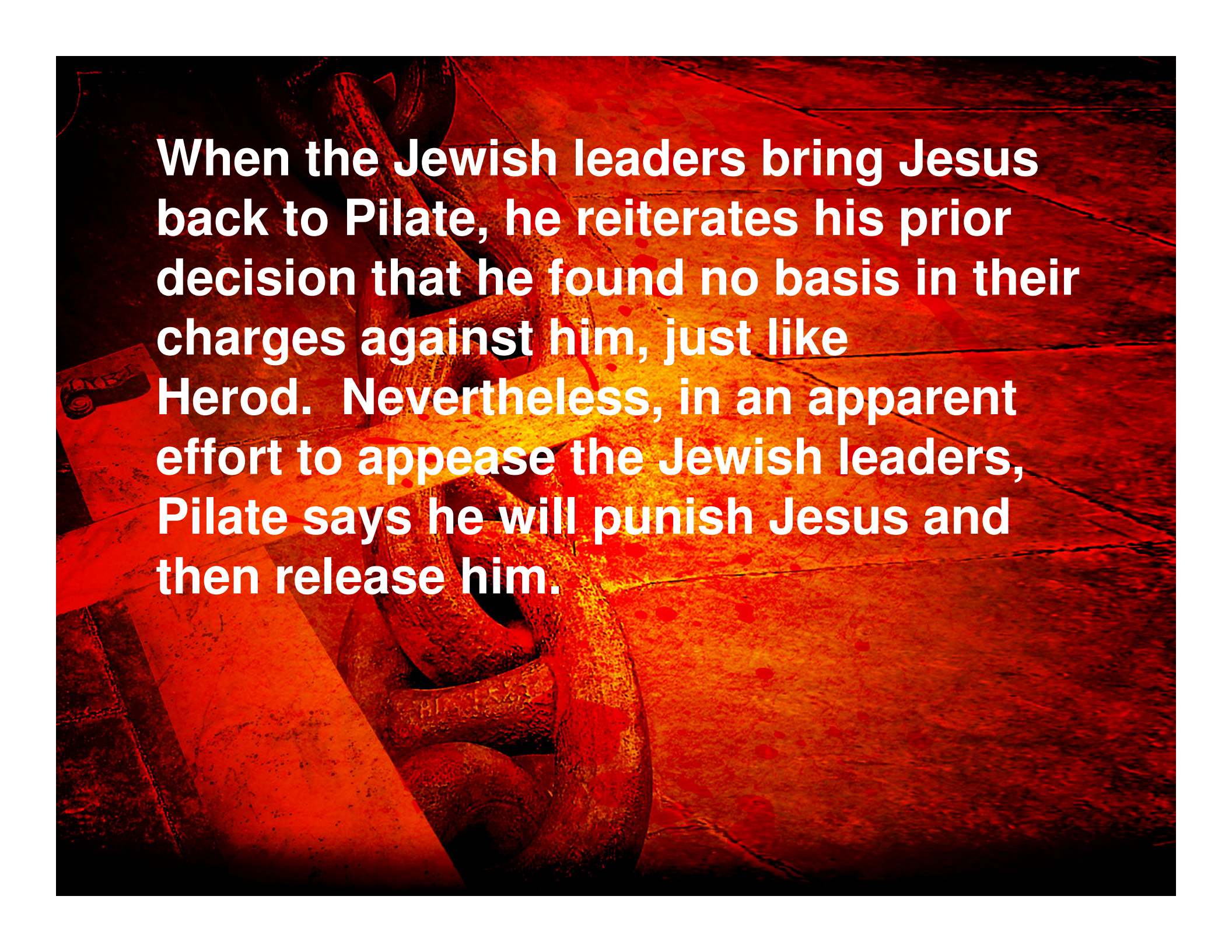
The Chief Priests and the other Jewish leaders stood before Herod Antipas strongly asserting the same accusations against Jesus, but Herod does not sentence Jesus to death. Nor does he declare Jesus innocent. Maybe Herod remembers how he felt after he had John the Baptist beheaded when Herodias demanded it through her daughter who danced before Herod leading Herod to promise he some great reward. Herodias turned the reward into a request through her daughter that Herod behead John the Baptist, something that Herod really did not want to do. Undoubtedly, he felt tremendous guilt over that decision, and Jesus presence may have reminded him of that prior bad decision.



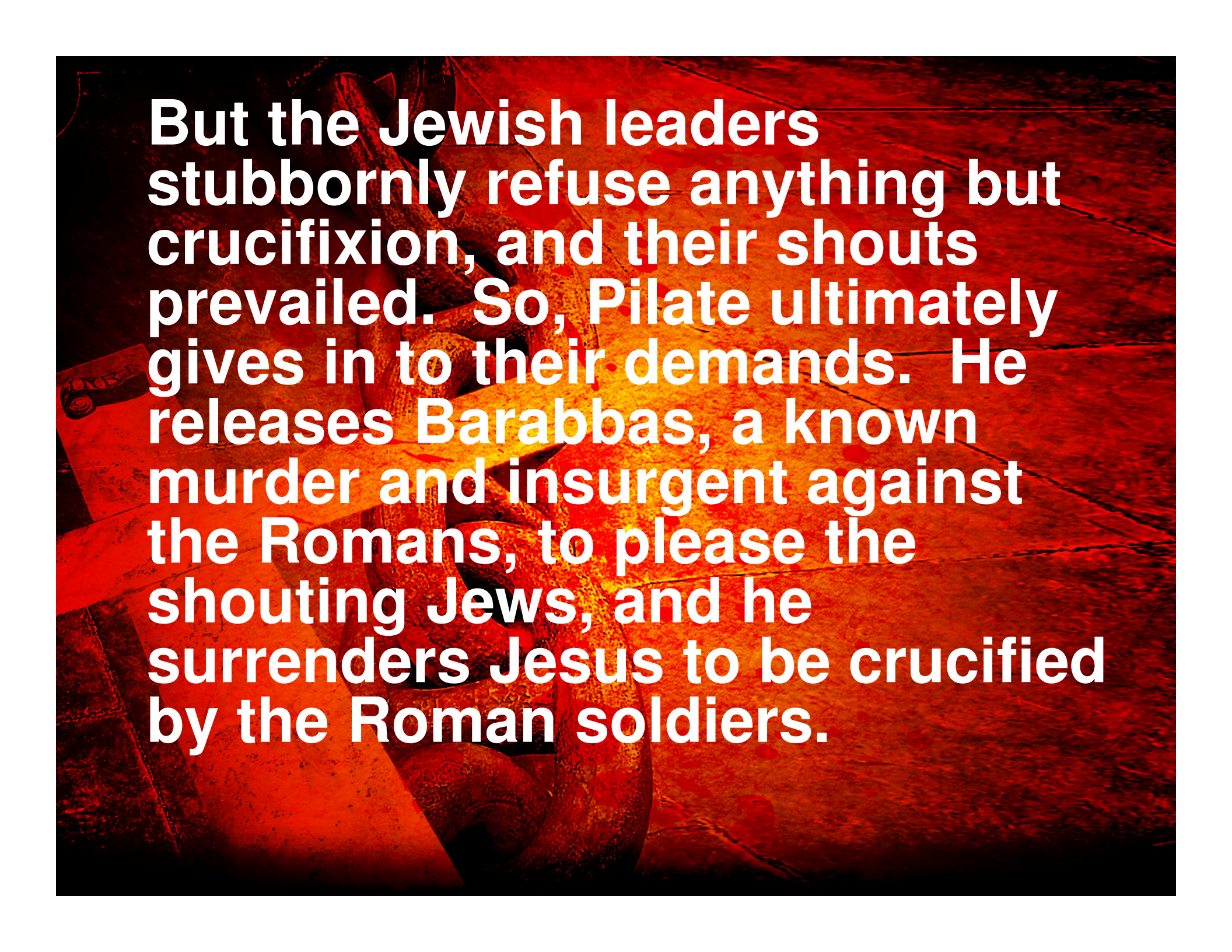
Nevertheless, when Jesus refused to answer his questions, Herod and his soldiers proceeded to mock and ridicule Jesus. The dressed him in a kingly robe, to mock his claims to kingship. The Greek word for the robe used here denotes not a purple garment but a white mantle, like that worn by Jewish Kings and Roman leaders on high occasions. Then Herod sent him back to Pilate without making any serious attempt to investigate the claims against Jesus in a judicial manner.



Luke then tells us in verse 12 that Herod and Pilate became friends that day, when before that time, they had been enemies. Apparently, Pilate's gesture of paying homage to Herod by sending Jesus to him resulted in peace between them.



When the Jewish leaders bring Jesus back to Pilate, he reiterates his prior decision that he found no basis in their charges against him, just like Herod. Nevertheless, in an apparent effort to appease the Jewish leaders, Pilate says he will punish Jesus and then release him.



But the Jewish leaders stubbornly refuse anything but crucifixion, and their shouts prevailed. So, Pilate ultimately gives in to their demands. He releases Barabbas, a known murder and insurgent against the Romans, to please the shouting Jews, and he surrenders Jesus to be crucified by the Roman soldiers.