
Αναφορά Πιλάτου II THE REPORT OF PILATE

INTRODUCTION

The *Report of Pontius Pilate* (aka the *Anaphora of Pilate*) is a report purportedly written by Pontius Pilate to Emperor Tiberius, detailing Jesus' miracles, crucifixion, and resurrection. The work is largely anti-Jewish: The miracles of Jesus are plain and obvious to Pilate as more powerful than any the Roman gods provide, yet the Jews blindly reject Jesus and demand his punishment, despite being unable to convict him of a single crime. Pilate only allows the execution to proceed to prevent a rebellion. After Jesus' death, a supernatural light comes down on Jerusalem at the third hour of the night; an earthquake opens the mountains, and the dead pour out from Hades; Jews who had dared speak against Jesus are swallowed by chasms from the earthquake, not even leaving bodies. All the synagogues in Jerusalem are destroyed except one.

The text survives in various early Greek recensions (dating from the 6th Century) and in some later Arabic manuscripts; the manuscripts in which it is found often contain other texts from the Pilate Cycle. The Greek text here presented is that of [Constantine von Tischendorf's 'B' recension](#) in his 1853 publication, *Evangelia Apocrypha*; with major differences from his 'A' recension being noted; the English text is based on [Alexander Walker's 1866 translation](#).

AUTHORSHIP AND DATES

The actual author of the work is not known. The report is dated by modern scholars to the late 5th Century, although early church writers like Tertullian alluded to the concept of such a report (*circa* 197 CE).

Αναφορά Πιλάτου – Πρόλογος

ΗΓΕΜΟΝΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΑΣ ΠΕΜΦΘΕΙΣΑ
ΤΙΒΕΡΙΟ ΚΑΙΣΑΡΙ ΕΙΣ ΡΩΜΗΝ

Ἐν ἐκείναις ταῖς ἡμέραις σταυρωθέντος τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐπὶ Ποντίου Πιλάτου ἡγεμόνος τῆς Παλαιστίνης καὶ τῆς Φοινίκης ταῦτα ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις γέγονεν τὰ ὑπομνήματα τὰ κατὰ τοῦ κυρίου πραχθέντα ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων. ὁ οὖν Πιλάτος μετ' οἰκείας αὐτοῦ ἀναφορᾶς ἐξέπεμψεν αὐτὰ τῷ Καίσαρι ἐν τῇ Ρώμῃ γράψας οὕτως.

Κρατίστῳ σεβαστῷ φοβερῷ θειοτάτῳ Αὐγούστῳ Πιλάτος Πόντιος ὁ τὴν ἀνατολικὴν διέπων ἀρχήν.

REPORT OF PILATE – PROLOGUE

SENT BY THE GOVERNOR OF JUDAEA TO
TIBERIUS CAESAR IN ROME

^a In those days, our Lord Jesus Christ having been crucified under Pontius Pilate, procurator of Palestine and Phoenicia, these records were made in Jerusalem as to what was done by the Jews against the Lord. Pilate, therefore, along with his private report, sent them to the Caesar in Rome, writing thus:

To the most mighty, venerable, awful, most divine, the August^b –Pontius Pilate, the governor of the East:

REPORT OF PILATE – PROLOGUE

^a The 'B' recension does not include this paragraph, here following the 'A' recension.

^b After 'August', the 'A' recension adds 'Caesar' (Καίσαρι).

Αναφορά Πιλατου 1

Μηνῦσαι κέχρημαι πρὸς τὴν σὴν εὐσέβειαν διὰ τῆσδέ μου τῆς γραφῆς τρόμῳ πολλῷ καὶ φόβῳ συνεχόμενος, κράτιστε βασιλεῦ, τὴν τῶν ἐνισταμένων καιρῶν ροπήν, καθὼς τὸ τούτων τέλος ὑπέδειξε. Ταύτην γὰρ διέποντός μου τὴν ἐπαρχίαν, ὧ δέσποτα, κατὰ πρόσταξιν τῆς σῆς γαληνότητος, ἣτις ἐστὶ τῶν ἀνατολικῶν πόλεων μία καλουμένη Ἱερουσαλήμ, ἐν ἣ τὸ ἱερόν τοῦ τῶν Ἰουδαίων ἔθνους καθίδρυται, συναχθέν ἅπαν τὸ πλῆθος τῶν Ἰουδαίων παραδεδώκασι μοι ἄνθρωπόν τινα λεγόμενον Ἰησοῦν, πολλὰ καὶ ἄπειρα ἐγκλήματα φέροντες κατ' αὐτοῦ· οὐκ ἠδυνήθησαν δὲ ἔν τινι λόγῳ ἐλέγξει αὐτόν. μία δὲ αἵρεσις ἦν αὐτοῖς κατ' αὐτοῦ, ὅτι τὸ σάββατον ἔλεγεν μὴ εἶναι ὀρθὴν τούτων σχολήν. πολλὰς δὲ ἰάσεις ἐπετέλει ἐπ' ἀγαθοῖς ἔργοις ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἐκεῖνος· τυφλοὺς ἐποίησεν βλέπειν, λεπροὺς ἐκαθάρισεν, νεκροὺς ἤγειρε, παραλυτικούς ἰάσατο, μὴ δυναμένους τὸ σύνολον κινεῖσθαι, εἰ μὴ μόνον ἔχοντας φωνὴν καὶ τὴν τῶν ὀστέων ἀρμονίαν, καὶ παρέσχεν αὐτοῖς δύναμιν τοῦ περιπατεῖν τε καὶ τρέχειν, ῥήματι μόνῳ ἐπιτρέψας. ἄλλο τε δυνατώτερον πρᾶγμα ἐποίησεν, ὅπερ ἦν ξενὸν καὶ παρὰ τοῖς θεοῖς ἡμῶν· νεκρόν τινα Λάζαρον τετραήμερον ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀνέστησεν, λόγῳ μόνῳ κελεύσας ἐγερθῆναι τὸν τεθνεῶτα, διεφθαρμένον

REPORT OF PILATE 1

^a I have to report to your reverence, through this writing of mine, being seized with great trembling and fear, O most mighty emperor, the conjuncture of the present times, as the end of these things has shown. For, while I, my lord, according to the commandment of your clemency, was discharging the duties of my government, which is one of the cities of the East, Jerusalem by name, in which is built the temple of the Jewish nation, all the multitude of the Jews came together, and delivered to me a certain man named Jesus, bringing against him many and groundless charges; and they were not able to convict him in anything. And one heresy of theirs against him was, that he said that the Sabbath was not their right rest. And that man wrought many cures, in addition to good works. He made the blind see; he cleansed lepers; he raised the dead; he healed paralytics who could not move at all, except that they only had their voice, and the joints of their bones; and he gave them the power of walking about and running, commanding them by a single word. And another mightier work he did, which was strange even with our gods: he raised up a dead man, Lazarus, who had been dead four days, by a single word ordering the dead man to be raised, although his body was already corrupted by the worms

REPORT OF PILATE 1

^a The 'A' recension opens with, "I have, O most mighty, a narrative to give you."

ἤδη ἔχοντα τὸ σῶμα ὑπὸ τῶν ἐλκογενήτων σκωλήκων· καὶ τὸ δυσῶδες ἐκεῖνο σῶμα τὸ κείμενον ἐν τῷ τάφῳ ἐκέλευσεν τρέχειν, καὶ ὡς ἐκ παστοῦ νυμφίος οὕτως ἐκ τοῦ τάφου ἐξῆλθεν εὐωδίας πλείστης πεπληρωμένος.

that grow in wounds; and that ill-smelling body lying in the tomb he ordered to run; and, as a bridegroom from the bridal chamber, so he came forth out of the tomb, filled with a powerful fragrance. ^a

^a Cf. Jn 11:1–44.

Αναφορά Πιλατου 2

Καί τινας ἀφειδῶς δαιμονιζομένους καὶ τὰς οἰκήσεις ἔχοντας ἐν ἐρημίαις καὶ σαρκοφαγοῦντας τῶν ἰδίων μελῶν καὶ τοῖς ἐρπετοῖς καὶ τοῖς ἀγρίοις θηρίοις συναναστρεφομένους οἰκήτορας κατέστησεν πόλεων ἐν τοῖς ἰδίοις οἴκοις, καὶ διὰ λόγου σώφρονας αὐτοὺς ἀπέδειξε, καὶ συνετοὺς καὶ ἐνδόξους γενέσθαι παρεσκεύασεν τοὺς ὑπὸ ἀκαθάρτων πνευμάτων ἐνοχλουμένους, καὶ τοὺς ἐν αὐτοῖς δαίμονας ἐν ἀγέλη χοίρων ἐκπέμψας εἰς θάλασσαν ἀπέπνιξεν.

REPORT OF PILATE 2

^a And some that were cruelly vexed by demons, and had their dwellings in deserts, and ate the flesh of their own limbs, and lived along with reptiles and wild beasts, he made to be dwellers in cities in their own houses, and by a word he rendered them sound-minded; and he made those that were troubled by unclean spirits to be intelligent and reputable; and, sending away the demons in them into a herd of swine, he suffocated them in the sea. ^b

REPORT OF PILATE 2

^a The 'A' recension has very similar text for this chapter.

^b Cf. Mt 8:28–34, Mk 5:1–20, Lk 8:26–39.

Αναφορά Πιλατου 3

Ἄλλον πάλιν τινὰ ξηρὰν ἔχοντα τὴν χεῖρα καὶ ἐν λύπαις ζῶντα καὶ μηδὲ ἥμισυ σώματος ἔχοντα ὑγιὲς λόγῳ μόνῳ παρέστησεν ὑγιῆ.

REPORT OF PILATE 3

^a Another man, again, who had a withered hand, and lived in sorrow, and had not even half of his body sound, he made sound by a single word. ^b

REPORT OF PILATE 3

- ^a The 'A' recension has a longer text for this verse, but the overall sense is the same: Πάλιν δὲ ἄλλος ὑπῆρχεν ξηρὰν ἔχων τὴν χεῖραν, οὐ μόνον δὲ τὴν χεῖραν, ἀλλὰ μᾶλλον τὸ ἥμισυ μέρος τοῦ σώματος ἀπολιθωθὲν ὑπῆρχεν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, μήτε πλάσιν ἀνδρὸς ἢ σώματος ἔχων διαστολήν· κάκεῖνον λόγῳ ἰάσατο καὶ ὑγιῆ ἀπέδειξεν. (And again, there was another having a withered hand; and not the hand only, but rather the half of the body of the man, was petrified, so that he had not the form of a man, or the power of moving his body. And him, by a word, he healed and made sound.)
- ^b Cf. Mt 12:9–14, Mk 3:1–6, Lk 6:6–11.

Αναφορά Πιλατου 4

Καὶ γυναῖκα αἰμορροοῦσαν ἐπὶ χρόνοις πολλοῖς, ὡς ἐξ αὐτῆς τῆς ῥύσεως τοῦ αἵματος πᾶσαν τὴν τῶν ὀστέων ἀρμονίαν φαίνεσθαι καὶ ὑέλου δίκην διαυγάζειν, καὶ γὰρ πάντες ἰατροὶ ἀνελπίστως αὐτὴν ἀπειπάμενοι οὐκ ἐκαθαίρου· οὐκ ἦν γὰρ ἐν αὐτῇ δήπου τις σωτηρίας ἐλπίς· ποτέ γ' οὖν παρερχομένου τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἤψατο ὀπισθεν τοῦ κρασπέδου τῶν ἱματίων αὐτοῦ, καὶ αὐτῇ τῇ ὥρᾳ ἀνεπληρώθη ἡ δύναμις τοῦ σώματος αὐτῆς, καὶ γέγονεν ὑγιής ὡς μηδὲν κακὸν ἔχουσα, καὶ ἤρξατο δρομαίως τρέχειν εἰς τὴν αὐτῆς πόλιν Πανεάδα.

REPORT OF PILATE 4

And a woman that had a flow of blood for many years, so that, in consequence of the flowing of her blood, all the joints of her bones appeared, and were transparent like glass; and, assuredly, all the physicians had left her without hope, and had not cleansed her; for, there was not in her a single hope of health; once, then, as Jesus was passing by, she took hold of the fringe of his clothes behind, and that same hour the power of her body was completely restored, and she became whole, as if nothing were the matter with her, and she began to run swiftly to her own city Paneas^a.

REPORT OF PILATE 4

^a For the name of this city ('Paneas' – Πανεάδα) the 'A' recension has 'Capernaum' (Κεφαρναούμ) – see also the Arabic text.

Αναφορά Πιλατου 5

Καὶ ταῦτα μὲν οὕτως εἶχον· κατεμήνυνον δὲ οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἐκτελεῖν ταῦτα ἐν σαββάτῳ τὸν Ἰησοῦν. ἐγὼ δὲ καὶ παρὰ τοὺς θεοὺς οὓς σεβόμεθα μείζονα κατενόησα θαυμάσια παρ' αὐτοῦ γεγονότα.

REPORT OF PILATE 5

^a And these things indeed were so. And the Jews gave information that Jesus did these things on the Sabbath. And I also ascertained that the miracles done by him were greater than any that the gods whom we worship could do.

REPORT OF PILATE 5

- ^a The 'A' recension has a slightly different text for this chapter: Καὶ ταῦτα μὲν, ἃ προσφάτως κατὰ νοῦν ἔχων ἐμήνυσα, ἅπερ ἐν σαββάτῳ ἐτέλεσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς· καὶ ἕτερα μείζονα τούτων ἐποίησε σημεῖα, ὥς ὅτι καὶ παρὰ τοὺς θεοὺς οὓς σεβόμεθα μείζονα κατενόησα θαυματουργήματα παρ' αὐτοῦ γεγονότα. (And these are the things that I lately had in my mind to report, which Jesus accomplished on the Sabbath. And other signs greater than these he did, so that I have perceived that the wonderful works done by him are greater than can be done by the gods whom we worship.)

Αναφορά Πιλατου 6

Τοῦτον οὖν Ἡρώδης καὶ Ἀρχέλαος καὶ Φίλιππος καὶ Ἄννας καὶ Καϊάφας παραδεδώκασιν μοι σὺν παντὶ τῷ λαῷ πρὸς τὸ ἐτάσαι αὐτόν. καὶ πολλῶν στάσιν κινήσαντων κατ' ἐμοῦ, ἐκέλευσα σταυρωθῆναι.

REPORT OF PILATE 6

Him then Herod and Archelaus and Philip, and Annas and Caiaphas, with all the people, delivered to me to try him. And, as many were exciting an insurrection against me, I ordered him to be crucified^a.

REPORT OF PILATE 6

^a The 'A' recension adds, "having first scourged him, and having found against him no cause of evil accusations or deeds." (πρῶτον φραγελλώσας αὐτόν, καὶ μηδεμίαν αἰτίαν εὐρῶν κατ' αὐτοῦ κακῶν ἐγκλημάτων ἢ πράξεων)

Αναφορά Πιλατου 7

Ἦνίκα δὲ ἐσταυρώθη, σκότος ἐγένετο ἐφ' ὅλην τὴν οἰκουμένην, τοῦ ἡλίου κρυβέντος τελείως καὶ τοῦ πόλου σκοτεινοῦ φαινομένου ἡμέρας οὔσης, ὥστε ἄστρα φανῆναι ἀλλ' ὅμως τὴν τηλαυγότητα ἐσκοτισμένην ἔχειν, ὥς οὐδὲ ἡ ὑμετέρα οἶμαι εὐσέβεια ἀγνοεῖ, ὅτι ἐν παντὶ τῷ κόσμῳ ἤψαν λύχνους ἀπὸ ἑκτῆς ὥρας ἕως ὀψίας. σελήνη δὲ ὥς αἷμα οὔσα ὅλην τὴν νύκτα οὐ διέλαμπε, καίτοι γε παμπληθοῦς αὐτῆς τυγχανούσης. τὰ ἄστρα δὲ καὶ ὁ Ὠρίων θρῆνον ἐποιοῦν περὶ τῶν Ἰουδαίων διὰ τὴν παρ' αὐτῶν γενομένην παρανομίαν.

REPORT OF PILATE 7

And, when he had been crucified, there was darkness over the whole earth, the sun having been completely hidden, and the heaven appearing dark though it was day, so that the stars appeared, but had at the same time their brightness darkened, as I suppose your reverence is not ignorant of, because in all the world they lit lamps from the sixth hour until evening. And the moon, being like blood, did not shine the whole night, and yet she happened to be at the full. And the stars also, and Orion^a, made a lament about the Jews, on account of the wickedness that had been done by them.

REPORT OF PILATE 7

^a The 'A' recension does not mention the 'moon' or 'Orion'.

Αναφορά Πιλατου 8

Μιᾶ δὲ τῶν σαββάτων περὶ τρίτην ὥραν τῆς νυκτὸς ὁ ἥλιος ὤφθη οἷος οὐδέποτε ἔλαμψεν, καὶ πᾶς ὁ οὐρανὸς ἐφαιδρύνθη. καὶ ὡς ἀστραπαὶ χειμῶνος ἐπέρχονται, οὕτως ἄνδρες ὑψηλοὶ τινες κοσμήσεως στολῆς καὶ δόξης ἀνεκδιηγῆτου ὑπάρχοντες ἐφαίνοντο ἐν τῷ ἀέρι, καὶ πλῆθος ἀναρίθμητον ἀγγέλων κραζόντων καὶ λεγόντων Δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις θεῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη, ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία· ἀνέλθατε ἐξ ᾗδου, οἱ δεδουλωμένοι ἐν τοῖς καταχθονίοις τοῦ ᾗδου. ἐκ δὲ τῆς φωνῆς αὐτῶν πάντα τὰ ὄρη καὶ οἱ βουνοὶ ἐσαλεύοντο καὶ πέτραι διερρήγνυντο καὶ χάσματα ἐγένοντο μεγάλα ἐν τῇ γῇ, ὥστε καὶ τὰ τῆς ἀβύσσου φανῆναι.

REPORT OF PILATE 8

^a And, on the first of the week, about the third hour of the night, the sun was seen such as it had never at any time shone, and all the heaven was lit up. And, as lightnings come on in winter, so majestic men of indescribable splendour of dress and of glory appeared in the air, and an innumerable multitude of angels crying out, and saying, "Glory in the highest to God, and on earth peace, among men goodwill. Come up out of Hades, you who have been kept in slavery in the underground regions of Hades." And, at their voice, all the mountains and hills were shaken, and the rocks were burst asunder; and great chasms were made in the earth, so that also what was in the abyss appeared.

REPORT OF PILATE 8

- ^a The 'A' recension has a rather different text for this chapter: Ὡφθησαν δὲ ἐν αὐτῷ τῷ φόβῳ νεκροὶ ἀναστάντες, ὡς αὐτοὶ οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἐμαρτύρησαν, καὶ εἶπον εἶναι Ἀβραάμ καὶ Ἰσαάκ καὶ Ἰακώβ καὶ τοὺς δώδεκα πατριάρχας καὶ Μωσῆν καὶ Ἰώβ, τοὺς προτετελευτηκότας ὡς φασιν ἐκεῖνοι πρὸ τρισχιλίων πεντακοσίων ἐτῶν· καὶ πλεῖστοι πολλοὶ οὐς ἀγὼ εἶδον ἐν σώματι φανέντας, καὶ θρῆνον δὲ ἐποίουν περὶ τῶν Ἰουδαίων διὰ τὴν γενομένην δι' αὐτῶν παρανομίαν καὶ ἀπώλειαν τῶν Ἰουδαίων καὶ τοῦ νόμου αὐτῶν. (And, in that terror, dead men were seen that had risen, as the Jews themselves testified; and they said that it was Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and the twelve patriarchs, and Moses and Job, that had died, as they say, three thousand five hundred years before. And there were very many whom I also saw appearing in the body; and they were making a lamentation about the Jews, on account of the wickedness that had come to pass through them, and the destruction of the Jews and of their law.)

Αναφορά Πιλατου 9

Ὡφθησαν δὲ ἐν αὐτῷ τῷ φόβῳ νεκροὶ ἀναστάντες, ὡς αὐτοὶ ἑωρακότες οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι εἶπον ὅτι εἶδομεν Ἀβραάμ καὶ Ἰσαάκ καὶ Ἰακώβ καὶ τοὺς δώδεκα πατριάρχας τοὺς προτετελευτηκότας πρὸ δισχιλίων πεντακοσίων ἐτῶν, καὶ Νῶε εἶδομεν ἐν σώματι φανερώς. καὶ περιεπάτει πᾶν πλῆθος καὶ ἀνυμνεῖ τὸν θεόν μετὰ φωνῆς μεγάλης λέγων Ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν κύριος ὁ θεὸς ἡμῶν πάντας τοὺς νεκροὺς ἐζωοποίησεν, καὶ τὸν ἄδην συλήσας ἐνέκρωσε.

REPORT OF PILATE 9

^a And there were seen in that terror dead men raised up, as the Jews that saw them said, "We have seen Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and the twelve patriarchs, that died two thousand five hundred years ago; and we have seen Noah manifestly in the body." And all the multitude walked about, and sang praises to God with aloud voice, saying, "The Lord our God who has risen from the dead has brought to life all the dead, and has plundered Hades, and put him to death."

REPORT OF PILATE 9

^a Compare the 1st part of this chapter with Ch. 8 of the 'A' recension.

Αναφορά Πιλατου 10

Πᾶσαν οὖν τὴν νύκτα ἐκείνην, ὡ δέσποτα βασιλεῦ, τὸ φῶς οὐκ ἐπαύετο. τῶν δὲ Ἰουδαίων πολλοὶ ἀπέθανον καὶ κατεποντίσθησαν καὶ κατεπόθησαν τοῖς χάσμασιν ἐν τῇ νυκτὶ ἐκείνῃ, ὥστε μηδὲ τὰ σώματα αὐτῶν φανῆναι· ἐκείνους δὲ λέγω παθεῖν τῶν Ἰουδαίων τοὺς κατὰ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ λέγοντας. μία δὲ συναγωγὴ κατελείφθη ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις, ἐπεὶ πᾶσαι αἱ συναγωγαὶ ἐκεῖναι αἱ γενόμεναι κατὰ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ κατεποντίσθησαν.

REPORT OF PILATE 10

^a All that night, therefore, my lord, O king, the light did not cease. And many of the Jews died and were engulfed and swallowed up in the chasms that night, so that not even their bodies appeared. Those, I say, of the Jews suffered that had spoken against Jesus. And one synagogue was left in Jerusalem, since all those synagogues that had been against Jesus were engulfed.

REPORT OF PILATE 10

^a The 'A' recension has similar text for this chapter.

Αναφορά Πιλατου 11

Τῷ οὖν φόβῳ ἐν ἐκστάσει γενόμενος καὶ πολλῷ τρόμῳ
συσχεθείς κατ' αὐτὴν τὴν ὥραν ἐπιτάξας γράψαι τὰ
πραχθέντα παρ' αὐτῶν πάντων ἀνήγαγον τῷ σῷ κράτει.

REPORT OF PILATE 11

^a From that fear, then, being perplexed and seized with much
trembling, at that same hour I ordered what had been done by
them all to be written; and I have reported it to your mightiness.

REPORT OF PILATE 11

- ^a The 'A' recension has a similar but slightly longer text for this chapter: Τῷ οὖν φόβῳ ἐκείνῳ ἐν ἐκστάσει γενόμενος καὶ τρόμῳ δεινοτάτῳ
συνεχόμενος, ἅπερ εἶδον κατ' αὐτὴν τὴν ὥραν γράψας ἀνήγαγον τῷ σῷ κράτει· ἐντάξας καὶ τὰ κατὰ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ πραχθέντα ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων ἐξέπεμψα
τῇ σῇ θειότητι, δέσποτα. (With that terror, being in perplexity, and seized with a most frightful trembling, I have written what I saw at that time and have
reported to your majesty. Having set in order also what was done by the Jews against Jesus, I have sent it, my lord, to your divinity.)