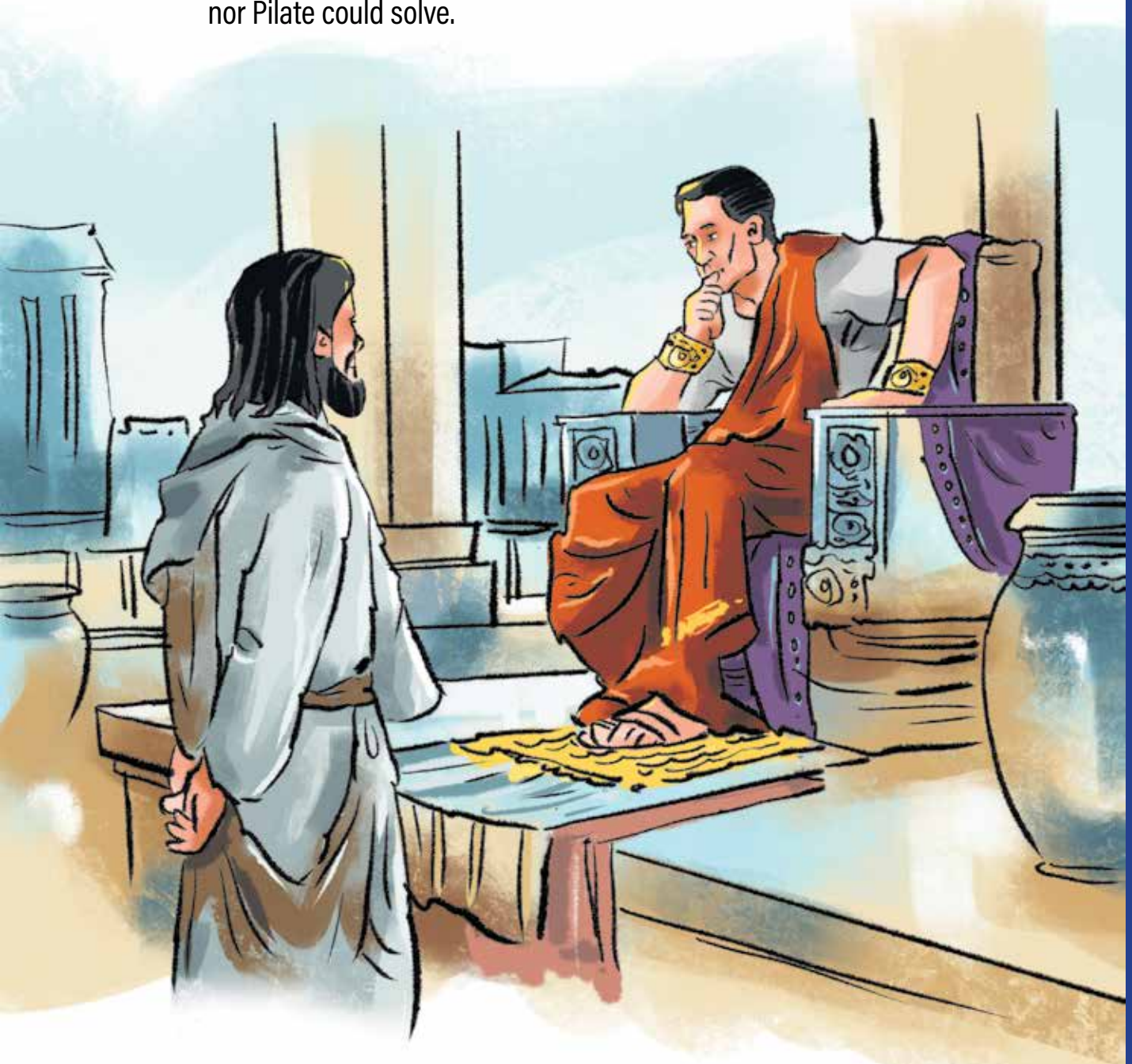




The King Stands Trial

There is a paradox in the trial of Jesus which neither the Jews nor Pilate could solve.



Pontius Pilate was appointed by the Roman Emperor Tiberius as the prefect of the Roman provinces of Judaea, Samaria and Idumæa. Jerusalem came under Pilate's prefecture and hence the trial of Jesus was held before him. When Jesus was brought before Pilate, the Jewish priests were well aware that the blasphemy accusation under their religious laws was not sufficient enough to condemn Jesus to death. So they tutored some people to make political accusations against Jesus, claiming that He was against Roman laws and was forbidding them to pay taxes to the Roman emperor, saying He Himself was the Messiah, a king.

Pilate wanted to know whether Jesus was the king of the Jews. When explained by Jesus that His kingdom did not pertain to this world and His kingship was to testify to the truth listened to by everyone who belongs to the truth, Pilate asked the much-discussed question: “What is truth?”

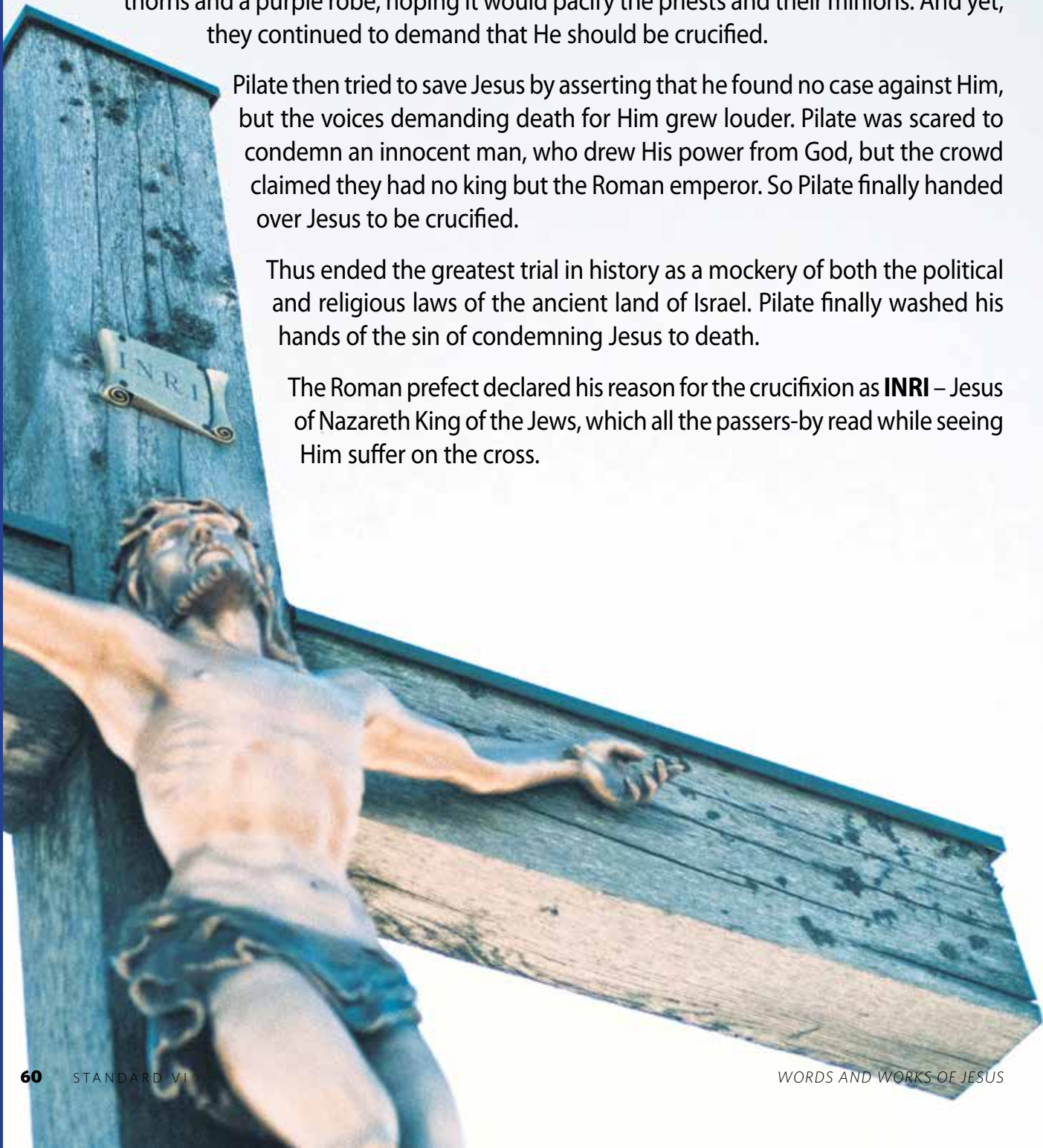
After hearing Jesus, Pilate was convinced He was innocent and wanted to somehow save Him. That is why he told the Jews that he did not find Jesus guilty of any crime and even suggested He be released under the customs followed by Jews during Passover. But the priests and the crowds stuck to their accusation.

So Pilate subjected Jesus to flogging and brought Him before the crowd wearing the crown of thorns and a purple robe, hoping it would pacify the priests and their minions. And yet, they continued to demand that He should be crucified.

Pilate then tried to save Jesus by asserting that he found no case against Him, but the voices demanding death for Him grew louder. Pilate was scared to condemn an innocent man, who drew His power from God, but the crowd claimed they had no king but the Roman emperor. So Pilate finally handed over Jesus to be crucified.

Thus ended the greatest trial in history as a mockery of both the political and religious laws of the ancient land of Israel. Pilate finally washed his hands of the sin of condemning Jesus to death.

The Roman prefect declared his reason for the crucifixion as **INRI** – Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews, which all the passers-by read while seeing Him suffer on the cross.





Word of God

John 19:1-3

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.



Read: *The Testament of Mary* by Colm Toibín is a novel on the trials and passion of Jesus that gained a Booker nomination. Living in exile and in fear of her life, Mary tries to piece together the violent events that took away her Son from her. Unmoored by grief, she struggles to hold onto her own story in the face of myth-building and history. Toibín's lyrical prose gained this short novel a Booker nomination.

Art: *Ecce Homo*, (Latin: "Behold the Man"), theme prevalent in western Christian art of the 15th to 17th century, so called after the words of Pontius Pilate to the Jews during the trial of Jesus. The *Ecce Homo* in the Sanctuary of Mercy church in Borja, Spain, is a fresco painted circa 1930 by the Spanish painter Elías García Martínez depicting Jesus crowned with thorns.

Reading

Mon _____ Tue _____ Wed _____ Thu _____

Fri _____ Sat _____ Sun _____ **Total** _____

Pages Minutes



Listen to Trial Before Pilate / 39 Lashes by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Bible@Home - Mark 15:2-5

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