

A different life...

Can your life be different?

A different death

How your life can be different.





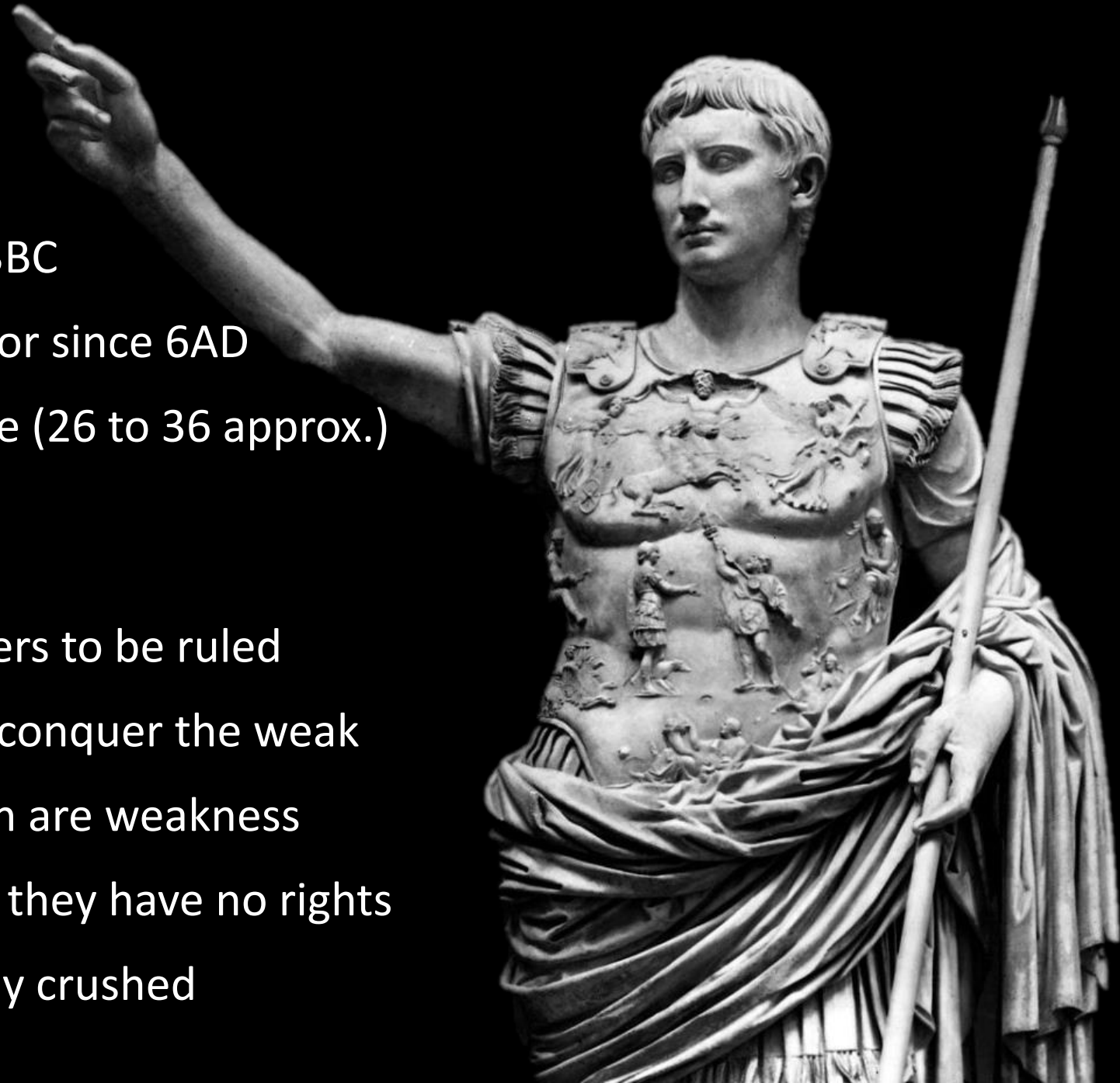


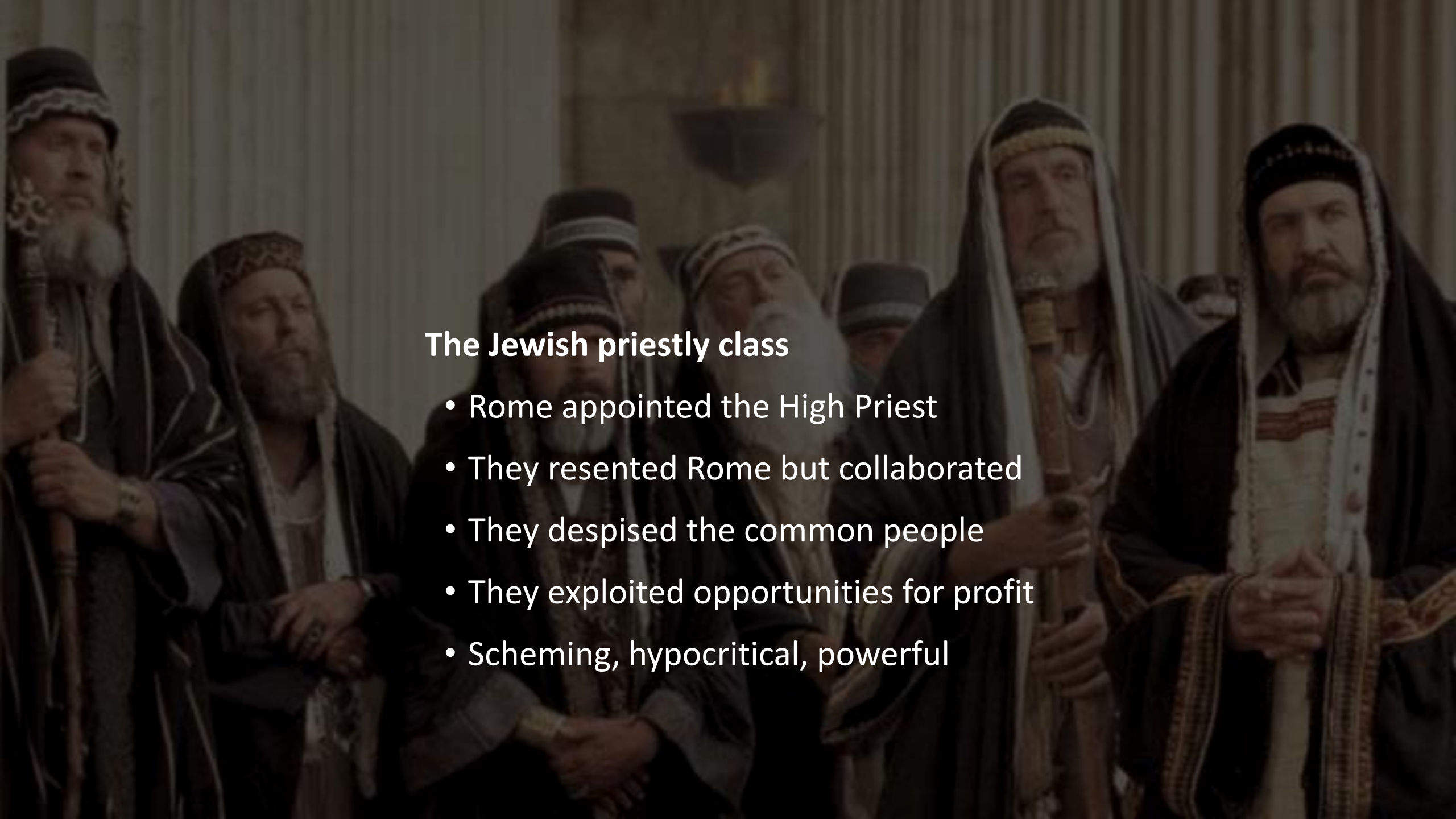
Judea:

- A client kingdom of Rome since 63BC
- A Roman province under a governor since 6AD
- The 5th governor was Pontius Pilate (26 to 36 approx.)

Roman assumptions:

- Some are born to rule, others to be ruled
- The strong can and should conquer the weak
- Mercy, pity and compassion are weakness
- Slaves are mere property – they have no rights
- Rebellion must be ruthlessly crushed





The Jewish priestly class

- Rome appointed the High Priest
- They resented Rome but collaborated
- They despised the common people
- They exploited opportunities for profit
- Scheming, hypocritical, powerful



YESHUA (ישוע) / JESUS

- He seemed to suddenly appear from nowhere – Nazareth in Galilee
- He was quiet and gentle and His fame as a teacher and healer spread quickly.
- The common people rejoiced in His wonderful works and heard Him gladly.
- Ordinary men and women became disciples, loyal and willing, but so unlike Him.
- He forgave sin and called the common people into the goodness of God.
- He exposed the hypocrisy and wickedness of the powerful without fear.
- His teaching was completely new – simple, memorable, profound, authoritative.
- He frequently surprised His disciples by His answers and reactions.
- He calmed a storm, walked on water, raised the dead and terrified evil spirits.

Who is He?

A prophet!

The Son of David!

John the Baptist!

The Messiah!

The Teacher!

Elijah!

The Son of God!

A deceiver!

Possessed!

*“If I do not wash you,
you have no share with Me.”*

(John 13:8)







“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?



Why did Jesus die?

Envy

Hatred

Fear

Resentment

Greed

Ambition

BUT...

He knew how He would die.

He could have prevented it.

He went willingly to His death.

WHY ?

The death of Jesus: What can you see?

- It was unthinkable – but Jesus told His disciples it would happen.



- It was totally unexpected – but foretold by the prophets long before.



*He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
(Isaiah 53:3)*

*...they have pierced my hands and feet...
...they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
(Psalm 22:16, 18)*

The death of Jesus: What can you see?

- It was a great cruelty and evil – but God’s eternal love and kindness.

*“Father, forgive them,
for they know not what they do.”*
(Luke 23:34)

- It looked like weakness and defeat – but it was God’s mighty power.

*...from the 6th hour there was darkness
over all the land until the 9th hour.
And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.*
(Matthew 27:45, 51)



The death of Jesus: What can you see?

- It was great shame and humiliation – but led to glory and vindication.

*God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him
the name that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...*

(Philippians 2:9-10)

- It was a massive injustice – but God's perfect justice.

*All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on Him
the iniquity of us all.*

(Isaiah 53:6)



The death of Jesus: What can you see?

**This one hideous and glorious event
is the meeting place of time and eternity.**

His death is the gateway to Life.

Trust in, rely upon, cling to

*Believe in the Lord Jesus,
and you will be saved*

(Acts 16:31)

The death of Jesus:
What can you see?