

## **“Jesus’ Messianic Witness On Trial!”**

**John 18:12-14 & 19-24**

**1<sup>st</sup> Trial of Jesus Before Annas (Co-High Priest)**

**Verses 12 – 13:** Then the detachment of troops, the captain, & the officers of the Jews arrested **Jesus** & bound **Him**. And they led **Him** away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year.

The first interesting point in this passage from God’s Word is a reference by John of Annas the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was the High Priest that year. Many scholars believe that this reference is problematic for the historicity of John’s Gospel as the other three gospels record that the soldiers took Jesus directly to Caiaphas and the secret meeting of part of the Sanhedrin.

**And those who had laid hold of **Jesus** led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes & the elders were assembled.** **Matthew 26:57 (NKJV)**

**And they led **Jesus** away to the high priest; & with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, & the scribes.** **Mark 14:53 (NKJV)**

However, Notice at first the vagueness of Luke’s Account of the arrest & trial of Jesus.

**Having arrested **Him**, they led **Him** & brought **Him** into the high priest’s house.”**

**Luke 22:54 (NKJV)**

**Then the detachment of troops, the captain, & the officers of the Jews arrested **Jesus** & bound **Him**. And they led **Him** away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year.**

**John 18:12-13 (NKJV)**

However, most biblical scholars fail to recognize Luke’s exact, precise, & valid statements in His Gospel

**Annas With His Son-In-Law Caiaphas Served As Co-High Priests**

**As Found In The Genealogy of Jesus Christ In Luke’s Gospel**

**Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being Governor of Judea, Herod being Tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip Tetrarch of Iturea & the Region of Trachonitis, & Lysanias Tetrarch of Abilene, (while Annas & Caiaphas were high priests) (in the high priesthood of Annas & Caiaphas), the Word of God came to John the Son of Zacharias in the wilderness.**

**Luke 3:1-2 (NKJV) (NASB)**

Further, other extra-biblical documents have revealed that Annas and his family had a relative monopoly on the High Priestly Office from 6 A.D. to 41 A.D. Five of his sons, one of grandsons, & two of his sons-in-laws, as well as himself, all held the high priest office consecutively. He reigned by himself from 6 A.D. to 15 A.D.

Caiaphas for sure held the Office of High Priest during the years that these events took place from 18 A.D. to 36 A.D. Because of the great influence of Annas he would have been given a special patriarchal position in his sons-in-law’s administration of the High Priest’s Office, possibly even Co-Regent.

Further, if the High Priest met with the Sanhedrin for the purpose of judgment on the eve of the Passover, he would not be able to serve his High priestly duties at the Passover Feast due to becoming unclean according to Jewish Torah Laws.

**This Then Leaves Us With Only Two Possibilities**

**1) There Was Only One Trial Meeting With The Jewish Authorities And It Took Place At Annas’ House But All The Conspirators Of The Sanhedrin & Caiaphas, Himself Was Also Present.**

**2) There Were Two Trial Meetings With The Jewish Authorities, First With Annas, Early In The Morning, While It Was Still Night, Second With Caiaphas Around Daybreak.**

**The Evidence In John Clearly Supports Only The Second Of These Two Possibilities That There Were Two Trial Meetings With The Jewish Authorities.**

**1) First Trial Was With Annas, & A Few Select Sanhedrin Members While It Was Still Night!**

## **2) Second Trial With Caiaphas, & The Whole of the Sanhedrin Around Daybreak!**

The other gospel accounts do not say anything about two trials but that does not diminish the possibility of there actually being two separate trials with the last one being the favored in the recorded history as the only official one. The latter trial being the only one that brought full condemnation upon Jesus by the majority of the Sanhedrin, where they also decided to send Jesus onto Pontius Pilate for sentencing as they were incapable of handing out their own judicial punishment under Roman occupation. Also note that all three and especially Mark & Luke point to something changing in the morning with a full council being brought together and new accusations being brought, and charges laid upon Jesus. This suggests that something else occurred at an earlier time. Even Matthew mentions the charges being laid after the morning had come.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Trial In Matthew's Gospel**

And those who had laid hold of **Jesus** led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes & the elders were assembled. Now the chief priests, the elders, & all the council sought false testimony against **Jesus** to put Him to death but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward. **Matthew 26:57-60 (NKJV)**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Trial – Then Led Off To 3<sup>rd</sup> Trial In Matthew's Gospel**

When morning came, all the chief priests & elders of the people plotted against **Jesus** to put Him to death. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away & delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor” **Matthew 27:1-2 (NKJV)**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Trial in Mark's Gospel**

And they led **Jesus** away to the high priest; & with him were assembled all the chief priests, the elders, & the scribes ... Now the chief priests & all the council sought testimony against **Jesus** to put Him to death but found none. For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree. Then some rose up & bore false witness against Him, saying, “We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with hands, & within three days I will build another made without hands.’” But not even then did their testimony agree.

**Mark 14:53 & 55-59 (NKJV)**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Trial – Then Led Off To 3<sup>rd</sup> Trial In Mark**

Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders, the scribes, & the whole council; & they bound **Jesus**, led Him away, & delivered Him to Pilate.

**Mark 15:1 (NKJV)**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Trial In Luke's Gospel**

Having arrested Him, they led Him & brought Him into the high priest's (Annas) house. But Peter followed at a distance.

**Luke 22:54 (NKJV)**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Trial -Then Led Off To 3<sup>rd</sup> Trial In Luke's Gospel**

As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests & scribes, came together & led Him into their council ... Then the whole multitude of them arose & led Him to Pilate.

**Luke 22:66 & 23:1**

Therefore, it is very reasonable that according to John's testimony under review here this morning that:

**Annas With His Authority & Co-High Priestly Honorary Position Would Have Tried To Take Caiaphas' Place To Try Jesus In Lieu Of The Upcoming Passover Feast The Next Day!**

**Q: “Why Is This So Important?”**

**A: Because Jews Are Ceremonially Unclean**

**If They Have To Pass Judgement On A Feast Day!**

However, when this initial questioning under Annas' direction in the middle of the night with only a handful of the Sanhedrin present did not bring about the desired effect of condemning Jesus:

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Trial of Jesus Before Caiaphas (Co-High Priest) In John's Gospel

Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest (Co-high priest). **John 18:24 (NKJV)**

Caiaphas and more of the Sanhedrin were called and assembled in the morning to further question and scheme against Jesus to get a solid conviction of blasphemy to stick to Him. This charge among the Jews was worthy of death according to the law of Moses!

But according to Roman law over them in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D. the Sanhedrin would have to convince the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate that Jesus should also be put to death for a capital offense against Caesar and Rome. Therefore, the Sanhedrin majorities who were opposed to Jesus and convinced He was indeed a blasphemer and liar had to send Him to Pilate with a capital case of treason against Him according to Roman Law!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Trial of Jesus Before Pontius Pilate In John's Gospel

Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, *lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover.* **John 18:28 (NKJV)**

Now Back To The Text From This Morning!

The next interesting point is a reference to Caiaphas himself.

**Verse 14: Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that One Man should die for the people.**

This in turn refers back to Caiaphas Earlier Statement in John Chapter 11

### Remember

And one of them (Sanhedrin), Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, *“You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that One Man should die for the people, & not that the whole nation should perish.”* **John 11:49-50 (NKJV)**

This verse has been used by Anti-Semitic Groups worldwide & even by many so-called Christians to spread hatred, violence and even death upon many Jews ever since!

In fact, Adolf Hitler used this verse as one of his strongest lines of evidence for trying to commit genocide against all people of Jewish heritage and to eradicate them from the face of the earth during World War II.

However, any legitimate biblical scholar must deal with the irony of the prophetic voice of Caiaphas as High Priest. The irony of it all is that according to the High Priestly Office one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit was speaking prophetically to His chosen people through the High Priest on the Holy Days and Festival Days throughout the Jewish religious calendar year.

And during this Festival of the Passover Week God did indeed speak prophetically for all of us, not just the Jews, in that Jesus Christ was going to die and offer Himself as a living and acceptable sacrifice for us all and thereby bring about the forgiveness of our sins and the redemption of our souls once and for all time.

### What Irony!

**What The High Priest Says Under The Influence Of The Voice Of The Holy Spirit Comes Out In All Of Its Truth & Significance From A Man Who Is Plotting To Stop God's Plan Of Salvation For His Own Gain!**

(Slide 12)

### What Prophecy!

He Also Declares By The Office Of High Priest Under The Will Of The Holy Spirit: **1) The Scapegoat To Carry The Sins Of The People Outside The Camp Into The Wilderness! While, Simultaneously 2) Declaring The Sacrificial Lamb Who Will Bear The Sins Of The People!**

### What Irony & Prophecy!

And The Jewish People Assembled Their Before Pontius Pilate Mockingly & Unknowingly Echo The Holy Spirit's Voice In Response To Their High Priest's Choice Of A Scapegoat & A Sacrificial Lamb!

And all the people answered and said, *"Let His Blood be on us and on our children!"*

Matthew 27:25 (NASB)

**Verses 19 – 20:** The high priest (*Annas*) then asked *Jesus* about *His Disciples & His Doctrine*. *Jesus* answered him, *"I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues & in the temple, where the Jews always meet, & in secret I have said nothing."*

Notice *Annas* tries to get *Jesus* to slip up and condemn Himself by His own words? But *Jesus* admits to no incriminating evidence or self-incrimination. Instead He professes to having kept the Law in every way.

**Verse 21:** *Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed, they know what I said*

*Jesus*, next appeals to 1<sup>st</sup> hand accounts and eyewitnesses on His behalf according to proper Jewish Law Proceedings. *Jesus* in effect turns the line of questioning back on *Annas* himself and the Jewish Leadership!

**Verse 22:** And when *He* had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck *Jesus* with the palm of his hand, saying, *"Do You answer the high priest like that?"*

The guard took this as a clever trick to make the High Priest look bad, as an act of insubordination from a soldier's perspective.

**Verse 23:** *Jesus* answered him, *"If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?"*

*Jesus* simply asks how He has done anything wrong or in what way has His answers been untruthful or deceptive?

**Verse 24:** Then *Annas* sent Him bound to *Caiaphas* the high priest.

Unable to bring about the quick indictment & verdict he had sought to find, *Annas* is forced to bring *Jesus* before his son-in-law *Caiaphas* & the whole Sanhedrin for another trial. So, ends the 1<sup>st</sup> of *Jesus*' 6 trials that day!

Let Me Ask You & I A Central Question This Morning!

**Q:** *"Am I, A True Follower Of Jesus Christ, Am I Living Out Daily God's Appointed Mission For Me To Give My Messianic Witness Concerning Jesus Christ To Those Around Me In My Community?"*

After attempting to honestly answer this question, I might also ask myself this question:

**Q:** *"How Do I Give My Messianic Witness To Others?"*

**Q:** *"How Do I Give My Witness To Jesus Christ To Those Who Do Not Believe In Him?"*

**A:** The Answer To My Internal Question Is Three-Fold!

**1) Evangelize & Pray For The Souls Of Jews**, God's First Chosen People. Pray That The Veil Of Deception & Denial Will Be Lifted From Their Hearts & Minds Before He Returns Again To Earth To Establish His Eternal Kingdom Forever Among Us! See [Corinthians 3:14-16](#)

**2) Evangelize & Pray For The Souls Of Muslims**, Whom Satan Has Deceived & Lied To By Hiding The Identity Of Who God Really Is And Getting Them To Try And Destroy The Gospel's Message Of Salvation Through Christ Alone! See: [2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 11:1-15](#)

**3) Evangelize & Pray For The Souls All Around The World** You Have Allowed The Deception And Teachings Of This World To Blind Them To The Truth Of The Good News Of The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!  
See: **2<sup>nd</sup> Colossians 2:1-15**

Remember Jesus' Final Desire To Reach All Of Creation

Remember His Final Command To You & I Before Departing To Heaven

***"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, Go & Make Disciples of All the Nations, Baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach these New Disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I AM with you always, even to the end of the age!"*** **Matthew 28:18b-20 (NLT)**

Therefore, As Your Pastor,  
& Friend I Implore You To:

***"Go & Be A Witness Today & Tomorrow  
To Jesus Christ Your Messiah & Lord,  
The World's Only Redeemer & Savior!"***