# "THE TRIAL BEFORE CAIAPHAS & THE SANHEDRIN"

## MATTHEW 26:57-68

1. **PHASE #1: A FUTILE SEARCH FOR WITNESSES (26:59-60)**
   1. Caiaphas & His Inner Circle Had Already Determined Several Weeks Earlier That They Would Seek The Death Penalty (John 11)
      1. The Jewish Sanhedrin Called A Council As A Result Of The Resurrection Of Lazarus (John 11:47-48)
      2. Caiaphas Rebukes The Council In Favor Of Expediency (John 11:49-50)
      3. Caiaphas Becomes The Unwitting Channel Of Divine Prophetic Utterance (John 11:51-53)
   2. Caiaphas & His Inner Circle Could Not Find Even Two Witnesses Who Agreed (Matthew 26:59-60)
      1. A Remarkable Testimony To Christ's Impeccability
      2. Two False Witnesses Show Up For A Final Attempt
2. **PHASE #2: TESTIMONY OF TWO FALSE WITNESSES (26:61-62)**
   1. Their False Charge Regarding The Temple (26:61)
      1. Compared With What Christ Actually Said (John 2:19)
      2. The Accusers Are Simply Restating The Prediction Christ Had Made Three Years Earlier About His Own Death & Resurrection
   2. Innocence Does Not Have To Stoop To Answer False Claims (26:62)
3. **PHASE #3: CAIAPHAS SWEARS CHRIST TO AN OATH (26:63-64)**
   1. The High Priest Placed Two Titles Back To Back, Which He Himself Did Not Even Believe Were Synonymous (26:63)
   2. Christ Responds By Quoting Daniel 7 (26:64)
4. **PHASE #4: A DIABOLICAL VERDICT IS REACHED (26:65-68)**