

"THE TRIAL BEFORE CAIAPHAS & THE SANHEDRIN"

MATTHEW 26:57-68

I. PHASE #1: A FUTILE SEARCH FOR WITNESSES (26:59-60)

- A. 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)
- B. 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

II. PHASE #2: TESTIMONY OF TWO FALSE WITNESSES (26:61-62)

- A. 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
- B. Innocence Does Not Have To Stoop To Answer False Claims (26:62)

III. PHASE #3: CAIAPHAS SWEARS CHRIST TO AN OATH (26:63-64)

- A. The High Priest Placed Two Titles Back To Back, Which He Himself Did Not Even Believe Were Synonymous (26:63)
- B. Christ Responds By Quoting Daniel 7 (26:64)

IV. PHASE #4: A DIABOLICAL VERDICT IS REACHED (26:65-68)