

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Trials Before Annas and Caiaphas

Last time...Jesus' betrayal and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane

This time...the first 2 of 3 trials of Jesus, before the High Priests Annas and Caiaphas

We will navigate all 4 Gospels, putting the pieces of the puzzle together,
starting in John 18

John 18

v12-13 led Him away to Annas first:

The son of perdition has been revealed

The Jewish multitude has arrested Jesus, tied Him up so He wouldn't get away,
and led Him to "trial" for His crime

Note: the judges have already decided He is guilty,
these "trials" are merely for the appearance of justice

Justice is corrupted...illegal trials of Jesus Christ

1. Annas, father-in-law of the current High Priest
2. Caiaphas, the High Priest
3. Pilate, the Roman governor (with the power of capital punishment)

The time is night in early April, just before sunrise

After His arrest, Jesus is first taken to Annas (only recorded by John)

Why does Annas get the first crack at Jesus?

- very wealthy and influential man, a Sadducee
(did not believe in angels/devils or in the resurrection)
- High Priest from 5 – 16 AD
- 5 of his sons were also high priests
- The current High Priest is his son-in-law, Caiaphas
- "High Priest" is the family business; a political appointment by Rome,
a plum sold to the highest bidder
- The moneychanger racket, twice disrupted by Jesus, was his business
- Annas is the head of the family (sounds Mafia-like, doesn't it?!)

The Bible says

- one High Priest
- for a term of life (not a successor until death)

So what is this all about?

- power
- money

Jesus is a clear and present danger to Annas' net worth

Jesus is also a clear and present danger to his position of power and influence

Nothing new under the sun

Read the history of the RCC during the Dark Ages

(when "Church" filled the political vacuum left after the inward collapse of the Roman Empire, before nationalism in Europe)

Office of Pope was sold to the highest bidder...seen as a "plum"

investment by the wealthy families of Italy

The succession of Popes is rife with murder and intrigue...no bigger bunch of thieves and murders has ever reigned on earth

Tack on the history of the Jesuits: all nations submit to the power of the Pope and the exaltation of Mary...all about power and money

v14 expedient that one man should die for the nation:

We have heard from Caiaphas previously, after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead

John 11:47-53

A prophesy by a child of the devil, who had no idea what he was saying

To him and the Jews, Rome was the judge and ruler of the people

Not so; the Living God was and is the judge and King

The will of God is being done, as are the wills of man and Satan

Is 46:9-10 I am God...none like me...My council shall stand

Now the appointed time has come for Caiaphas to participate in the fulfillment of his own prophesy

In v15-18 is John's record of Peter's denial of Jesus

This takes place in parallel with the trials of Jesus before the high priests

We will look at that next week

The record of the trial before Annas resumes in v19

v19 asked Jesus of His disciples...doctrine:

It is by 2 or 3 witnesses that the truth is established, not by one witness
(Deut 17:6, Deut 19:15)

In God's system of justice (the Law), it was illegal to ask a man charged with a crime to testify against himself

The 5th Amendment of the Constitution, our founding document
(based upon God's system of justice) protects citizens accused of a crime against self-incrimination

Annas is questioning Jesus about

- His associates/accomplices
- what he has said/taught

attempting to get Him to incriminate Himself

v20-21 ask them...they know:

Jesus responds to this illegal line of questioning by

1. correcting Annas concerning the Law
2. pointing Annas to His fulfilling of prophetic Messianic Scripture

I spoke openly in synagogues and in the Temple, many people heard Me
(I have declared My Father's doctrine in the congregation)

John 7:16 **My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me**

Ps 22:22 I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of
the congregation will I praise thee

Ps 40:9-10 I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo,
I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. I
have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have
declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not
concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great
congregation.

I "broadcasted" all that I said (that My Father gave Me to say)

I have said nothing in secret (like you conspirators have repeatedly done in
taking secret counsel to kill Me)

Is 45:18-19 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God
himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath
established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be
inhabited: I *am* the LORD; and *there is* none else. I have
not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not
unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD

speaking righteousness, I declare things that are right.

Is 48:16-17 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there *am* I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me. Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I *am* the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way *that* thou shouldest go.

Your questions of Me are illegal, you are breaking the Law not Me
There are thousands of witnesses you could call
Ask them, they know My doctrine (I AM...the Messiah...John 5:39)

v22-23 officers...struck...why:

When Jesus called Annas, perhaps the most influential of Jewish men, on a basic point of Law, a slap happy officer of the Temple Police (Annas' own private security force) slapped Jesus in the face and rudely rebuked Jesus for disrespecting his boss

How dare you get sassy with this important man!

Did Jesus respond in kind to this violent and condescending rebuke and insult by the officer?

No, He lived Matt 5:39, He "turned the other cheek"

Instead Jesus rebukes the officer, declaring He gave Annas no sass but solid legal advice

What did this "trial" accomplish?

- Revealed the corruption of the legal system
- Fulfilled prophetic Messianic Scripture

v24 sent Him bound to Caiaphas:

The first trial is over, it's now time for the second trial

Jesus remains bound, like a dangerous criminal and a flight risk from "justice"

The trial before Caiaphas is recorded in Matt, Mark, and Luke (not in John)

With the navigation of Matthew, Mark, and Luke to put the pieces of the puzzle together on this final night and day...Acts 17:11 (using my notes uploaded on webpage)

...more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so

Matt 26

Note: Mark's account reads very similarly, with one exception, which will be noted

v57 led Him away to Caiaphas...scribes...elders:

After the "trial" before Annas, Jesus is led to the High Priest

Awaiting the prosecution of Jesus are Caiaphas and the scribes (lawyers) and the elders (leaders), gathered in Caiaphas' palace for this trial

It is their plan/will that is in motion now with the arrest of Jesus

v58 Peter followed afar off:

Again, more on this parallel event next week

But notice: Caiaphas' palace – nice digs for a "humble servant of God"!

Not living simply as do the people but luxuriously "over" the people,
a member of perhaps the wealthiest/most powerful Jewish family

v59-60a sought false witnesses...many...none:

Why did the council (the Sanhedrin, although not all) seek false witnesses?

Why not ask any number of the witnesses who heard Jesus' doctrine spoken
openly in the Temple?

Why not ask Lazarus or the man born blind (John 9)?

Because truthful witnesses would not say what they wanted said,
would not corroborate their predetermined judgment against Jesus

To them, Jesus must die so He must be found guilty of a capital crime.

They sought liars and slanderers to give testimony to "justify" the verdict
they wanted/willed (John 18:14)

They looked long and hard for credible, incriminating witnesses

How many did they find?

None...because there are none; Jesus is without sin

Mark 14:56 their witness agreed not together
(without recrimination per Deut 19:15-20)

Fulfilling prophetic Scripture

Ps 35:11 False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge *things*
that I knew not.

Ps 27:12 false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe
out cruelty

v60b-61 At last came two false witnesses:

Finally 2 witnesses came forward, testifying of what Jesus said 3½ years earlier

John 2:18-21

John 2:19

vs

v60b-61

Mark 14:58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands

Is their witness a true witness, is that what Jesus said?

No, their testimony is false, in accordance with what Satan and his children do

- twist the words of Jesus
- put words in His mouth...add to His Word

Note: Mark 14:59 But neither did their witness agree together

So, the Sanhedrin that was present still has no witnesses, according to the Law
But they can't let the Law get in their way!

v62-63a Answer thou nothing...held His peace:

At this point Caiaphas stands up, taking charge of the "legal" proceedings, and demands to know from Jesus what He has to say for Himself and about the "damning" testimony of these two witnesses

Because Jesus has not responded "in court"

Like his father-in-law, Caiaphas is trying to get Jesus to incriminate Himself by testifying against Himself

Jesus remained silent ("pleading the 5th" silently)

Fulfilling prophetic Messianic Scripture

Is 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth

v63b-64a I adjure thee by the Living God...be the Christ, the Son of God:
The doctrine of Jesus: He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God

They have heard Him say it in a variety of ways and each time they understood
because they sought to kill Him...but “strangely” were unable to

Whose will was and is being done?!

Jesus’ first response to their “smoking gun” question: So you have said.
Note: in KJV, followed by a colon (“:”), indicating a pause in time

Luke 22

v54...followed by Peter’s denial

v66 As soon as it was day:
In Luke’s account we get a timestamp on this Final Day – sunrise

v67-68 tell us...If I tell you:
Jesus is asked a 2nd time if He is the Christ
This time, Jesus responds with the bottom line truth in their hearts
If I told you (yet again), you will not believe Me (yet again)
If I asked you (heart-piercing and heart-exposing) questions (yet again),
you will not answer Me (yet again)
You will not let Me go (v53, you have an agenda known from before the
foundation of the world)

This whole thing is a sham – actions of devious and murderous men...
by which evil/darkness is exposed and the Father’s will is accomplished

Mark 14

v61b-62a Again the high priest asked Him:
For the 3rd time, the High Priest asks Jesus if He is the Christ/Messiah,
the Son of God
This time, Jesus says, “I am.”...just as He said in John 8:58

Note: If reading/studying Matt, Mark, and Luke as silos, one might think Jesus’
3 different answers to the same question are a contradiction in
Scripture

But reading/studying the Gospels chronologically and concurrently,
we see Jesus was asked the same question three times and gave
3 different answers...no contradiction

After “I am”, a colon (“:”), a pause in time
In this trial in Caiaphas’ palace?
In God’s Plan of Redemption?

v62b ye shall see the Son of Man:
Matt’s account reads the same (Matt 26:64b)

The colon after “I am” is a pause in time...in God’s Plan of Redemption

The Christ/Messiah has come to suffer as the Father’s sacrifice for the sins of
mankind (Ps 22, Is 53, etc to be very soon fulfilled)
He will lay His life down and He will take His life up again,
defeating death,

- the wages of sin
- the enemy of man

The Christ/Messiah will then return to heaven from whence He came and take His
rightful place, at the right hand of the Father
Fulfilling prophetic Messianic Scripture, for which the Jews were accountable

Ps 110:1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand,
until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Dan 7:13-14 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of
man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the
Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.
And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a
kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should
serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which
shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not
be destroyed

Acts 7:55-60 (same reaction as we are about to see here)

Then the Christ/Messiah will return to earth as the Father’s King (Ps 2) to destroy
His enemies and to rule mankind for 1000 years

Is 52:10 all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God
Rev 1:17 every eye will see Him
Rev 19:11-16 coming to conquer and destroy

Luke 22

v69-70 Then said they all...Ye say that I am:
Now not just the High Priest is asking The Question, the entire Sanhedrin is
“Then said they all...”

And Jesus answered a 4th time, also differently
“Ye say that I am.”

Ye...plural “you” vs single “you” Thou in Matt 26:64
 (“Thou hast said” to Caiaphas)

KJV, the most accurate translation

v71 heard of His own mouth:
The gathered leaders in Caiaphas’ palace are of one mind, in one accord
A chorus erupts
“We do not need anymore witnesses!
We have heard His testimony!”

They got what they wanted!
They think He incriminated Himself, just as they had hoped!

Matt 26

v65-66 high priest rent...blasphemy...heard...think...guilty:
When Jesus again said He is the Son of God (v64b), the High Priest explodes

- tore his clothes, a sign of great distress...but
Lev 21:10 And *he that is* the high priest among his brethren...shall not...rend his clothes
- took command of the council, to make its decision official (ala RRoO)
- led the Sanhedrin into its predetermined conclusion
 - He has spoken blasphemy (claiming to be equal with God)
 - Why do we need any more witnesses?
 - All ya’ll have heard His blasphemy!
 - What is your verdict?

The council shouted as one voice, He is guilty of a capital crime, worthy of death!
On what legal basis are they making their verdict?

Lev 24:16 And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death

v67-68 spit...buffeted...smote...Prophesy:

The unjustified torment of Jesus begins, in Caiaphas' palace

- spit in His face...an insult of total disdain
- covered His face (Mark 14:65)/blindfolded Him (Luke 22:64) and beat Him
- slapped (another form of insult) and mocked Him (as a prophet) with "Tell us who just slapped you!"

Fulfilling prophetic Messianic Scripture

Job 16:10 They have gaped upon me with their mouth; they have smitten me upon the cheek reproachfully; they have gathered themselves together against me

Is 50:6b I hid not my face from shame and spitting

Is 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not

Micah 5:1b they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek.

Mark 14

v65 the servants did strike Him:

Jesus' accusers did not lay a hand on him, maintaining their hypocritical, sanctimonious piety

They had servants to do their dirty work; do you suppose Malcus did?

Luke 22

(Luke is not written chronologically; must be workmen to rightly divide the Word of truth)

v63-65 many other things blasphemy spake they:

We have no idea what else the Sanhedrin and their servant had to say to vilify and revile Jesus, in their murderous unbelief.

But all of us being haters of God before we were broken by His love and

His grace, we have a pretty good idea...we probably said them too

Not all words of men need to be recorded.

Application

1. Believer and Unbeliever

Why did Jesus not fight back, why did He take

- the injustice
- the mocking
- the insults
- the beating

Gal 1:4 gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father

1 Tim 2:4-6 will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time

Titus 2:11-14 the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works

Love...that conquers hate and death

2. Believer

Let our Teacher, the Holy Spirit, stimulate your hunger for the Word of God

Hundreds of OT prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus Christ, a great many of them in His Final Day

Why are these words inspired by God and written by the prophets?
God is telling His friends what He is doing (ala Gen 19)

The unfulfilled prophecies WILL be fulfilled, and just like the fulfilled prophecies were – literally, just as they were written

How can we understand the times to know what we ought to do (1 Chron 12:32) unless we are studying God's Word...what God is saying to His friends?

What does a pastor/teacher of a "NT church" surrender by ignoring the OT?
The ability to rightly divide the Word of truth (2 Tim 2:15)

3. Unbeliever

Jesus came to earth, just as was foretold

Jesus is coming again to earth, just as has been foretold

2 Thes 1:4-10 (after another son of perdition is revealed, 2 Thes 2:1-4)

Do you want to come with Him, as His friend

or

Do you want Him to come against you, as His enemy?

Easiest decision in the world to make...and the hardest decision in the world to make

Humble yourself before your Maker (Woe to him who strives with his Maker)

Agree with Him – you are not perfect, you have sinned against Him

Confess your sin to Him

Repent of your sin...turn around and follow Jesus

Receive the gifts of God: forgiveness, grace, faith, eternal life