I. FIRST, THE DYE IS CAST.

A. This phrase is attributed to Julius Caesar as he led his army across the Rubicon River in Italy on January 10, 49 B.C.

B. The Jewish religious leaders cast the dye at the beginning of Jesus’ “Passion”

II. WITH THE CASTING OF THE DYE THE TIME OF JESUS’ MURDER WAS SET.

A. The plot to kill Jesus was set in motion two days before Passover--14:1.

B. The Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread were two separate Jewish feasts that celebrated the same event.
   1. The Passover is described in Exodus 12. It celebrated Israel’s exemption of the killing of the first-born of the Egyptians.
   2. The Feast of Unleavened Bread had two meanings.
      a. First, like the Passover, it celebrated Israel’s deliverance from Egypt.
      b. Second, this feast had become a time to mark the harvest of barley.
   3. Since both feasts started on the same day they had become virtually synonymous.

III. WITH THE CASTING OF THE DYE THE PARTICIPANTS IN JESUS’ MURDER WAS SET.

A. Who killed Jesus?
   1. For centuries people have accused the Jews as whole of killing Jesus.
   2. Many Jews are quick to blame the Romans for killing Jesus.

B. Mark tells us it was the Jewish Sanhedrin who killed Jesus--14:1.
   1. Since Caiaphas was the current high priest he must have been the leader--Matt. 26:3-4 and 26:57.
   2. The Sanhedrin was made up or 70 or 71 Jewish religious leaders who handled civil and criminal matters.

C. The plot concocted by the Sanhedrin involved waiting until after the two feasts were over--Mark 14:2.