

**PREMEDITATED MURDER  
MARK 14:1-2 / MAY 24, 2017 WED**

**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 of 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.