

THE THIRD DAY

AN EXAMINATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

THE THIRD DAY

THE TRIALS OF JESUS – PART 1

THE PLOT TO MURDER JESUS

EXAMPLES OF ATTEMPTS TO TRAP JESUS

“Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him in what He said. And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any. “Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, “Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? “Show Me the coin used for the poll-tax.” And they brought Him a denarius. And He said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” They said to Him, “Caesar’s.” Then He said to them, “Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s; and to God the things that are God’s.” And hearing this, they were amazed, and leaving Him, they went away.”

(Matthew 22:15-22)

THE HERODIANS



The Herodians were more a political than religious party. They were Jews who attached themselves to the political fortunes of the Herodian family, hoping thereby to promote the interests of the Jewish people. They were loose in observing Jewish rituals, and though in this respect they were the opposite of the Pharisees, they easily fell in with them in efforts to ruin Jesus. If Jesus spoke against the Romans, the Herodians would run His statements back to the authorities and Jesus would be taken into custody.

EXAMPLES OF ATTEMPTS TO TRAP JESUS

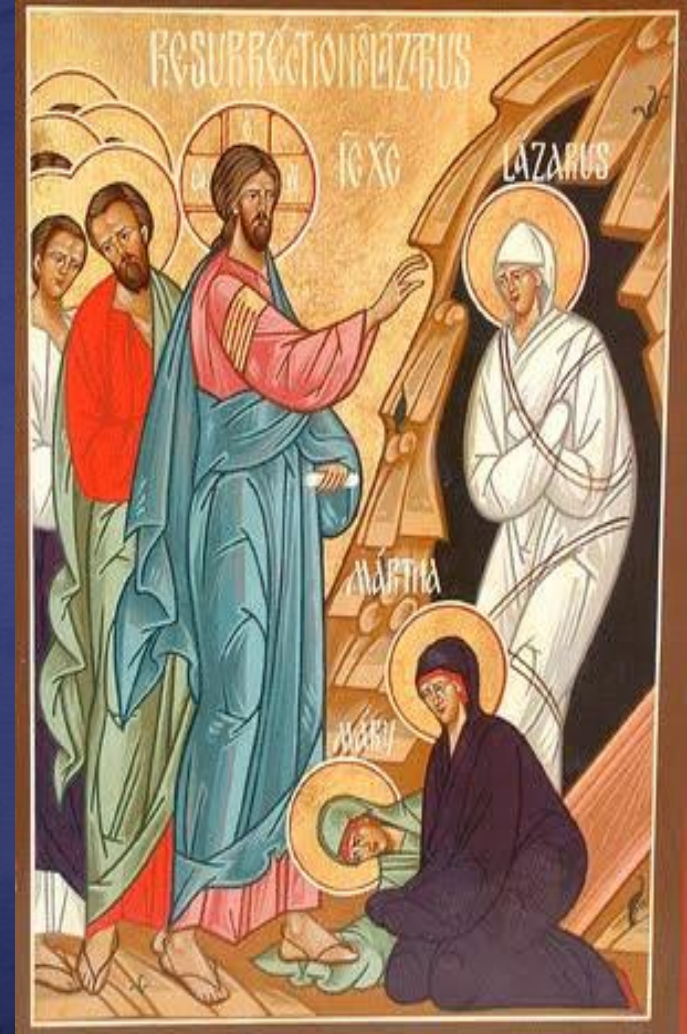
“When Jesus had finished these words, He departed from Galilee and came into the region of Judea beyond the Jordan; and large crowds followed Him, and He healed them there. Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?” ”

(Matthew 19:1-3)

Are the Pharisees simply interested in Jesus' teaching on divorce? Hardly. Jesus was now in Judea, which was under the rule of Herod Antipas. Herod had stolen his brother Philip's wife (Herodias), who was also a blood relative of him. That made Herod's marriage an adulterous and incestuous affair. Remember that John the Baptist was murdered because he had called Herod to account on his marriage. Now, the Pharisees likely knew this and thought that if they could get Jesus to say something negative about Herod's marriage in his jurisdiction, they might be able to get Jesus killed too.

AN EXAMPLE OF HOW FAR THEY WOULD GO

“The large crowd of the Jews then learned that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus’ sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He raised from the dead. But the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also; because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and were believing in Jesus.”
(John 12:9–11)



“The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.”
(Mark 3:6)

“The scribes and the chief priests tried to lay hands on Him that very hour, and they feared the people; for they understood that He spoke this parable against them. So they watched Him, and sent spies who pretended to be righteous, in order that they might catch Him in some statement, so that they could deliver Him to the rule and the authority of the governor.”
(Luke 20:19-20)

“So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.”
(John 11:53)

“They have also surrounded me with
words of hatred, And fought against me
without cause.”
(Psalm 109:3)

THE BETRAYAL PLOT

“Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?” And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him. From then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Jesus.”

(Matthew 26:14–16)

“And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve.”

(Luke 22:3)



“Even my close friend in whom I trusted,
Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel
against me.”
(Psalm 41:9)

“I said to them, “If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!” So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages. Then the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them.” So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the Lord.”

(Zechariah 11:12-13)

Note: 30 shekels of silver was the price for a common slave
(Ex. 21:32)

THE ARREST OF JESUS



“While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up accompanied by a large crowd with swords and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, “Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him.” Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. And Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you have come for.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.”

THE ARREST OF JESUS



“Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. “Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? “How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?” At that time Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as you would against a robber? Every day I used to sit in the temple teaching and you did not seize Me. “But all this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets.” Then all the disciples left Him and fled.”
(Matthew 26:47-56)

THE ILLEGAL RELIGIOUS TRIALS OF JESUS

““You shall appoint for yourself judges and officers in all your towns which the Lord your God is giving you, according to your tribes, and they shall judge the people with righteous judgment. “You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous. “Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, that you may live and possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you.”

(Deuteronomy 16:18-20)

OVERVIEW OF JESUS' TRIALS

	Trial	Scripture	Judge	Decision
Religious Trials Jewish	First	John 18:12-14	Annas	OK to proceed
	Second	Matt. 26:57-68	Caiaphas	Death sentence; charge of blasphemy
	Third	Matt. 27:1-2	Sanhedrin	Death sentence made legal
Secular Trials Roman	Fourth	John 18:28-38	Pilate	Not guilty
	Fifth	Luke 23:6-12	Herod	Not guilty
	Sixth	John 18:39-19:6	Pilate	Not guilty; turned over to the Jews

There had to be two types of trials because the Jews could not carry out the death penalty under Roman law

TIMELINE OF JESUS' RELIGIOUS TRIALS

	Matt 26	Mark 14	Luke 22	John 18
A. Trial before Annas				
a) Jesus taken before Annas			54a	12-14
b) Peter and John follow Jesus			54b	15-16
c) Peter's first denial				17
d) The scene and trial in Annas' house			55	18-23
e) Jesus is sent to Caiaphas [see B a) below]				24
f) Peter's second denial		66-68a	56-57	25
g) Peter's third denial		68b	58	26-27
B. Trial before Caiaphas				
a) Jesus is sent to Caiaphas	57	53		24
b) Peter follows to Caiaphas' house	58	54		
c) The trial before Caiaphas	59-68	55-65		
d) Peter's first denial	69-70			
e) Peter's second denial	71-72	69-70a		
f) Peter's third denial	73-75	70b-72	59-62	

Mills, M. (1999). *The Life of Christ: A Study Guide to the Gospel Record*. Dallas, TX: 3E Ministries.

JESUS BEFORE ANNAS

“So the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people. . . . The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. Jesus answered him, “I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. “Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said.” When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, “Is that the way You answer the high priest?” Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?” So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.” (John 18:12-14,19-24)

“The Lord is God, and He has given us light; Bind the festival sacrifice with cords to the horns of the altar.”

(Psalm 118:27)

“Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.”

(Genesis 22:9)

““I have not spoken in secret, In some dark
land; I did not say to the offspring of
Jacob, ‘Seek Me in a waste place’; I, the
Lord, speak righteousness, Declaring
things that are upright.”

(Isaiah 45:19)

ANNAS

Annas had been high priest for about five or six years, but that 20 years before this. The Romans had pressurized Annas out of the office of high priest because he was amassing so much power. He was a wily and clever man. And so he had been pushed out as high priest after about five or six years, but still carries the name because a high priest was to be a high priest for life. But when Annas went out as high priest, five of his sons and one son-in-law, Caiaphas who married his daughter, succeeded him, so he maintained control. It was "in the family," if you will. He was behind everything. In fact, all of the money changers and the selling and the buying in the temple, all of that was called "the bizarres of Annas." He got a piece of all that action. He was the big boss, if you will, in the temple mafia, the temple criminal proceedings of extortion. He controlled it all.



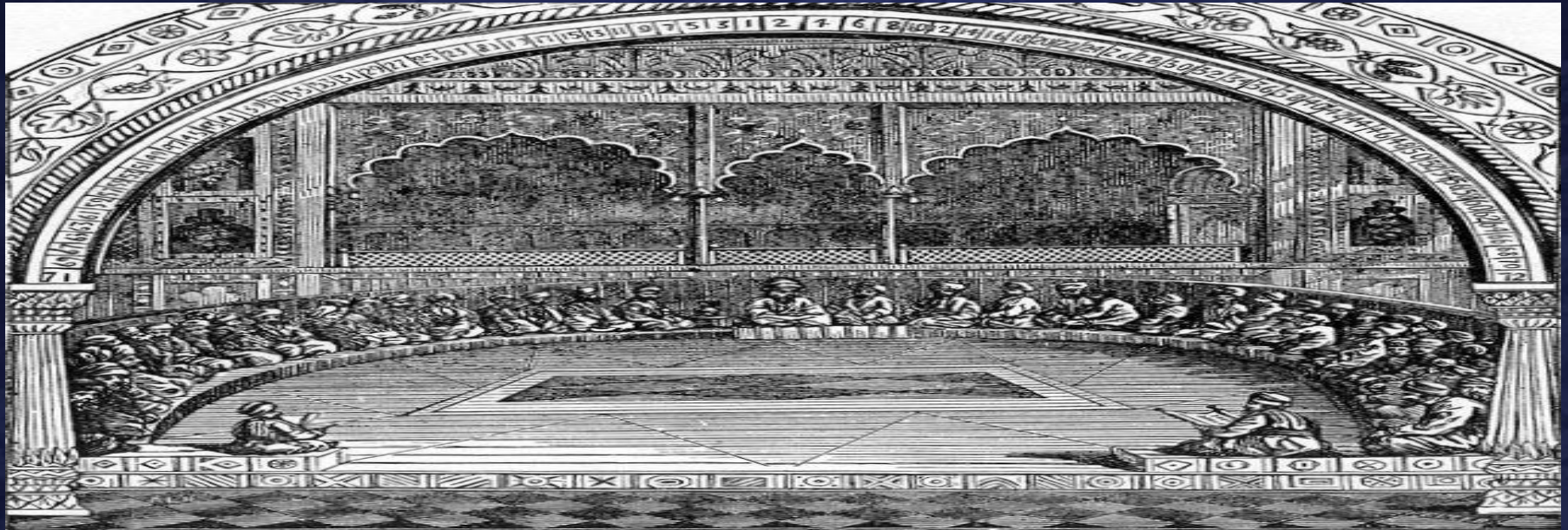
JESUS BEFORE ANNAS



1. It was illegal to hold a trial in a person's house
2. It was illegal to try and induce self-accusation as Annas was doing
3. It was illegal to strike an unconvicted person

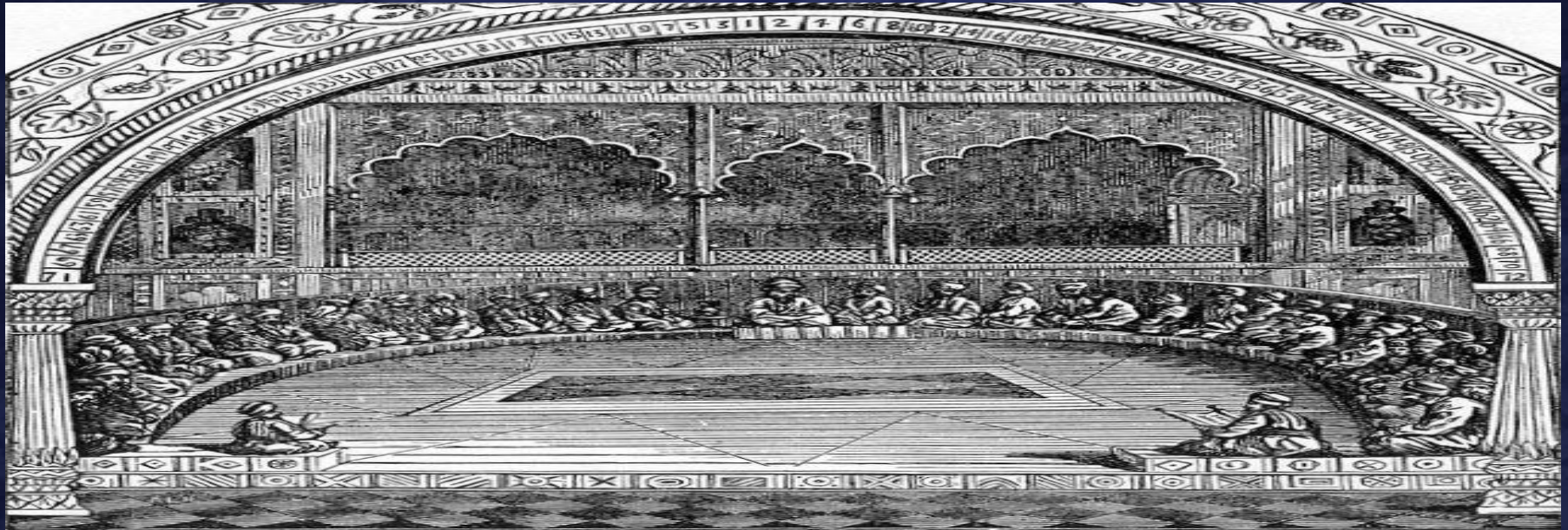
Jesus' statement to Annas was completely warranted. Annas was attempting to get Jesus to implicate Himself vs. hear the testimony of witnesses. Jesus, however, knew the law and requested they interview witnesses and obtain the right testimony. Remember that Jesus in John 2 had run all the money changers and extortionists out of the temple ~ this was Annas' operation. This entire episode was likely a stall tactic to get the Sanhedrin assembled.

THE SANHEDRIN



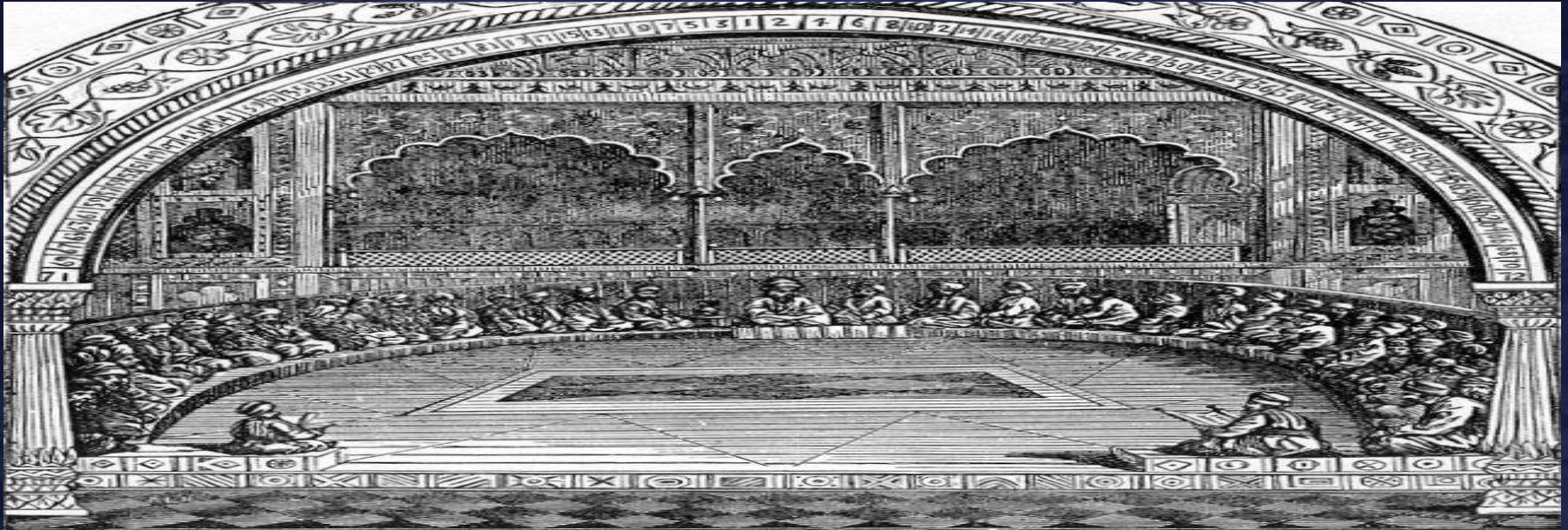
To practically apply Deuteronomy 16:18-20, the nation formed local councils in any region where one hundred and twenty men served as heads of families. That large a community could support a synagogue as well. The local councils became known as Sanhedrin, which is a Hebrew transliteration of a Greek word meaning "sitting together." Each Sanhedrin was made up of twenty-three men who sat together to make judgments and decide civil and criminal issues. An odd number was necessary so that there could always be a majority in any close decision. The twenty-three men were chosen from the elders of the village, and they acted as judges and jury in all matters.

THE SANHEDRIN



The great Sanhedrin ruled in Jerusalem, the capital city and religious center of Israel. It was composed of seventy men plus the high priest. Twenty-four were chief priests, twenty-four were elders, and twenty-three were scribes. This council was the final court for appeal. Anyone who believed that a verdict rendered at a lower level was unfair could appeal to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem. Under the right conditions they could gain a hearing. The great Sanhedrin was the highest ruling body in Israel.

THE SANHEDRIN'S GUARANTEES TO AN ACCUSED



1. A public trial – no hidden or secret trials were permitted.
2. The right to self-defense – someone to provide a defense, complete with witnesses to testify for the defendant.
3. Eyewitness testimony for the prosecution – no guilty verdict could be rendered without an agreeing testimony of at least two witnesses.

THE PENALTY OF PROVIDING FALSE TESTIMONY



The law stated that anyone bearing false testimony against a person in court would suffer the punishment for the crime of which the defendant was accused.

“If a malicious witness rises up against a man to accuse him of wrongdoing, then both the men who have the dispute shall stand before the Lord, before the priests and the judges who will be in office in those days. The judges shall investigate thoroughly, and if the witness is a false witness and he has accused his brother falsely, then you shall do to him just as he had intended to do to his brother. Thus you shall purge the evil from among you.” (Deuteronomy 19:16-19)

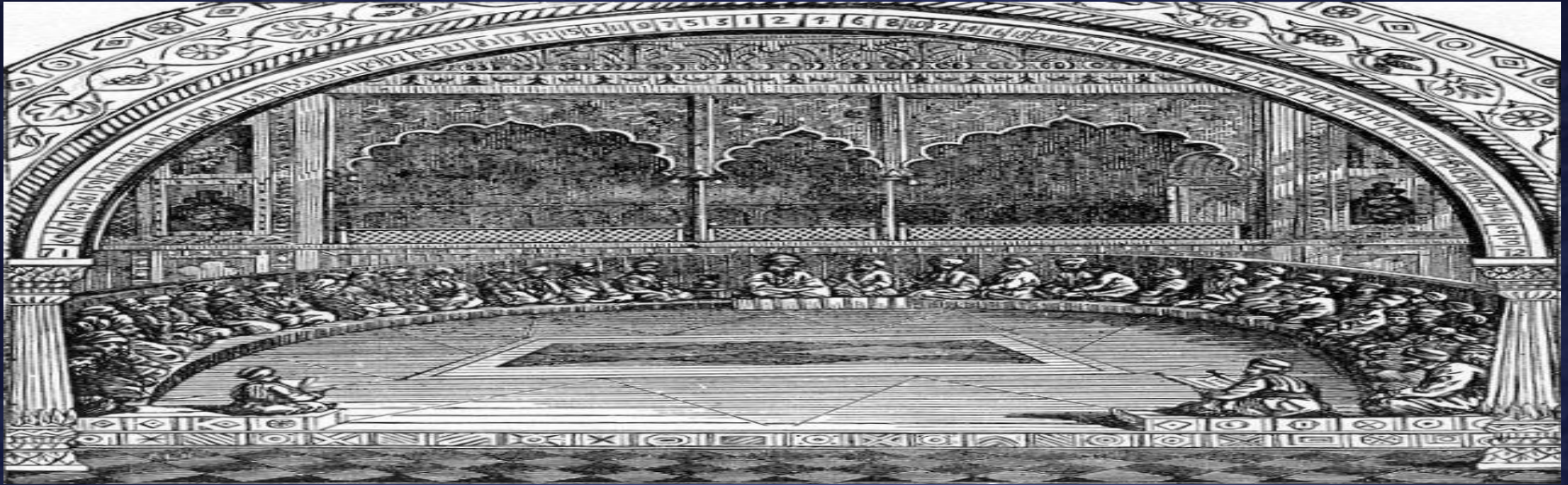
THE HANDLING OF THE DEATH PENALTY



For any case where the death was prescribed as the sentence, the execution could not be accomplished until the third day. The day in the middle was a day to be sure that all the evidence was in and there was no further need for testimony. Further, the witnesses who witnessed against the person which brought about the death penalty were the ones who had to cast the first stone in the execution.

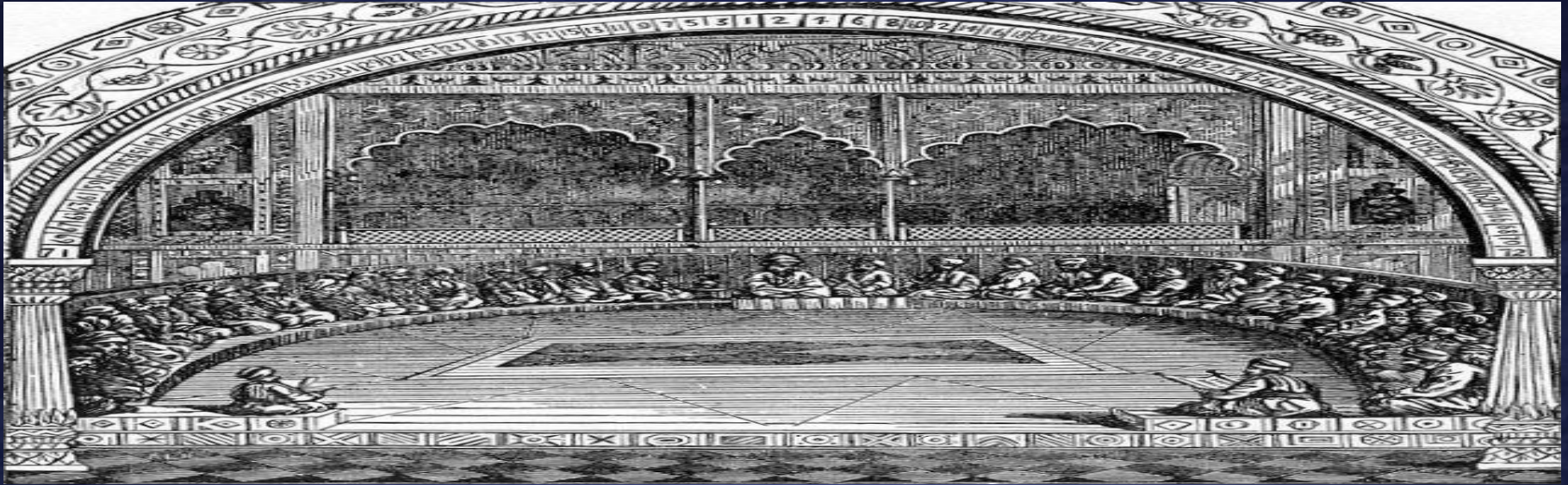
“The hand of the witnesses shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.” (Deuteronomy 17:7)

OTHER CHECKS AND BALANCES OF THE SANHEDRIN



- Auditors were present to ensure the judges carried out justice according to the law.
- Each witness was to be exhorted with an oath and curse that would fall upon the witness if they were lying (we get our custom in court from this)
- Women, children, known men of bad character could not testify
- No one could testify against himself and no such self-incrimination testimony could be admitted
- No trial could be carried out throughout the night

OTHER CHECKS AND BALANCES OF THE SANHEDRIN



- No one could speak out than prosecution witnesses and a judge unless they were providing testimony for the accused
- Any person pronounced guilty was not to be punished until the third day afterwards
- During this period of time, the judges were to fast and meditate on the case; therefore, such a trial could not take place right before a feast day or the judges would be violating the Jewish law
- The accused was to be brought back on the third day and the judges were polled again to ensure their guilty verdict remained the majority opinion

JESUS BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN



1. The trial was held in secret
2. The trial was carried out at night
3. The means involved bribery, which was forbidden (Deut. 16)
4. Jesus had no one to make a defense for Him
5. They could not obtain 2-3 witness testimony against Him
6. They used self-incriminating testimony against Him
7. They carried out the death penalty against Him the same day

JESUS BEFORE THE SANHEDRIN



“Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death.

They did not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward, and said, “This man stated, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.’”

” (Matthew 26:59-61)

“If I didn't know Jesus Christ was perfect, if I didn't know Jesus Christ was absolutely sinless, the Son of God as He claimed, this incident alone would convince me that He was. I really wouldn't need anything else. I'll tell you why. Hell is running this whole show. Satan has entered Judas. This is the hour of the power of darkness. All the best of hell, the braintrust of hell, Satan and all his most brilliant powerful resourceful demons are after an accusation against Jesus. And all of earth's leaders in that place are also after an accusation of Jesus. When all earth and all hell energized by supernatural resources and intelligence and desperately wanting to find something against Jesus Christ can't find anything, that tells me there isn't anything to find. This is one of the greatest apologetics for the perfection of Jesus Christ anywhere in the pages of Scripture. If there was anything He ever did wrong, they would have found it. If it had to be revealed by demons, they would have found it. But there was no crime...absolute perfection. This is God in human flesh, no less...no less. They couldn't find anything...absolutely nothing.”

- John MacArthur

THE ILLEGAL AND UNJUST CONDEMNATION



“The high priest stood up and said to Him, “Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?” But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, “I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.” Jesus said to him, “You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; what do you think?” They answered, “He deserves death!” ” (Matthew 26:62–66)

“The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I
make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.” ”

(Psalm 110:1)

““I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the
clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And
He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented
before Him. “And to Him was given dominion, Glory and a
kingdom, That all the peoples, nations and men of every
language Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting
dominion Which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed. ”

(Daniel 7:13-14)

JESUS' CLAIMS TO BE THE MESSIAH

“And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed, To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ”
(Luke 4:16-21)

“The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.” ”
(John 4:25-26)

“The law does not permit the death penalty as a sentence for a sinner by his own confession.”

Maimonides, Jewish medieval scholar

“Moreover, the one who blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death; all the congregation shall certainly stone him. The alien as well as the native, when he blasphemes the Name, shall be put to death.”

(Leviticus 24:16)

THE UNJUST BEHAVIOR OF THE PRIESTS



“Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, and said, “Prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?” ”
(Matthew 26:67-68)

This is the Jewish aristocracy. This is the high priest and the elders and the chief priests and the scribes. This is supposedly the best of all the leaders, come together to constitute the supreme court.

THE LAST RELIGIOUS TRIAL OF JESUS



“Now when morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death;”
(Matthew 27:1)

THE SATANIC POWER BEHIND JESUS' TRIAL

“And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve.”
(Luke 22:3)

“After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him,
“What you do, do quickly.” ”
(John 13:27)

““While I was with you daily in the temple, you did not lay hands on Me; but this hour and the power of darkness are yours.” ”
(Luke 22:53)

““You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” ”
(John 8:44)

BUT IT WAS ALL PART OF GOD'S PLAN

“this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.”

(Acts 2:23)

THE REAL TRIAL



The real trial was what Israel would do with their promised Messiah. They fulfilled the prophecies of the Messiah's rejection to a tee. What they also didn't know then is that the One who was on trial would one day judge them:

““And He ordered us to preach to the people, and solemnly to testify that this is the One who has been appointed by God as Judge of the living and the dead.”
(Acts 10:42)

THE GREAT EXCHANGE – THE JUST FOR THE UNJUST



His unjust trial instead of our just trial...

His unjust condemnation instead of our just condemnation...

His unjust sentence instead of our just sentence...

His unjust execution instead of our just execution...

“For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;”

(1 Peter 3:18)

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