



THE TRIAL OF THE CENTURIES

The first law listed here was clearly broken when Judas was paid to betray Jesus. As you read the following synopsis of the biblical record of the religious trial and the accounts in the Gospels, see if you can spot where the remainder of the above laws were broken.

Jesus was arrested at night in the garden of Gethsemane. Judas was accompanied by a multitude that included the chief priests and the elders (Mark 14:43). The first of the three phases of the religious trial was before Annas (John 18:12-14, 19-23). The purpose of this particular trial was to establish a religious charge upon which the Messiah could be tried in a Sanhedrin court of law. The first phase of the religious trial was very short. It ended in failure, for it produced no specific charge. As a result, Annas gave up and sent Jesus to Caiaphas for the second phase of the religious trial (Luke 22:54).

Members of the Sanhedrin came into Caiaphas' house, ready to try the Messiah. The Sanhedrin was composed of 71 men; 24 were chief priests, 24 were elders, 22 were scribes, and one was the high priest. For the Sanhedrin to have a legal trial, there had to be a minimum of 23 members present, and there is little doubt that they had at least that many. However, the entire 71 were not present, for it is clear from the record in the Gospels that two of the members were absent: Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathaea (John 19:38-42).

The initial stage of the second phase of the religious trial began with the seeking of witnesses (Mark 14:55-56). After several attempts, the religious leaders managed to come up with two witnesses whom they thought had corroborating testimonies (Mark 14:58). But as the second witness spoke, he gave a slightly different account from the first (Matthew 26:61; Mark 14:59).

By now, Caiaphas was frustrated and wished to take the matter into his own hands. He challenged Jesus to respond to the accusations against Him (Matthew 26:62). The Messiah stuck to His rights as a defendant and refused to answer. It was at this point that Caiaphas placed Jesus under oath (Matthew 26:36). When Jesus affirmed His Messiahship (Matthew 26:64), the Sanhedrin responded by breaking a number of commandments (Matthew 26:65-68). The second phase of the religious trial ended in mockery and with the second of several mistreatments of the Messiah (Luke 22:63-65).

The final phase of the religious trial was only an attempt to legalize an illegal proceeding, but nothing could rectify the many illegalities that had taken place in the first two phases (Luke 22:66-71). This very attempt to legalize an illegal proceeding was filled with further illegalities.

With this, the religious trial of Messiah came to an end. The charge was blasphemy (Mark 14:64), which, under Jewish law, carried with it the death penalty. However, according to Roman law, the Jews could not carry out the execution.

Fcuasmnnpesbalbaddlgarcb, wcrfcbgblmrmncl fgs
k msrf9fcuaslclbgic a lakbrmrfcslasefrep, albasa
sfcenbedmpcfpcsfcapepsgsglclr, sñcbgb lmr mnclfgs
k msrf, (s@af3185 LGT)

Amnwpgeft2.2.ApgclMglgsrpgcs



5IF1BHEBMEFWIBZSVT□
(SFFLGSBHNEPPIE(PTEMPGIBIF□
IBESBIE□ □



UEFOH□
SSOESTUWFOCN □