

Trial Before the Romans

Dave Anderson

“Then they took [to clasp, seize. Strong’s # 4815]him, and led[bring, drive. Strong’s # 71] him, and brought him into the high priest’s house. Luke 22:54

ANNAS

“Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him, and led him away to Annas first,for he was father in law to Caiaphas, which was the high priest that same year. Now Caiaphas was he which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people”. John 18:12-14

“Now in the fifteeneth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Phillip tetrarch of Ituraea of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.” Luke 3:1-2 [**Caiaphas was the ruling priest (A.D. 18-36), though Annas, high priest (A.D. 6-15) continued to exercise weight influence.**] **Ryrie Study Bible note on Luke 3:2 The high priest was appointed annually, but members of the family of Annas and Caiaphas were often reappointed in the first century. [Jewish Groups at the Time of Jesus]**

“The high priest [Annas] then asked Jesus of his disciples and of his doctrine. Jesus answered him, **I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. Why askest thou me? Ask them which heard me what I have said unto them: behold they know what I said.** And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so? Jesus answered him, **If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me?”** John 18:19-23

“Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.” John 18:24

CAIAPHAS

“And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.” Matthew 26:57 [**This was a preliminary hearing held at night, but the Sandhedrin (70 or 72 elders and teachers of the nation) could not legally convene at night. Ryrie Study Bible note on Luke 22:66]**

“Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; but found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, and said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? What is it which these witness against thee? But

Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, **Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.** Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? Behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him, and others smote him with the palms of their hands, saying Prophecy unto us thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?" Matthew 26:59-68

"And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying, Art thou the Christ? Tell us. And he said unto them, **If I tell you, ye will not believe: and if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go. Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.** Then said they all, art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, **Ye say that I am.** And they said, What need we any further witness? For we ourselves have heard of his own mouth. Luke 22:66-71

PILATE

[The verdict was made official as soon as it was day. Since, however, the Sanhedrin had no power to carry out a capital sentence, the case had to be remanded to Pilate, senior representative of the Roman government in Judea. Ryrie Study Bible note on Luke 22:66]

[Pontius Pilate had his headquarters in Caesarea, the city Herod built on the Mediterranean, in honor of Caesar Augustus. He had a palace in Jerusalem and was in the city at Passover time, when crowds would be huge and trouble always possible. Ryrie Study Bible note on Matthew 27:2]

"And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. And they began to accuse him saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King. **[The charge against Jesus made before Pilate was political – that He was a rival "king." Insurrection against Rome was implied. The Jews knew that blasphemy would not be regarded by Rome as sufficient ground for the death penalty. Ryrie Study Bible note on Luke 23:2]**

"Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgement..." John 18:28 **[The hall of judgement was the Roman praetorium or headquarters, the barracks. As a dwelling place of Gentiles it was unclean. Thus the Jewish authorities would not enter, lest they be defiled for the Passover. They were willing, however, to see the murder of Jesus committed without fearing defilement. Ryrie Study Bible note on John 18:28]**

“And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and Said, **Thou sayest it.** Then said Pilate to the chief priests and to the people, I find no fault in this man. And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place. When Pilate heard of Galilee he asked whether the man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself was at Jerusalem at that time.” Luke 23:3-7

HEROD

[Pilate was not required to send Jesus to Herod Antipas but did so hoping to find a way out of his own dilemma and perhaps also as a diplomatic gesture”. Ryrie Study Bible note on Luke 23:7]

“And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him. And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate. And the same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together: for before they were at enmity between themselves.” Luke 23:10-12

[To Herod the whole matter seemed to be a joke, since he treated the incident as an occasion for amusement and then returned Jesus to Pilate. Ryrie Study Bible note on Luke 23:11]

“As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.” Isaiah 52:14 **[...that He could scarcely be recognized as human... Ryrie Study Bible note on Isaiah 52:14]**

PILATE

Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man? They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee. Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death **[The Sanhedrin could condemn a man to death, but the Roman government had to approve and execute the sentence. Ryrie Study Bible note on John 18:31]:** that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die. Then Pilate entered into the judgement hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered him, **Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?** Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? **[Jesus asked whether Pilate’s question arose from his own Roman viewpoint or from a Jewish viewpoint. Ryrie Study Bible note on John 18:34]** Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.** Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, **Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into**

the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth hearth my voice. [Because Pilate's answer indicated that he was concerned only about a rival political kingdom to Rome, our Lord replied as He did in this verse, indicating that His was not such a kingdom. Pilate was then satisfied that Jesus was not a political threat and therefore wished to release him. Ryrie Study Bible note on John 18:36] Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all." John 18:29-38 [What is truth? Pilate was not being philosophical but was simply expressing frustration and irritation at Jesus' avoidance of a direct answer to what seemed to him to be a simple question. He did not really understand the charges. Ryrie Study Bible note on John 18:38]

Barabbas was released.

“Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged **[Better, flogged by means of a leather whip that had pieces of bone or metal imbedded in its thongs. It was used by the Romans only on murderers or traitors. Ryrie Study Bible note on Matthew 27:26]** him. And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, And said Hail, King of the Jews! And they smote him with their hands. John 19:1-3

From Max Lucado's book, "Six Hours One Friday"

“Those six hours were no normal six hours. They were the most critical hours in history. For during those six hours on that Friday, God embedded in the earth three anchor points sturdy enough to withstand any hurricane.

Anchor Point #1 – *My life is not futile.* This rock secures the hull of your heart. Its sole function is to give you something which you can grip when facing the surging tides of futility and relativism. It is a firm grasp on the conviction that there is truth. Someone is in control and you have a purpose.

Anchor Point #2 – *My failures are not fatal.* It's not that he loves what you did, but he loves who you are. You are his. The one who has the right to condemn you provided the way to acquit you. You make mistakes. God doesn't. And he made you.

Anchor Point #3 – *My death is not final.* There is one more stone to which you should tie. It's large. It's round. And it's heavy. It blocked the door of a grave. It wasn't big enough, though. The tomb that it sealed was the tomb of a transient. He only went in to prove he could come out. And on the way out he took the stone with him and turned it into an anchor point. He dropped it deep into the uncharted waters of death. Tie to his rock and the typhoon of the tomb becomes a spring breeze on Easter Sunday.”