

Our Lord Jesus Christ is put on Trial
(Thursday midnight to Friday 8 A.M., 1st May A.D. 33)

If we view the events, which passed in these eight hours from a merely human standpoint, we shall be at a loss to find words with which to express our emotions at so dastardly a miscarriage of justice. In fact, it is an insult to the word "Justice" to associate it in any way with the so-called Trials at which our blessed Lord was forced to appear and hear Himself condemned. Apart from the hearing He received from Pilate, the Roman Governor, who admitted He was guiltless, our Lord's case was never examined or even presented. The Jewish rulers had determined His death beforehand and these so-called Trials were merely part of a plan to dress up this determination with the barest semblance of conformity to the accepted processes of Law among civilized nations.

John informs us that our Lord was led to Annas "first". His account of events while before Annas, is the only mention of this first ordeal through which the Saviour passed. The Bible makes it perfectly clear that both Annas and Caiaphas were High Priests. Caiaphas was evidently the duly appointed *de facto* High Priest by the Roman Authorities that year. Annas was *de jure* High Priest and recognized as such by the Jews.

In reality, may it be said in passing, it was not the Son of God who on this occasion was on trial before the rulers of the Jewish nation, but the Jewish nation that was on trial before the God of Israel as to what it would do with His Son. The history of the Jewish people from the siege of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70 to 1945, when Hitler holocaust ended was, in fact, the God of Israel's reply to the Jewish rulers for their part in the rejection and crucifixion of His Son. Later our Lord will present Himself to them again, for, said Zechariah on His behalf, "They shall look upon Me Whom they have pierced" (12:10). This will occur after the period of their worst tribulation.

The Jewish rulers had now parted with Jesus, Whom they had handed over as a Prisoner to the Roman Governor for trial. Our Lord Jesus Christ was presented to Pilate as a conspirator against the Roman Empire and as One Who claimed kingly right which He intended to enforce. The progress of our Lord's trial was beginning to prove a great embarrassment to Pilate. Hearing that He was from Galilee, Pilate, hoping to be relieved of giving a verdict, at once sent Him to Herod who ruled that province and under whose jurisdiction our Lord came. Herod however refused to pass any form of sentence upon our Lord such as the Jews desired.

Jesus was sent back to Pilate, who proposed to chastise Him and then release Him. It was at this critical juncture, as Matthew informs us, that Pilate had a message from his wife telling of a dream she had just had concerning Jesus. Her message was, "Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of Him". (27:19). This perfectly confirmed his own view about Jesus that He was guiltless. He should have acted in light of his own consciousness that the Lord was not guilty. However Pilate was not strong enough to risk his own position as a ruler by embittering the whole Jewish hierarchy and so endangering his own status with the

Authorities at Rome. So Jesus had to be sacrificed on the altar of Pilate's personal well being.

From the book *The Restored Vision* by A.E. Ware.