

Easter Teaching No. 5

The Religious Trials

1. The Trial before Annas

Jesus had been led to the House of Annas, he was the father-in-law of the current high priest, Caiaphas. These both had control of the family commercial venture called The Bazaar of Annas to which Jesus had gone inside the Temple compound and twice overturned their stalls, the most recent being only a few days since.

Annas had been High Priest from 7-14AD then was deposed by Rome and succeeded by four of his sons and finally, his son-in-law Caiaphas from 25-36 AD, however Annas was the real power even though Caiaphas was the High Priest.

As I said before, during the arrest and trial of Jesus, 22 of the Sanhedrin laws regarding arrest and trial, were violated by the Sanhedrin themselves in the case of Jesus. We will see many of those during the next couple of studies:-

Firstly, we see Rules No. 4 and 5 violated

Rule No. 4 There were to be no trials before the morning sacrifice
(the morning sacrifice was at 9 am)

Rule No. 5 There were to be no secret trials, only public trials

John 18:19-23

Annas questioned Jesus about his teaching and his disciples, wanting Jesus to incriminate himself and his disciples but Jesus answered

Vs:20-21 ' I always taught in synagogues or at the Temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me, Surely they know what I said'.

Then one of the officials slapped him in the face. Strange as it may seem, a slap with an open hand to the face of a Jew, at that time, was considered to be more of an insult than being punched in the face. Jesus was treated with contempt and cruelty not permitted during a trial.

Annas had tried to find something to charge Jesus with according to the Sanhedrin law and had failed. With Annas failing to find a charge against him, Jesus should have been released, not so - instead he was passed to Caiaphas.