

Trials of Jesus

JESUS' SIX TRIALS TOOK PLACE IN A MATTER OF HOURS

JUDGE	PLACE	RULING	VERSE
1 Annas	Annas' house	Proceed	John 18:12-14
2 Caiaphas	Caiaphas' house	Blasphemy	Matthew 26:57-68
3 Sanhedrin	Caiaphas' house	Worthy of death	Matthew 26:66
4 Pilate	Praetorium	Not guilty	John 18:28-38
5 Herod	Herod's Palace	Not guilty	Luke 23:6-12
6 Pilate	Praetorium	Not guilty, turned over to Jews	John 18:38-19:16

Who killed Jesus?

1 Annas: After Jesus was arrested he was taken to the the house of Annas, former high priest and father-in-law to the current high priest. He agrees to proceed.

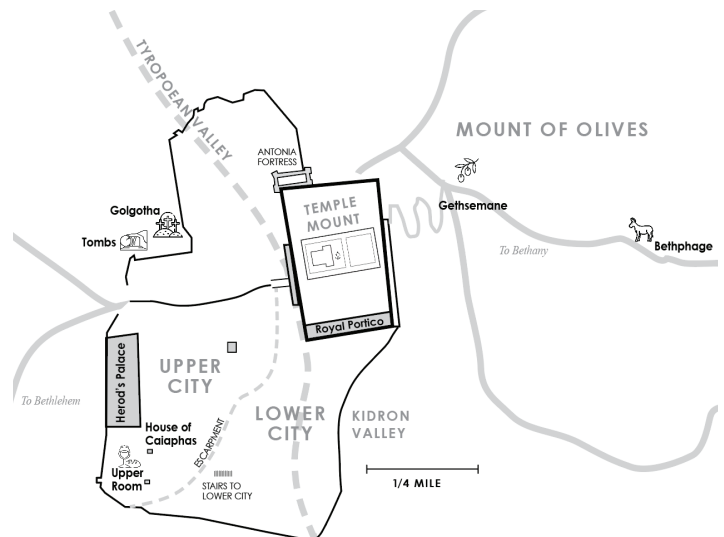
2 Caiaphus: He sends him to the house of Caiaphus. It was early morning. He was outraged when Jesus finally agrees that he is God's chosen one and declares blasphemy.

3 Sanhedrin: The council gathered and "were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, but they found none" (Matt 26). Nonetheless, they agree he must die. The guards spit on him, mocked him, beat him.

4 Pontious Pilate: They took him to Pilate because the Jewish council could not put anyone to death. They use the vantage point with Pilate that Jesus is a threat to Caesar and peace. But Pilate finds no fault in Jesus. He hears that he is a Galilean, so he attempts to sidestep the matter and sends him to Herod Antipas, as that is his jurisdiction. (Praetorium was either at Herod's Palace or Antonia Fortress.)

5 Herod Antipas: Herod wanted to meet this Jesus in hopes he would perform miracles. There were no miracles and Jesus made no answer. Herod found no fault in him. Herod's soldiers beat him and mocked him, sent him back to Pilate in "splendid" clothing.

6 Pontious Pilate: Pilate had Jesus flogged and examined him once more. Pilate tells the chief priests he nor Herod found fault in him and he would punish him and release him, but they demanded



his crucifixion. He looked for one more opportunity to release Jesus. Each Passover the governor would release one prisoner dictated by the crowd. This crowd though was stirred up by the priests and declared they wanted Barabas, a robber and murder, released instead of Jesus. Pilate relented and ordered the crucifixion.

So the guilty one was given life when he deserved death. Jesus took his place, the same as he has done for you and for me.

But to answer the question — who killed Jesus? — it wasn't religious leaders or the Romans or the citizens shouting for his crucifixion. It was God himself. This was his rescue plan from the beginning.

It was love, not nails that held Jesus to the cross. He said, "No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." John 10:18