

# Mark 14:57

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying,

## Analysis

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**And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him** (καὶ τινες ἀναστάντες ἐψευδομαρτύρουν κατ' αὐτοῦ, kai tines anastantes epseudomartyroun kat' autou)—The participle ἀναστάντες (anastantes, 'having stood up') suggests a dramatic moment in the trial. After the initial wave of failed testimonies (v. 56), new witnesses arise. The continued use of ψευδομαρτυρέω (pseudomartyreo) shows Mark's editorial comment: these too were liars, though their testimony would prove more coherent than the previous attempts.

The verb form is imperfect, indicating they were testifying falsely over a period of time. This wasn't a single statement but sustained perjury. Yet even this 'improved' false witness would fail to secure conviction (v. 59), requiring the high priest himself to finally extract the confession he sought (v. 61-62).

## Historical Context

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Roman legal procedure (which influenced Herodian courts) distinguished between *testimonia* (sworn testimony) and *narratio* (narrative account). False witnesses risked the penalty they sought for the accused (Deuteronomy 19:19). However, this safeguard required conviction of perjury, which the corrupt Sanhedrin wouldn't pursue. The 'certain ones' who arose may have been the planted witnesses mentioned in Luke 22:2 as part of the conspiracy.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. Why does Mark continue emphasizing 'false witness' even when describing more convincing testimony?
2. What spiritual principle is at work when even 'better' lies still fail against divine truth?
3. How does the rising of 'certain ones' parallel the rising of false teachers in the church (Acts 20:30)?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ τινες ἀναστάντες ἐψευδομαρτύρουν κατ' αὐτοῦ  
And certain there arose and bare false witness against him  
G2532 G5100 G450 G5576 G2596 G846

λέγοντες

saying

G3004

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