

Mark 14:64

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.

Analysis

Ye have heard the blasphemy (ἵκούσατε τῆς βλασφημίας, ēkousate tēs blasphēmias)—The noun βλασφημία (blasphēmia) means reviling God's name or claiming divine prerogatives. Leviticus 24:16 prescribed death for blasphemy: 'he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death.' **What think ye?** (τί ύμῖν φαίνεται; ti hymin phainetai?)—literally, 'How does it appear to you?' Caiaphas frames this as requiring their judgment, though the verdict was predetermined.

And they all condemned him to be guilty of death (οἱ δὲ πάντες κατέκριναν αὐτὸν ἔνοχον εἶναι θανάτου, hoi de pantes katekrinan auton enochon einai thanatou)—The verb κατακρίνω (katakrinō) means to judge against, condemn. The adjective ἔνοχος (enochos) means liable, guilty, deserving. The universal πάντες (pantes, 'all') indicts the entire Sanhedrin, though John 19:38-39 suggests Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus may have absented themselves or dissented.

Historical Context

Capital verdicts in the Sanhedrin required a one-day delay before sentencing (Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:1) to allow reflection and prevent hasty judgment. This trial violated that rule, moving from arrest to verdict in hours. 'Guilty of death' (ἔνοχος θανάτου, enochos thanatou) was a legal formula, but the Sanhedrin lacked authority to execute under Roman occupation, necessitating Pilate's involvement (15:1).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Was Jesus's claim truly blasphemy, or was it truth that the Sanhedrin refused to accept?
2. How does the universal condemnation ('all') prefigure humanity's corporate guilt requiring Christ's substitutionary death?
3. Why did the religious leaders view Jesus's self-identification as more dangerous than His miracle-working?

Interlinear Text

ἡκούσατε τῆς βλασφημίας· τί ὑμῖν φαίνεται οἱ δὲ
Ye have heard G3588 the blasphemy G988 what G5101 ye G5213 think G5316 And G3588
G191 G1161

πάντες κατέκριναν αὐτὸν εἶναι ἔνοχον θανάτου
they all condemned him to be guilty of death
G3956 G2632 G846 G1511 G1777 G2288

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 24:16 (Parallel theme): And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the LORD, shall be put to death.

John 19:7 (Parallel theme): The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

