

Matthew 26:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas,

Analysis

Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders—The Sanhedrin, Judaism's supreme council of 71 members, convenes for conspiracy. These three groups represented the religious establishment: chief priests (Sadducees controlling the temple), scribes (legal experts, mostly Pharisees), and elders (aristocratic laymen).

Unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas—Joseph Caiaphas (Greek: Καϊάφας, Καϊάφας) served as high priest 18-36 AD under Roman appointment. His father-in-law Annas wielded significant power behind the scenes. John 11:49-50 records Caiaphas's chilling prophecy that one man should die for the nation—inadvertently declaring substitutionary atonement.

Historical Context

Caiaphas's palace was located in the wealthy Upper City of Jerusalem. The high priesthood, originally a lifetime office from Aaron's line, had become a political appointment controlled by Rome. Caiaphas maintained his position by keeping peace with Roman authorities—Jesus threatened that delicate balance.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the unified opposition of religious leaders fulfill the prophetic pattern of 'the rulers take counsel together against the Lord' (Psalm 2:2)?
2. What does the religious establishment's rejection of Jesus reveal about the danger of prioritizing institutional preservation over truth?

Interlinear Text

Τότε συνήχθησαν τοῦ ἀρχιερέως καὶ τοῦ γραμματεῖς
Then assembled together who of the high priest and who the scribes
G5119 G4863 G3588 G749 G2532 G3588 G1122

καὶ τοῦ πρεσβύτεροι τοῦ λαοῦ εἰς τοῦ αὐλὴν τοῦ
and who the elders who of the people unto who the palace who
G2532 G3588 G4245 G3588 G2992 G1519 G3588 G833 G3588

ἀρχιερέως τοῦ λεγομένου Καϊάφα
of the high priest who was called Caiaphas
G749 G3588 G3004 G2533

Additional Cross-References

John 18:24 (Parallel theme): Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.

Mark 14:54 (Parallel theme): And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire.

John 11:57 (Parallel theme): Now both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a commandment, that, if any man knew where he were, he should shew it, that they might take him.

John 18:28 (Parallel theme): Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.

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