

# 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

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**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: Kaiaphas, 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

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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

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**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

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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

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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

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**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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