

Matthew 27:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

Analysis

When the morning was come (πρωΐας δὲ γενομένης)—The Sanhedrin reconvened at daybreak to give their condemnation legal legitimacy, as capital trials conducted at night were prohibited under Jewish law (Mishnah Sanhedrin 4:1). Their nocturnal examination was illegal; this morning session was a façade of due process.

All the chief priests and elders formed the Sanhedrin, Israel's supreme court of 71 members. The phrase **took counsel** (συμβούλιον ἔλαβον) means they reached a formal verdict—not merely deliberation, but judicial conspiracy. **To put him to death** (ὥστε θανατῶσαι αὐτόν) reveals their predetermined intent: not justice but execution. Since Rome had removed capital jurisdiction from Jewish courts (John 18:31), they needed Pilate's cooperation, transforming religious charges into political treason.

Historical Context

This occurred Friday morning, circa AD 30-33, during Passover week when Jerusalem swelled with pilgrims. The Sanhedrin met in the Chamber of Hewn Stone on the Temple Mount. Though they had religious authority, Roman occupation meant only the prefect could execute capital punishment. The chief priests were predominantly Sadducees who collaborated with Rome, viewing Jesus as a threat to their political arrangement (John 11:48).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. When have you witnessed authority figures manipulating legal procedures to achieve predetermined outcomes? How does Christ's silent submission challenge worldly power?
2. The religious establishment condemned the Messiah they claimed to await. What blindness in your own religious tradition might cause you to reject God's work?

Interlinear Text

Πρωΐας	δὲ	γενομένης	συμβούλιον	ἔλαβον	πάντες	οἱ	
the morning	When	was come	counsel	took	all	G3588	
G4405	G1161	G1096	G4824	G2983	G3956		
ἀρχιερεῖς	καὶ	οἱ	πρεσβύτεροι	τοῦ	λαοῦ	κατὰ	τοῦ
the chief priests	and	G3588	elders	G3588	of the people	against	G3588
G749	G2532		G4245		G2992	G2596	
Ἰησοῦ	ὥστε	θανατῶσαι	αὐτόν·				
Jesus	to	put	him				
G2424	G5620	G2289	G846				

Additional Cross-References

Mark 15:1 (References Jesus): And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate.

John 18:28 (References Jesus): 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.

Psalms 2:2 (Parallel theme): The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

Luke 22:66 (Parallel theme): And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying,

Micah 2:1 (Parallel theme): Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds! when the morning is light, they practise it, because it is in the power of their hand.

Matthew 23:13 (Parallel theme): But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

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