

Caiaphas

Caiaphas was high priest from AD18-AD36 when he was deposed by Vitellius, governor of Syria, he was son-in-law to Annas, [**John 18:13**] and seems to have worked in close co-operation with him.

Caiaphas was the leader of the religious group called the Sadducees.

Educated and wealthy, they were politically influential in the nation.

As an elite group they were on fairly good terms with Rome.

They hated Jesus Christ because He endangered their secure lifestyles and taught a message they could not accept, a kingdom in which the leaders served had no appeal to them, [Matthew 20:26-28; Mark 10:43-45; Luke 22:24-27].

Caiaphas' usual policy was to remove any threats to his power by whatever means necessary.

For Caiaphas, whether Jesus Christ should die was not the question, the only point to be settled was when His death should take place with least amount of any disturbance by His followers, his plans were helped by Judas' offer to betray Jesus Christ, [**Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11**].

Caiaphas needed finally the approval of Rome before he could carry out the death sentence, this he sought to do through false witnesses and direct lies.

What Caiaphas did not realise was that his schemes were actually part of the plan the Creator God was carrying out.

John 11:49-52 [New King James] *“And one of them, Caiaphas, being high priest that year, said to them, ‘You know nothing at all, nor do you consider that it is expedient for us that one man should die for the people, and not that the whole nation should perish.’ Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.”*

God even prophesied through Caiaphas as to why Jesus Christ was to die.

Caiaphas did **not** see his act of murder in this way, Jesus Christ had to die to preserve his own security, pure selfishness.

By total contrast Jesus Christ's willingness to die for us all was a clear example of loving self-sacrifice.

Caiaphas thought he had won the battle as Jesus Christ died on the cross, but he did not count on the resurrection, did not even believe in the resurrection, [Matthew 22:23; Mark 12:18; Acts 23:8].

Caiaphas' mind was closed, he could not accept the resurrection even when the evidence was overwhelming, and he attempted to silence those whose lives had been forever changed by the risen Jesus Christ, [Matthew 28:11-15].

Caiaphas represents those people who will not believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour, for they consider it will cost them too much to accept Him as Lord of their lives. They choose the fleeting power, prestige and pleasures of this life instead of the eternal life God offers to those who accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

What is your choice?

When we cover selfish motives with “*spiritual*” actions and words, the Creator God can clearly see through this façade, [**Psalms 139:1-16**].