

They led Him to Annas first

John 18:11-27

11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"

12 So the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, 13 and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. 14 Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people.

15 Simon Peter was following Jesus, and so was another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest, 16 but Peter was standing at the door outside. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in. 17 Then the slave-girl who kept the door said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not."

18 Now the slaves and the officers were standing there, having made a charcoal fire, for it was cold and they were warming themselves; and Peter was also with them, standing and warming himself.

19 The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching. 20 Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. 21 "Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said." 22 When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, "Is that the way You answer the high priest?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?" 24 So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You are not also one of His disciples, are you?" He denied it, and said, "I am not." 26 One of the slaves of the high priest, being a relative of the one whose ear Peter cut off, said, "Did I not see you in the garden with Him?" 27 Peter then denied it again, and immediately a rooster crowed.

John 18:11

11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"

Recall that this cup

/It is the cup of the wrath of God against sin.\

2 Cor 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

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/Jesus was made to be sin. He endured the wrath of God against sin when He bore our sins in His body on the cross. \

Having now learned the identify of the cup which the Father gave Jesus to drink, we are now ready to resume the narrative.

/Verses 12-27 record the arrest of Jesus, followed by His trials before high priests Annas and Caiaphas. Interspersed between the trials are the three denials of Peter.\

Verses 12-27 proceed as follows:

/Verses 12-14: Jesus is arrested and brought before Annas

Verses 15-18: Peter's first denial

Verses 19-24: Jesus is interrogated by Annas and sent to Caiaphas

Verses 25-27: Peter's second and third denials \

12 So the Roman cohort and the commander and the officers of the Jews, arrested Jesus and bound Him, 13 and led Him to Annas first; for he was father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. 14 Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people.

Verse 14 harkens back to John 11:

John 11:47-50

47 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. 48 "If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

*49 But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man die for the people, and that the whole nation not perish."
John 11:53 So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.*

Now if you think Annas or Caiaphas would conduct a fair trial after this.... Not a chance. The religious trials would be rigged to produce the pre-determined verdict.

Here is a map showing the likely location of the trials before Annas and Caiaphas.

/map\

A word about these two men

/ John gives both men – Annas and Caiaphas - the title of the **high priest**.\ John 18:19, 24.

*19 The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching.
..... 24 So Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.*

/So does Luke.\

Luke 3:2

in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.

Acts 4:5-6

On the next day, their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; 6 and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent.

How can that be? There was only supposed to be one high priest at a time, and the high priest was supposed to serve until his death.

/At least that's how the LORD established things in His word. In the Law of Moses, the appointment was for life.\

/From Aaron on, the office of high priest was passed down the family of Aaron, from father to son. \

However, under Roman rule, the priesthood become a political appointment.

/The high priests were appointed and removed at will by the Roman governor. \
Many of the high priests only ruled for one year or less. Their appointment often depended on how much they were able to pay - or bribe - the governor.

It turns out that none were as skilled at this than the extended family of Annas.

/Annas was appointed high priest in AD 6 by Quirinius the governor of Syria.\

He was removed from office in AD 15 by the Roman governor Valerius Gratus.

/Over the next fifty years, seven different members of the family of Annas ruled as high priests: 5 sons, a son-in-law and a grandson.\

<pic of the palace of the high priest>

/Joseph Caiaphas, the son-in-law of Annas, was appointed in AD 16 and remained in power until AD 36.\

The Talmud recorded a popular rhyme which described the family of Annas:

“Woe to the house of Annas!
Woe to their serpent’s hiss!
They are high priests;
Their sons are keepers of the treasury,
Their sons-in-law are guardians of the temple.
And their servants beat people with slaves.”

/Annas remained a powerful figure in Jerusalem, and even though he had no official position he was still referred to as “high priest” by many of the Jews. \

So it’s not surprising that Jesus was brought to Annas first. He was the patriarch of the family and was the high priest emeritus.

/In John’s version of the religious trials of Jesus, he refers briefly to the questions that Annas asked Jesus. He doesn’t record Caiaphas at all.\

John 18:19-23

19 The high priest then questioned Jesus about His disciples, and about His teaching.

/The words of Jesus dominate his account.\.

20 Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; and I spoke nothing in secret. 21 "Why do you question Me? Question those who have heard what I spoke to them; they know what I said." 22 When He had said this, one of the officers standing nearby struck Jesus, saying, "Is that the way You answer the high priest?" 23 Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify of the wrong; but if rightly, why do you strike Me?"

/ Matthew provides Jesus interrogation by Caiaphas in detail. *Matt 26:57-68*
Why didn't John?\

Once again, the explanation lies in John's purpose for writing his gospel.

/John wrote to convince his readers that Jesus is the Son of God. \

So in John's account of the trial, Jesus is once again controls the scene.

/Jesus is the main character. He delivers the lines.\ The Father lets His Son do the talking.

/God does not recognize the priests' legal or religious authority.\ The high priests had no authority from God to conduct these illegal trials. Which is ironic, given the number of times the religious leaders asked Jesus about His authority!

John 5:26-27

26 "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; 27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man.

/The day is coming when Jesus will judge these religious leaders instead. \ And they will bow down and confess that Jesus Christ is LORD!