

# WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

## Culmination of the Ministry

### *The Trials (Cont.)*

**C**AIAPHAS, high priest in the time of Christ Jesus, was a son-in-law of Annas. Annas was a Sadducean aristocrat. His immense wealth was derived in part from Temple traffic. He was responsible chiefly for the Temple's becoming a "den of robbers." This accounted for his intense animosity against Christ Jesus and his determination to bring about His destruction.

Caiaphas was appointed high priest by Valerius Gratus, predecessor of Pilate, in A.D.25, and was deposed about A.D.36. Caiaphas as ruling high priest was president of the Sanhedrin at the trial of the Master.

A legal assemblage could not be held before sunrise; but as many had come together through curiosity, it was decided to hold an informal meeting immediately. Many witnesses gave conflicting testimony. Finally two were found who swore that they had heard Christ's words concerning the destruction of the Temple. Caiaphas asked, "Art thou the Christ?" When the latter replied, "I am," Caiaphas rent his fine linen vestment in token of blasphemy, and the Sanhedrin condemned the Nazarene to a blasphemer's death. The judges then departed for a few hours' rest and refreshment, leaving the Christ in care of the Temple guards.

At that time anyone under sentence of death was subject to the sport and mockery of the soldiers, so the gentle Nazarene was left to their mercies. To pass the time between trials, they blindfolded and beat Him. They struck Him in the face and, as a crowning indignity, spat upon Him. They wounded those blessed hands which had been used only to help and to heal. They bruised that tender face which had shone upon the Earth with the reflected light of heaven. With one word,

one gesture, He could have been free, His torturers helpless at His feet. There was never such an example of calmness in adversity, such poise and peace in a hostile environment, such self-restraint and self-control under the most provocative circumstances.

The Sanhedrin was composed of seventy members and the high priest. A verdict required a unanimous vote. The regular trial, held after sunrise, was merely routine and the sentence of death for blasphemy was pronounced quickly. Both Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea were private disciples of the Master and protested the verdict. It is said that no less than twenty-seven irregularities occurred in the trial, any one of which could have annulled the sentence of death. Esoterically, we understand how and why the death sentence was not refuted and why the Crucifixion had to take place. It was a necessary step toward the Christ's becoming the indwelling planetary Spirit of the Earth.

The wife of Pilate, Claudia Procla, was a devotee of the new Christian sect. Among the first fruits of true esotericism is a consciousness that continues unbroken through the waking and the sleeping states, and which serves in greater freedom during the night hours when it is apart from the body. Although popularly confused with the dream state, the night-consciousness is far from being a mere fantasy of the subconsciousness.

Read *Matthew 27:19*.

Due to the excitement in the city, the Roman procurator, who resided in Caesarea, came to Jerusalem at the time of the Passover, attended by a large number of soldiers, and took up his residence in the citadel of Antonia. For the trial of Christ Jesus, Pilate was conducted by Caiaphas to the Pretorium, presumably

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by the revelations spread before our eyes in the starry heavens.

"God is the All of everything that is; therefore everything is divine." "For every man God has His plan." When the urges caused by planetary influences operative at the moment of a man's birth develop in him intense interest along some particular line, he is obeying divine impulse just as much as another may do who adopts art as a career or law as a profession. Each is fulfilling his part in the divine plan, as indicated by the placement of the starry hosts in his horoscope.

The heavens are filled with God's messengers who are ever guiding us on our pathway, telling us through vibratory urge what to do, and how and when to do it. We are born on this plane to gain knowledge and wisdom through experience, and to perfect ourselves as parts of the unfoldment of God Himself. When we have obtained some measure of self-unfoldment by using our knowledge and understanding, it becomes our duty to use our abilities in the service of humanity. The stars point the way.

*Some Coming Major Planetary Positions and Patterns for 1973 and 1974*

SATURN, the stabilizer, the obstructor, the crystallizer—in the sign Cancer, sextiles Mars in Taurus from October 10 to 20 of 1973; squares Pluto in Libra from August 12 to November 8; sextiles Mars in Taurus from December 23 to 31; trines Jupiter in Pisces from August 15, 1974, to end of month; squares Mars in Libra from October 8 to 13; trines Mars in Scorpio from November 22 to 26, 1974.

JUPITER, the great benefic, the expander, the giver—in Aquarius, sextiles Neptune in Sagittarius from August 7 to September 5, also from November 9 to December 4, 1973; trines Pluto in Libra from August 22 to September 30, also from October 31 to November 28, 1973; in Pisces, squares Neptune in Sagittarius the latter half of April, 1974; trines Mars in Cancer from May 9 to 15; opposes Mars in Virgo from August 18 to 21; squares Neptune from October 9 to December 20, 1974.

URANUS, the awakener, the inventor, the fanatic—remains in Libra the rest of 1973 and until November, 1974, when it enters Scorpio.

NEPTUNE, the inspirer, the occultist, the deceiver—remains in Sagittarius all of 1973 and 1974; sextiles Pluto in Libra from September 1 to December 31, 1973; from August 24 to December 31, 1974.

PLUTO, the spiritual energizer, the purifier, the revealer—remains in Libra all of 1973 and 1974.

### Horoscopes for Subscribers' Children

Should you wish to avail yourself of a possible opportunity to have your child's HOROSCOPE delineated in this department, subscribe to this magazine for one year, and accompany your subscription with an application for a reading. **RENEWALS** count the same as a subscription. Readings are given for children up to 14 years of age. They include a general character, health, and vocational analysis.

**TWO** names only are usually drawn each month, but unless there is an unusually large number of applications, you may have more than one opportunity for a drawing.

**BE SURE** to give: Name, Sex, Birthplace, and Year, Month, Day (of month), and minute of birth, as nearly as possible. Also please be sure to state if Daylight Saving Time was in effect.

**NOTE:** We give horoscope readings **ONLY** in this magazine.

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the hall of the castle of Antonia. Read John 18:18.

The members of the Sanhedrin might not enter the Praetorium, else they would be defiled and forbidden to partake of the Passover; therefore Christ was taken alone before Pilate by the Roman guards.

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