

The Greatest Trial In Recorded History!



I. Introduction

We will discuss the trial of Jesus Christ from the standpoint of a lawyer

II. Twenty Different Counts Upon Which Jesus' Arrest And His Conviction Were Totally Illegal

- 1) His arrest at night was illegal. Jewish law forbade arrests at night unless someone was in the act of committing the crime.
- 2) His arrest using an accomplice was illegal. It was against Jewish law for a traitor to be used in an arrest.
- 3) His arrest without a warrant was illegal. No court had indicted him, let alone give an arrest warrant.
- 4) His examination before Annas was illegal. It was against Jewish law to be questioned at night.
- 5) It was illegal for one man (Annas) to sit as sole judge in His hearing.
- 6) It was illegal to conduct a preliminary examination. There was no such thing under Jewish law.
- 7) The indictment before the Sanhedrin was illegal. The charge was vague, it did not state the crime. Jewish law required the crime to be stated.
- 8) It was illegal for the Sanhedrin to institute proceedings. The Sanhedrin were judges, not a law enforcement agency.
- 9) It was illegal for the Sanhedrin to assemble without the first offering the morning sacrifice.
- 10) It was illegal for the Sanhedrin to meet on the day before the Sabbath Day.
- 11) It was illegal to conduct a trial on the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Friday was the first day of the Feast.
- 12) It was illegal to conduct any trial on the eve of the Passover. The Sanhedrin had no right to convene.
- 13) It was illegal to sentence a man on the same day as his trial. If someone was found guilty, under Jewish law, the court was required to meet on another day to pronounce sentence.
- 14) It was illegal to convict a man based upon his own confession under Jewish law.
- 15) Jesus' trial was illegal because the verdict was unanimous. The Sanhedrin, which was basically a Supreme Court, had to have at least one person to defend the accused.

16) It was illegal for the Sanhedrin to hand down a death penalty anywhere except in its regular meeting place. The Sanhedrin was in the house of Caiaphas.

17) The balloting was illegal because it began with the High Priest. The balloting was supposed to start with the youngest and move to the oldest, with the High Priest being last so the votes could not be unfairly influenced by anyone.

18) The Jewish Sanhedrin was not competent nor were they qualified to hear this trial. Some members were not elected, they had been placed there illegally through bribery.

19) The court was prejudiced. They prejudged Jesus before any evidence was heard, nor was the accused ever allowed to defend himself.

20) The Sanhedrin used perjured testimony against Jesus. Two witnesses, both unnamed, said Jesus threatened to tear the temple down. According to John 2:19, Jesus said He would rebuild it, not tear it down.

The Sanhedrin did not have the authority to execute. They went to Pontius Pilate, who could crucify a convicted person. Pilate went back to the Jews and said he could find no fault in Jesus. The Sanhedrin used a Galilean label to brand him a radical. Herod and Pilate had been feuding, so Pilate sent Jesus to Herod. Herod, who ordered the execution of John the Baptist, ridiculed Jesus and placed the scarlet robe on Him. Herod returned Jesus to Pilate. Pilate condemned Jesus to death with no one to defend Him or stand with Him. Pilate sought to release Him, but the people wanted Barabbas. Pilate, wanting to be popular with the people, acquiesced. Then they led Him away to be crucified.

Timeline

about 1 a.m. - Jesus was taken before Annas

about 2 a.m. - Jesus was taken before Caiaphas

about 5 a.m. - Jesus was taken before Pontius Pilate

about 6 a.m. - Jesus was taken before Herod

about 7 a.m. - Jesus was taken back before Pilate

about 8 a.m. - Jesus took up his cross

by 9 a.m. - Jesus was nailed to the cross

about 3 p.m. - Jesus died for our sins

III. Conclusion

Jesus died for the sins of the world. Will you stand with Him today?