

MESSIANIC MILESTONES

THE PROSECUTION OF THE MESSIAH

I. WHY WAS HE PROSECUTED?

A. [John 15:23-25](#)

There was no good reason for putting Christ on trial. His adversaries merely hated him without cause.

B. [Mark 15:9-10](#)

The only reason, and not a good reason at that, for prosecuting Him was envy. They resented His authority and influence, so they intended to eliminate Him.

II. WHO PROSECUTED HIM?

A. [John 18:12-14, 19-24; John 11:47-53](#)

First, He was tried by Annas and Caiaphas, the high priests, who had already determined much earlier to see Him put to death, and were therefore not at all objective jurists.

B. [John 18:29-19:16; Matthew 27:19, 24; Luke 13:1](#)

Next, He was tried by Pontius Pilate, Governor of the Roman province of Judea, who had previously shown strident contempt toward the Jewish religion by contaminating sacrifices with human blood. Yet, even he perceived Christ's innocence, sensed no political threat from Him, was warned by his own wife's dream about Jesus, and intended to release the Lord. However, the demands and insinuated threats to his power caused him to capitulate.

C. [Luke 23:6-12; 13:31-32; Matthew 14:3-10](#)

Then, he was tried by Herod, a vassal king within the Empire, and the only civic leader Jesus is on record criticizing by name. He had previously executed the Lord's cousin John, the prophet who introduced the Jews to Christ.

D. [Acts 4:24-28](#)

In short, the nations were in a rage against the Anointed; the kings of earth were gathered against Him.

III. WHERE WAS HE PROSECUTED?

A. **John 18:28-33**

He was prosecuted inside the Praetorium, or Judgment Hall, but His accusers declined to enter, not wanting to contaminate themselves with Gentile contact right before the Passover, which is the height of hypocrisy. They conspired to murder the sinless Son of God, but didn't want to risk skipping a religious feast, owing to rules that weren't exactly part of the actual Law of Moses. Amusingly, the narrative depicts Pilate going back and forth between the Defendant in the Praetorium and the accusers outside.

B. **John 19:13-16**

The verdict was rendered at the pavement, or Gabbatha, a public setting where the shouts of the mob were overwhelming, leading the Governor to reverse his intended acquittal, and sentence the most innocent Man who ever lived to die.

IV. WHEN WAS HE PROSECUTED?

A. **John 7:25-32, 44-46**

He was not taken into custody any earlier than He intended. Although His opponents desperately wanted Him eliminated, He kept preaching until His ministry was complete.

B. **John 8:59; 10:39; Luke 4:28-30**

Many attempts were made on His life that He simply walked away from unscathed.

C. **John 10:17-18**

No one took His life against His will.

V. HOW WAS HE PROSECUTED?

A. Luke 23:2; 20:20-26

He was charged falsely. Despite the proceedings before the Sanhedrin on charges of blasphemy, He was accused before Pilate of tax revolt, which contradicted His plain words on the subject.

B. Mark 14:63; Leviticus 21:10-12

His prosecutors broke the law insomuch as the high priest tore his garments during the trial, an action which no high priest was ever allowed to do.

C. Matthew 26:60-66; Deuteronomy 19:15-21

His accusers actively recruited perjury. For doing so, they ought to have been crucified.