

# **Why Annas and Caiaphas were Rejected by God**

**By Pastor Sean R. Pinder**

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In Luke chapter 3, it tells us that Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests at this time. The word of the Lord should have been coming to the high priest but, instead, it came to John the Baptist in the wilderness. John the Baptist was preaching repentance to the people and the coming of the Messiah. Now let's find out why Annas and Caiaphas were rejected by God.

- **Caiaphas Rejects God And His Messiah**

In John chapter 11: 45-54, verse 48 shows us how they began to reject Christ. "If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest the same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all. Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. THEN FROM THAT DAY FORTH THEY TOOK COUNSEL TOGETHER TO PUT HIM TO DEATH." So we see by this Scripture that God used Caiaphas to prophesy about the Lord, but Caiaphas turned right around and chose to reject what God had told him. This is one proof of why the Lord rejected these high priests and chose John, his humble servant, to declare the word of the Lord.

- **Annas and Caiaphas Could Have Saved Jesus, But Didn't**

In John chapter 18, the Bible tells us that the people had brought Jesus before the high priest, Annas, so they could accuse Him and put Him to death. Starting in verse 19, the high priest asked Jesus a question. Jesus answered him, and the high priest allowed his officer to strike Jesus on the face. After this, Annas sent Him to Caiaphas to have a greater reason to put Him to death. Annas could have saved Jesus, but he didn't. He chose to reject Jesus once again. Not only did Jesus die because of the crowds of people condemning him, but he also was sentenced to death because of the high priests.

- **Annas and Caiaphas Continue to Persecute the Apostles**

After the death of Jesus, His disciples continued to preach the Gospel. Their greatest persecution came from the high priest and religious leaders. Let's look at the Scriptures in Acts 4:6-17 of how they persecuted the disciples: "And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas... were gathered together at Jerusalem. And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel...be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole...Now when they had seen the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that these were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus. And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it...They conferred among themselves, saying what shall we do to these men? For that indeed

a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to all them that dwell in Jerusalem; AND WE CANNOT DENY IT...Let us threaten them that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.”

- **Annas and Caiaphas Refuse to Repent**

These same high priests were still fighting the move of God. There were miracles performed right in front of them and they said of themselves that they could not deny the power of God. They could have seen the miracle-working power and repented, yet they still refused to do so. God is telling us that there is a group of pastors just like Annas and Caiaphas who are rejecting the move of God. However, God is also telling us that He has a group of pastors who are like John the Baptist and moving in the things of God and are being persecuted like the prophets and the disciples. Beware of the attitude that caused these high priests to reject Christ. Another attribute of rejecting the move of God is rejecting the miracles that are plainly seen in someone’s ministry and refusing to recognize God’s anointing and power on that kind of ministry. The high priests rejected the miracles when they encountered them. Let’s be like a John the Baptist and hear and declare the voice of the Lord in this generation.