

The Chronology of Yeshua's Last Week of Life Part 3

Nisan 14 (6th day of the week – Thursday evening/Friday late night continued)

Mark 14:32-34

³² And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane. And He said to His disciples, “Sit here, while I pray.”

³³ He took with Him Peter, Jacob (James), and Yochanan (John), and began to be greatly troubled and distressed.

³⁴ And He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here, and watch.”

Luke 22:41-44

⁴¹ He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed,

⁴² saying, “Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me, nevertheless, not my will, but Yours, be done.”

⁴³ Then an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.

⁴⁴ And being in agony He prayed more earnestly; then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

Matthew 26:40-49

⁴⁰ And He came to the disciples, and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What, could you not watch with me for one hour?”

⁴¹ Watch and pray, that you do not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² Again, a second time He went away, and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from me unless I drink it, your desire be done.”

⁴³ He came again and found them sleeping for their eyes were heavy.

⁴⁴ He left them again, went away, and prayed a third time, saying the same words.

⁴⁵ Then He came to his disciples, and said to them, “Sleep on now, and take your rest. Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

⁴⁶ Arise, let us be going. Behold, he who betrays me is at hand.”

⁴⁷ While He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

⁴⁸ Now he who betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, “Whoever I will kiss, he is the one. Seize him.”

⁴⁹ And immediately He came to Yeshua, and said, “Shalom, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

John 18:4-11

⁴ Yeshua therefore, knowing all the things that were happening to Him, and said to them, “Who are you looking for?”

⁵ They answered him, “Yeshua of Nazareth.” Yeshua said to them, “I am *He*.” Judas also, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

⁶ So when He said to them, “I am *He*,” they stepped back and fell to the ground.

⁷ Then He asked them again, “Who are you looking for?” They said, “Yeshua of Nazareth.”

⁸ Yeshua answered, “I told you that “I am *He*.” If therefore you seek Me, let these go their way,”

⁹ so that the word might be fulfilled which He spoke, “Of those whom You have given Me, I have lost none.”

¹⁰ Then Simon Peter having a sword, drew it, and struck servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear and the servant's name was Malchus.

¹¹ Then Yeshua said to Peter, "Put the sword into its sheath; the cup which the Father has given me, shall I not surely drink it?"

Matthew 26:53-57

⁵³ Or do you think that I could not ask my Father, and He would even now send me more than twelve legions of angels?

⁵⁴ How then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that it must be so?"

⁵⁵ In that hour Yeshua said to the multitudes, "Have you come out as against a robber with swords and clubs to seize Me? I sat daily in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest Me.

⁵⁶ But all this has happened that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left Him, and fled.

⁵⁷ Those who had taken Yeshua led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the Torah teachers and the elders were gathered together.

John 18:13-24

¹³ and led him to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law to Caiaphas who was high priest that year.

¹⁴ Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Judeans, that it was expedient that one man should perish for the people.

¹⁵ And Simon Peter followed Yeshua, as did another disciple. Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered in with Yeshua into the court of the high priest;

¹⁶ but Peter was standing at the door outside. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought in Peter.

¹⁷ Then the maidservant who kept the door said to Peter, "Are you also one of this man's disciples?" He said, "I am not."

¹⁸ Now the servants and the officers were standing there, having made a fire of coals, for it was cold. They were warming themselves. Peter was with them, standing and warming himself.

¹⁹ The high priest then asked Yeshua about His disciples, and of His teaching.

²⁰ Yeshua answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues, and in the temple, where the Jews always meet and I said nothing in secret.

²¹ Why do you question Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Behold, they know the things which I said."

²² And when He had said this, one of the officers who stood by slapped Yeshua with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do you answer the high priest like that?"

²³ Yeshua answered him, "If I have spoken evil, testify of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?"

²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest.

Background of the Sanhedrin

The judicial body of Israel known as the Sanhedrin was not an institution that was ordained by God. Moses did appoint trustworthy elders to serve as judges regarding disputes (Ex 18:17-26), while he served as the sole judge on major issues. Likewise, when the Israelites took possession of the Promised Land, they were told to appoint judges who were called to issue righteous judgment at the gates of every town (Deut16:18). But again, there was no mention of any kind of a supreme court.

It is not until the second temple period that a great judicial body called the Sanhedrin was formed. Its name has a Greek origin, so that tells us that it was established during the time when Greek was a

dominant language, and it is believed that it was formed shortly after the time of the Maccabees. The Greek term, Συνέδριον (*Sunedrion*), means “sitting together.” That meaning reflects the way that rulers and judges in the Ancient Near East gave their decisions while sitting down.

Many of the details we know regarding the Sanhedrin are found in the *Mishnah* (*Sanhedrin 2a*), which was originally the Oral Law that was known during the second temple period. There we learn that two forms of the Sanhedrin existed. Small Sanhedrins or councils were convened in cities to hear major offenses within their communities, including capital cases. They consisted of 23 men. Issues of greater significance were addressed by the Great Sanhedrin that met only in Jerusalem and was made up of 71 men. That council included current and former high priests, and members from the Sadducees and Pharisees who were knowledgeable in *halakha* (the legal portion of the Torah).

The Great Sanhedrin convened in what was called the Chamber of Hewn Stone, which was built into the northern wall of the temple, and had entrances on both sides. The name comes from the way that the stones were cut, in contrast to the stones used to make the altar, which were never cut by iron tools. They arranged themselves in a semi-circle, so they could interact with each other. As the highest judicial body of the Jewish people, they made decisions with national significance, like going to war or issues related to entire tribes. They also dealt with charges against false prophets or the high priest, and they made decisions about alterations to the temple.

Mark 14:55-64

- ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin sought witnesses against Yeshua to put Him to death, and found none.
- ⁵⁶ For many gave false testimony against Him, and their testimony did not agree.
- ⁵⁷ Some stood up, and gave false testimony against Him, saying,
- ⁵⁸ “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.’”
- ⁵⁹ Even so, their testimony did not agree.
- ⁶⁰ The high priest stood up in the middle, and asked Yeshua, “Have you no answer? What is it which these testify against you?”
- ⁶¹ But He stayed quiet, and did not answer. Again the high priest asked Him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed?”
- ⁶² And Yeshua said, “I AM. You will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”
- ⁶³ And the high priest tore his clothes, and said, “What further need have we of witnesses?”
- ⁶⁴ You have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?” And they all condemned him to be worthy of death.

The Illegal Trial of the Sanhedrin

The trial of Yeshua was illegal for a number of reasons:

- The arrest was tainted by a bribe of Judas (Ex 23:8).
- The trial took place at night, which was forbidden (*Mishnah Sanhedrin 4.1*).
- The Sanhedrin allowed the testimony of several false witnesses, but did not invalidate their testimonies when it was clear that their words were contradictory (*Mishnah Sanhedrin 5:3*).
- No defense witnesses were permitted.
- Trying capital cases was forbidden right before the feasts (*Mishnah Sanhedrin 4.2*).
- Cases with a possible capital punishment were not allowed to be concluded in one day in order to allow witnesses to come forward in support of the accused (*Mishnah Sanhedrin 4.2*).

- Verdicts in capital cases were not permitted to be made on the same day as the trial (*Mishnah Sanhedrin 5:5*).
- High priests were not permitted to tear their clothes (Lev 21:10).
- He was initially charged with threatening violence against the Temple, based on evidence presented by false witnesses, but the Sanhedrin convicted Yeshua on a completely different charge of blasphemy without any witnesses.
- Later, when they brought Him before the Roman ruler Pilate, they changed the charge again, saying He committed sedition by supposedly teaching people not to pay their taxes to Rome.

Luke 22:58-65

- ⁵⁸ And after a little while someone else saw him, and said, “You also are one of them!” But Peter answered, “Man, I am not!”
- ⁵⁹ Then after about an hour passed, another was firmly insisting, saying, “Truly this man also was with Him, for he is a Galilean!”
- ⁶⁰ But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about!” And immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.
- ⁶¹ And the Lord turned, and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord’s word, how He said to him, “Before the rooster crows you will deny Me three times.”
- ⁶² He went out, and wept bitterly.
- ⁶³ Now the men who were holding Yeshua were mocking Him and beating Him.
- ⁶⁴ And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, “Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?”
- ⁶⁵ They spoke many other things against him, blaspheming Him.

Luke 22:66-71

- ⁶⁶ As when it became day, the assembly of the elders of the people were gathered together, both chief priests and Torah teachers, and they led Him away into their Sanhedrin, saying,
- ⁶⁷ “If You are the Messiah, tell us.” But He said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe,
- ⁶⁸ and if I ask, you will in no way answer Me or let Me go.
- ⁶⁹ From now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”
- ⁷⁰ Then they all said, “Are You then the Son of God?” So, He said to them, “You say that I AM.”
- ⁷¹ And they said, “What further testimony do we need? For we ourselves have heard from His own mouth!”

Matthew 27:3-10

- ³ Then Judas, who betrayed Him, when he saw that Yeshua was condemned, felt remorse, and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,
- ⁴ saying, “I have sinned in that I betrayed innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? You see to it.”
- ⁵ He threw down the pieces of silver in the sanctuary, and departed. He went away and hanged himself.
- ⁶ The chief priests took the pieces of silver, and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is the price of blood.”
- ⁷ So, they took counsel, and bought the potter’s field with them, to bury strangers in.
- ⁸ Therefore that field was called “The Field of Blood” to this day.
- ⁹ Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him upon whom a price had been set, whom some of the children of Israel priced,
- ¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter’s field, as Adonai commanded me.”