

BIBLE STUDY on JOHN (NIV) Part 17

THE COUNCIL PLANS TO KILL JESUS

John 11 v 47 - 53

47 The chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.

“What are we accomplishing?” they asked. “Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. 48 If we let Him go on like this, everyone will believe in Him and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

49 Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that

year, spoke up “You know nothing at all! 50 You do not realise that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish.”

51 He did not say this on his own but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation 52 and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. 53 So from that day on they plotted to take His life.

Rejection of a King

The Jewish council had seen the miracles of Jesus. They had heard Him teach that He was one with His Father and that He had existed before Abraham (John 8 v 58). Yet, they could not believe that Jesus was the promised King of Israel.

This story suggests that the Jewish leaders were not willing to give up their own position. They were like the wicked servants in a parable Jesus told. The servants said, **“We don’t want this man to be our king.”** (*Luke 19 v 14*). So, the Jewish leaders decided to put one man to death - Jesus - in order to keep the nation safe. But, of course, they could not have done anything if Jesus had not willingly *given* His life.

God’s purpose in Jesus from before the world began was to save not only the nation of Israel but also the whole world! **“Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer and though the Lord makes His life a guilt offering, He will use His offspring and prolong His days and the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand.”** (*Isaiah 53 v 10*)

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