



Next, we see the permanent nature of the Priesthood of Jesus.

*When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.* Hebrews 9:11,12

Did Caiaphas realize all this? In John 11:45-53 we get a pretty good insight into what was going on in his mind. Jesus had recently raised Lazarus from the dead and, as a result, many people were putting their trust in Jesus. The Chief Priests ask “What are we to do?” (John 11:47) Then they explain their fears (John 11:48).

*“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.”*

Caiaphas was appointed by a Roman governor. Rome kept the Jews under control by choosing their leaders for them. If the Jewish people reverted to doing things God’s way the Romans would not stand for it. Caiaphas understood that well and explained it to the others.

*“...it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish.”* John 11:50

We all have to decide whether we want to be ruled by the world or by God. The world offers temporary security but the power shifts from time to time. The Romans had taken the power from the Greeks who had taken it from the Persians who had taken it from the Babylonians. Until then the Jews had been a sovereign nation under God and had proven to be invincible under King David and his son, Solomon. But all kings are a poor substitute for God’s rule. Israel had asked for a king and by the time of Jesus they were a beaten, humiliated nation who thought the best they could do is not make the Romans mad at them. Some actually did very well by keeping the Romans happy. Caiaphas was such a one, and he feared anyone who might take his security from him.



There was quite a gathering at the house of the high priest when they brought Jesus there for questioning. John 18:19-24 records that one of the officers struck Jesus for not answering properly. Jesus had never given them any reason to fear violence from Himself, but He had given them reason to fear violence

from the Romans. They were not able to resist the Romans but they could resist this itinerant preacher who would not even defend Himself.

So Caiaphas and the other Jewish leaders made sure that the Romans took care of Jesus. When the Roman governor, Pilate, put a sign on the cross of Christ that read “King of the Jews” it was the Chief Priests who argued that he should write “This man said, I am the king of the Jews” (John 19:19-22). Pilate left it the way he had originally written it. He therefore added his testimony to countless others who claimed that Jesus was the King. Ironically Jesus never actually said the words, “I am King of the Jews”. He just lived His life and let others decide who He was.



Once Jesus was dead you would think that the fears of Caiaphas and the others would be calmed but things only got worse. Soon, Jerusalem was going wild with the news that Jesus was alive again. Followers of Jesus could not be silenced. Once fearful themselves they now knew Jesus was alive again and all fear seemed to vanish from them. After Peter had healed a lame man, by the power of Christ, Caiaphas and the others warned them not talk about Jesus anymore. In Acts 4:6 we read:

*On the next day their rulers and elders and scribes gathered together in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. And when they had set them in the midst, they inquired, “By what power or by what name did you do this?”*

They might have thought that these men would fear them after what they had done to Jesus. Peter, however, gave them an answer that proved they trusted Jesus after what He had done for them.

*... let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.* Acts 4:10

Caiaphas was among those who heard those words and he must have reflected on his own words that predicted that Jesus would die for the whole nation. But Jesus had not died to destroy the fear of Rome.

*Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.*

Hebrew 2:14,15