

Who Killed Jesus?

Texts That Says the Jews Did

- Mt.26:3, "Then assembled together the **chief priests**, and the **scribes**, and the **elders** of the people, unto the palace of the **high priest**, who was called Caiaphas". [Matthew]
- Mt.27:1, 20, "all the **chief priests** and **elders** of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death...But the chief priests and elders persuaded the **multitude** that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus". The multitude refers to a crowd or mob. [Matthew]
- Mk.11:18, "And the **scribes** and **chief priests** heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine". [Mark]
- Lk.20:15-16, 19, "¹⁵So they cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What therefore shall the lord of the vineyard do unto them? ¹⁶He shall come and destroy these husbandmen, and shall give the vineyard to others. And when they heard it, they said, God forbid... ¹⁹And the **chief priests** and the **scribes** the same hour sought to lay hands on him; and they feared the people: for they perceived that he had spoken this parable against them." [Luke]
- Lk.23:13-20, "And **Pilate**, when he had called together the **chief priests** and the **rulers and the people**". The people is likely the crowd, and not all the people. [Luke]
- Ac.2:36, "God hath made that same Jesus, whom **ye** have crucified, both Lord and Christ". [Peter]
- Ac.5:27-30, "²⁷And when they had brought them, they set them before the **council**: and the **high priest**... ³⁰whom ye slew and hanged on a tree". The council is the Sanhedrin. [Peter]
- Ac.10:39, "And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the **Jews**, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree". [Peter]
- 1Th.2:14-15, "For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the **Jews**: ¹⁵Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men". [Paul]

Texts That Says the Gentiles Did

- The cross was a collaborative effort between Jews and Gentiles "²⁵Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? ²⁶The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ. ²⁷For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both **Herod**, and **Pontius Pilate**, with the **Gentiles**, and the **people of Israel**, were gathered together." (**Ac.4:25-27**).
- The Roman soldiers mocked and persecuted Jesus, as well as actually crucifying the Lord. "²⁷Then the **soldiers** of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. ²⁸And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. ²⁹And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! ³⁰And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. ³¹And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him." (**Mt.27:27-31**). See also **Luke 23:11, 35-37**).
- Jesus said the Gentiles, not Jews, will mock, scourge, and crucify Him. "And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again" (**Mt.20:19**).
- Pilate let Jesus be crucified despite realizing His innocense (**Mt.15:9-15**). Roman "justice" is exposed as self-serving imperialism.
- Many acted based on fear from the Jews (**Jn.7:13; 9:22; 12:42; 19:38; 20:19; Ac.13:5**).
- It is interesting to note those that declared Jesus to be innocent. Pilate's wife (**Mt.27:19**); Judas Iscariot (**Mt.27:4**); Pilate (**Mt.27:24; Lk.23:22; Jn.19:6**); The thief on the cross (**Lk.23:41**); and the Roman soldiers (**Mk.15:39**).

SUMMARY The Jews should have known that Jesus was the Christ. The Jewish people did physically deliver one of their brethren (Yeshua) to the Romans and asked for His death. The apostles on many occasions clearly blame the Jewish leaders of rejecting Christ, and more specifically, crucifying Him. Humanly speaking, the cross was a collaborative effort between Jews and Gentiles. We certainly must keep in mind that the crucifixion of Christ was not a tragedy. It was a triumph. God the Father planned this event before He created man. So from God's standpoint the cross was premeditated. "Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" (**Ac.2:23**). (See also **Lk.22:37; 24:44-46; Jn.3:16; 19:31-37; Ac.3:18; 13:27; Cl.2:14**).