

This declaration of Caiaphas was a prophecy in the literal sense, yet, he himself no true sense of the blessed importance of his announcement.

It was not unusual for God to make evil men the tools of prophetic communication. Caiaphas, like Balaam, confirmed the mind of God.

This prophecy had a wider scope than the high priest imagined, for it spoke of the death of Christ as having relation to Gentiles as well as Jews. The children of God everywhere were to be gathered into one body in Christ. -- (or) --

1. If John is referring only to the Jews of the dispersion this will be fulfilled at the Second advent of Christ (Matthew 24:31; Isaiah 11:11-12; Ezekiel 37).

2. If the Jews and Gentiles becoming one is the reference, then this will take place in the millennium (Ephesians 1:10; I Corinthians 15:24-28).

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TWENTY EIGHTH STUDY

Caiaphas - John 11:49-52 - We have here the witness of the earthly high priest about the heavenly High Priest. The Sanhedrin as a whole had testified to the reality of our Lord's miracles; Caiaphas here testified to the sacrificial offering and the world-wide mediation of Christ (the reconciliation of the lost souls to God; ref. John 3:16).

The Intentions Of Caiaphas In His Prediction:

His character:

1. A Sadducee
2. Is said to have bought his sacred office
3. He was nominated by the Roman authorities
4. Acted in public business under influence of Annas, his father-in-law
5. He was a politician, whose aim was to keep things the way they were, and repress any popular display of feeling, and especially any symptoms of hostility or confusion.

The Position Of Jesus At This Critical Period Of His Ministry:

He had created a great impression on the people:

1. By His miracles, and especially His raising of Lazarus
2. The hopes of His believers were raised
3. His disciples and admirers were increasing
4. The fear of His enemies were aroused, and

and their hatred was intensified.

5. Jesus was the great figure in the view of all classes of the people.

6. The hopes of some, and the fears of others, centered in this Prophet of Nazareth.

In their hearts, the Jewish leaders would have rejoiced if a great Deliverer, such as they expected their Messiah to be, had risen up among them --- had liberated Israel from their foreign yoke, and had provided for themselves positions of honor and power under the new dynasty. But they saw that Jesus was not the Deliverer they hoped for. They thought His preaching and teaching might lead to rebellion, which the Romans would come down upon with severity. They liked the self-government which still lingered among them, which still allowed them dignity and honors, rather than risk the repression, the humiliation, the subjection, to which an unsuccessful revolution would lead.

Hence, The Counsel Of Caiaphas:

1. He was for immediate, stringent and violent measures.

2. He had no sympathy with the profound teaching and spiritual aims of Jesus.

3. He looked upon religion only in the light of statecraft (the art of managing the political affairs of the state).

4. He supported the ruthless destruction of him who was the occasion of so much anxiety and

self-seeking fear.

5. His policy was to crush Jesus, to pacify the Romans, and to keep his own position until the coming of the expected Deliverer.

6. Let the innocent Jesus be sacrificed; but the nation be saved, or rather the rulers, who always thought more of themselves than of those whom they governed.

7. After all, Jesus was but one and they were many.

With no care for truth, for righteousness, for religion, for God, the corrupt leaders of the chosen people sacrificed to worldly policy Him whom the Father had consecrated and sent into the world.

The Intentions Of God:

Putting a deeper meaning into the prediction of Caiaphas:

1. Caiaphas uttered words with a meaning far deeper than appears on the surface.

2. But according to the interpretation of the 'evangelist' (a joke), Caiaphas, being high priest during that memorable year of sacrifice, was prophetically guided or overruled in his words.

3. Thus it was foretold:

(a) Jesus death would have a bearing on others

(b) That Jesus should die for His own nation

It was the job of the high priest to announce the decision of the Most High for the benefit of the people.