

Acts 4:1-30

“The First Persecution”

Summary

- Takes place immediately after events in Chapter 3
- This is the first persecution or opposition that the church has faced

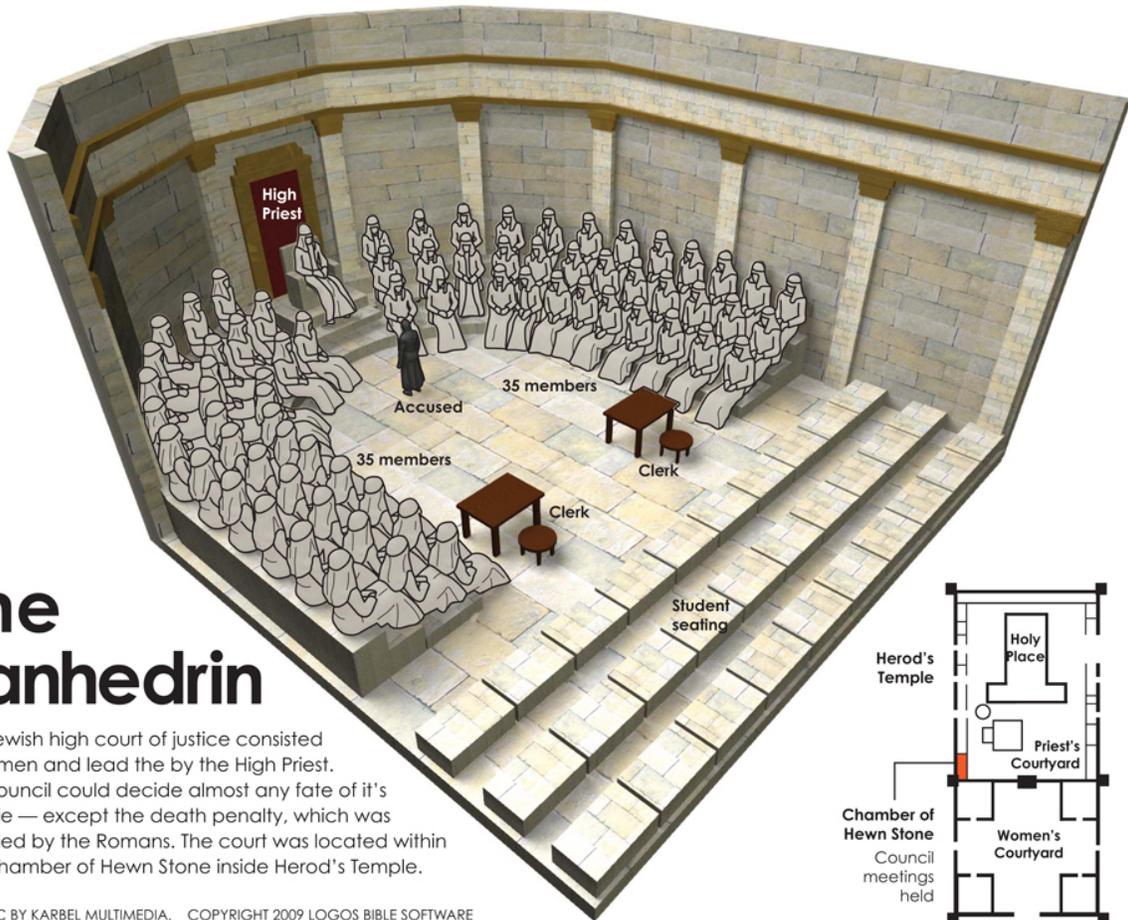
Outline

- I. The Arrest of Peter and John - vs.1-4
 - A. The cause: opposition to their teaching - vs. 1-2
 - B. They were to be held overnight for trial the next day - vs. 3
 - C. Regardless, many believed on Christ - vs. 4
- II. The Trial - vs. 5-12
 - A. The “who’s who” of the accusers - vs. 5-6
 - B. The interrogation - “By whose authority do you teach? - vs. 7
 - C. Peter declares it was through Christ - vs. 8-10
 - D. The rejection prophesied in Psalm 118:22 - vs. 11
 - E. The Supremacy of Christ - vs. 12
- III. The Verdict - vs. 13-22
 - A. Their opinion of Peter and John - vs. 13
 - B. They couldn’t deny the miracle - vs. 14
 - C. The decision reached in conference - vs. 15-17
 - D. The command to no longer teach - vs. 18
 - E. Peter and John refuse to stop - vs. 19-20
 - F. The disciples are released - vs. 21-22
- IV. The Reaction - vs. 23-31
 - A. Peter and John report back to the Church - vs. 23
 - B. The Church’s view of the Persecution:
 1. God was still in control - vs. 24
 2. Persecution was prophesied - Psalm 2:2,6 - vs. 25-26
 3. Christ was also persecuted - vs. 27
 4. It was all part of God’s Will - vs. 28
 5. The Church needed grace to continue - vs. 29-30

Notes

- Sadducees ("righteous ones")
 - Fewer in number than the Pharisees, but were far more powerful coming from wealthy and aristocratic families
 - Key Beliefs
 - No divine Providence, every outcome is based on our actions
 - Free will
 - Accepted only the Written Law as authoritative, rejected traditions
 - No resurrection or life beyond the grave
- Annas was officially high priest from 6-15 AD, but ruled through his five sons and son-in-law Caiaphas (high priest from 18-36 AD) who were “puppet” high priests.

- vs. 6 - John is possibly a famous rabbi named Jochanan ben Zaccai and Alexander is possibly the extremely wealthy and influential Alexander Lysimachus
- Sanhedrin (literally "assembly" or "council")
 - Was based on the elders that aided Moses in Numbers 11:16
 - Made up of 70 men plus the High Priest
 - Met in the "Hall of Hewn Stones" that may have been in the northern wall of the Temple complex.
 - Legislated in all aspects of religious life and politics.



The Sanhedrin

The Jewish high court of justice consisted of 71 men and led by the High Priest. The council could decide almost any fate of its people — except the death penalty, which was decided by the Romans. The court was located within the Chamber of Hewn Stone inside Herod's Temple.

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