

WHO KILLED JESUS?

"Ladies and gentlemen of the jury...
...let us sum up the case of "Who Killed Jesus?".....

The suspects are:-

- 1 **The Roman Soldiers** – They literally drove the nails into his hands and physically killed Him.
 But – They were just doing their job. They probably didn't know any details.
 However – They did mock Jesus. They surely heard of Jesus. Nazis gassed Jews as a job.
- 2 **Pontius Pilate** – He alone could execute or spare Jesus. He judged. He commanded the soldiers.
 But – He washed his hands of it. He was sympathetic. He was pressured. Jesus didn't help.
 However – He did have Jesus killed. He put up a notice. He arranged a guard. He crumbled.
- 3 **The Jewish Leaders** – They bounced Pilate. They changed the accusation. They broke their own rules.
 But – They sincerely believed Jesus was false, wicked, dangerous to their people's faith.
 However – They were sincerely wrong. They were devious, illegal, manipulative, vindictive.
- 4 **Caiaphas** – He was the unholy ring-leader. He forced the issue. He broke the Jewish rules for trials.
 But – He didn't act alone. He had to protect people from false messiahs (like he thought Jesus was).
 However – He had arrogant ignorance, rigid legalism, pre-judgments and lacked integrity/humanity.
- 5 **The Crowd** – They cried "Crucify Him!" They were malevolent, fickle or silent. They taunted Jesus.
 But – They did not arrest, try or pass sentence, nor crucify Jesus.
 However – They did decide "crucify", they did watch, support and participate in Jesus' suffering.
- 6 **Judas Iscariot** – He played a key role in betraying Jesus.
 But – He did not kill Jesus single-handedly nor literally.
 However – He hurt Jesus deeply. He uniquely facilitated the crucifixion. He admitted his guilt.
- 7 **Oue sera...sera** – Whatever will be will be. If wanted Jesus enters the lions' den He will get bitten.
 But – Don't blame "Life". It was unnatural, unnecessary, avoidable. It was wicked.
 However – Actions have consequences (intended and unintended).
- 8 **Fate, Luck, Chance** – If these exist normally in life then they must have played a part.
 But – God is in control. People have free will. Most suspects here admit their role.
 However – God leaves some slack space. People do risk their luck, take chances.
- 9 **The Devil, Evil** – "Principalities and Powers" oppose God. It was obviously an evil deed.
 But – God has the last word (no dualism). Humans have responsibility for their own actions.
 However – God had to come to deal with evil; and humans were tempted and pressured by evil.

- 10 **Human Beings, Us** – If we had not sinned, then and now, Jesus would not have had to die. Sin kills.
But – We did not crucify Jesus. We weren't there, weren't even born and weren't consulted.
However – Jesus did die for us and our sins. We daily crucify Him. It is a timeless matter.

- 11 **God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (The Trinity)** – He has ultimate responsibility. His will is done.
But – God does not sin. God does not crucify anyone. God does not want suffering and death.
However – Given the world's mess, God circumstantially budgeted for the Cross

- 12 **Jesus Himself** – He said that He laid down His own life, willingly; no one took it from Him forcibly.
But – It was not suicide. He got help! No sin, no need to die. He is God: God the Son.
However – Jesus freely embroiled Himself in our world and let all the other suspects have sway.

WHO KILLED JESUS?

