



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Triumph over Tyranny: The Congress of Israel Exposed

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Acts 4:1-16

*“And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple guard, and the Sadducees, came upon them, 2) being greatly disturbed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3) And they laid their hands on them, and put them in jail until the next day, for it was already evening. 4) But many of those who heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. 5) And it came about on the next day, that their rulers and elders and scribes were gathered together in Jerusalem; 6) and Annas the high priest was there, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and all who were of high-priestly descent. 7) And when they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, ‘By what power, or in what name, have you done this?’ 8) Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers and elders of the people, 9) if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, 10) let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. 11) He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, but **WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone**. 12) And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.’ 13) Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John, and understood that they were uneducated and*

untrained men, they were marveling, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus. 14) And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they had nothing to say in reply. 15) But when they had ordered them to go aside out of the Council, they began to confer with one another, 16) saying, ‘What shall we do with these men? For the fact that a noteworthy miracle has taken place through them is apparent to all who live in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.’” (NASB)

“AND WHEN THEY BRING YOU BEFORE THE SYNAGOGUES AND THE RULERS AND THE AUTHORITIES, DO NOT BECOME ANXIOUS ABOUT HOW OR WHAT YOU SHOULD SPEAK IN YOUR DEFENSE, OR WHAT YOU SHOULD SAY; FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL TEACH YOU IN THAT VERY HOUR WHAT YOU OUGHT TO SAY.” LUKE 12:11-12

Why were the rulers upset about Jesus being taught as raised from the dead? How did these leaders commit acts of tyranny violating our US Constitution at least five times? Did these legislative justices find themselves on trial? What is the most important and exclusive truth claim of Peter’s message?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- FEBRUARY 27: ACTS 4:15-31 **PERSECUTION BROUGHT GREATER BOLDNESS!**
- MARCH 6: DELEGATE KIRK COX **11 BIBLICAL TESTS OF GENUINE SALVATION**

The healing of the man who had been lame from birth had attracted a lot of attention as he had filled the temple mount with his shouts of rejoicing over the goodness of God. The same man had clung to both Peter and John as they had preached to the crowd that had gathered and let them know that it was done in “*the name of Jesus*” (3:16).

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM
THURSDAY @ 4:30 PM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB ROOM 312 SENATOR CARRICO’S OFFICE

Virginia

Triumph over Tyranny: The Congress of Israel Exposed

“THE SADDUCEES WERE ALSO ARISTOCRATS AND POLITICAL ECCLESIASTICS WHO DISLIKED POPULAR DISTURBANCES. IN PARTICULAR, THEY RESENTED THE CLAIM ABOUT JESUS WHOM THEY HAD HELPED CRUCIFY”

A. T. ROBERTSON

I. UNJUST OPPRESSION

ACTS 4:1-4

Peter and John both must have been addressing the people when they were suddenly interrupted by the hostile “*priests and the captain of the temple guard, and the Sadducees*” who arrested them because they didn’t like them “*proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead.*” The priests and the guard who controlled the temple area were primarily Sadducees who did not believe in any resurrection. Therefore they immediately disallowed their free speech and the right to a peaceable assembly, and imprisoned them without even a just cause or indictment. “*But many of those who heard the message believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.*” In spite of the tyranny by the leaders of the nation, the Church grew dramatically to 5000 adult men (not including their wives and children). It is probable that the Church suddenly grew to about 25,000 in the capital of about 80,000!

“REMEMBER JESUS CHRIST, RISEN FROM THE DEAD, DESCENDENT OF DAVID, ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL, FOR WHICH I SUFFER HARDSHIP EVEN TO IMPRISONMENT AS A CRIMINAL; BUT THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT IMPRISONED.”

2 TIMOTHY 2:8-9

II. UNRIVALED OPPORTUNITY

ACTS 4:5-10

The next day all the most powerful leaders representing the nation, the conservatives on one side and the liberals on the other, “*placed them in the center*” of their semi-circle, and began to interrogate Peter and John. Since they have deprived them of their liberty without due process of law,

and the Apostles are standing before the same group of murderers who unlawfully tried Jesus Christ probably only a couple of months earlier, the leaders are grasping for an accusation. “*By what power, or in what name, have you done this?*” they ask. Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit and he addresses his leaders with respect, but brilliantly turns the tables on them and puts them on trial. “*Rulers and elders of the people, if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how he has been made well, let it be made known to you, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health.*” Kindness is not usually a reason for trial, but since you insist, the One you murdered, whom God raised up from the dead (and now has all authority in heaven), He caused this miraculous healing to occur!

“PERSECUTION GAVE THEM AN OPPORTUNITY THEY WOULD NEVER OTHERWISE HAVE HAD—TO PREACH TO THE SANHEDRIN.”

JOHN MACARTHUR

III. UNSUCCESSFUL OPPOSITION

ACTS 4:11-16

Because Peter knew they would want to refute the truth, he proved his point with a prophecy they all knew from Psalm 118:22, “*He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone.*” Then He shows Jesus is that cornerstone of true salvation: “*there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.*” They are disqualified and mute, yet they “*must be saved.*”

“‘MUST BE SAVED’, NOT ONLY MAY, AS A MATTER OF OPTION OR RIGHT, BUT ‘MUST,’ AS A MATTER OF NECESSITY, IF SAVED AT ALL.”

J. A. ALEXANDER

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you willing to be a witness for Christ even if you have to suffer because of your courage?
- 2) Do you use the power of the Word of God rather than your own words to confound those who oppose the truth?
- 3) Have you ever acknowledged that you “*must be saved,*” and received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?