

## **ACTS 4:23-31: BELIEVERS RESPOND TO SANHEDRIN ATTACK**

When Peter, John, and the healed man were arrested and held overnight, the minds of the believers must have reverted to same treatment of Jesus that ended in his death. But having been forbidden to speak in the name of Jesus, these are released. The report of their treatment stimulates the believers to pray, and their prayer is recorded in 4:24-30. This prayer is intensely theological: it manifests their understanding of God, so we want to analyze it closely. I will paraphrase the thought of each verse.

1. v. 24 "YOU ARE OUR SOVEREIGN LORD GOD, THE CREATOR OF OUR UNIVERSE."

"Lord" = δεσποτης / despotes: God in the sense of Master or Lord over servants. Used 6 times of God in N.T.: see Luke. 2:29; Jude 4.

2. vs. 25, 26 "YOU FORETOLD HUMAN HOSTILITY TOWARD YOURSELF AND YOUR MESSIAH IN A PROPHECY OF DAVID"

- Psalm 2:1,2 Messiah (Hebrew) - lit. Mashiach  
Christ (Greek) - lit. Christos } "the Anointed One"

- The Jews believed Messiah would be from the loins of David, i.e., David's son, but Jesus tells them that the Christ who came in time would be God's Son from eternity past; that is, more than David's son. See Matthew 22:41ff where Christ talks about "Christ."

3. V. 27 "WE SEE DAVID'S PROPHECY IN LOCAL APPLICATION, A PRELIMINARY FULFILLMENT, 'FOR OF A TRUTH *IN THIS CITY* (all critical texts) THEY WERE GATHERED AGAINST THY HOLY SERVANT JESUS'..."

- Herod (Antipas) - tetrarch (King) of Galilee
- Pontius Pilate - ruler of Judea / Jerusalem
- the Gentiles - Roman officers & soldiers
- the people of Israel - chief priests & populace of Israel

The final fulfillment of the prophecies of Psalm 2 are yet future.

4. v.28 "BUT ALL THESE IN UNION AGAINST JESUS WERE SIMPLY FULFILLING THE PREDETERMINED COUNSEL OF YOU, OUR GOD."

What a marvelous commentary on their understanding of Scripture!!!

This raises the question:

## WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF CHRIST?

<u>GOD'S WILL</u>	<u>MAN'S WILL</u>	<u>CHRIST'S WILL</u>
<p>— Predetermined Counsel — Foreordained Decree</p>	<p>— Human Responsibility</p>	<p>— Wills to do God's will</p>
<p>- "Messiah must suffer"</p> <p>- Isaiah 52:13-53:12, esp. 53:10 "It pleased the Lord to bruise him"</p> <p>- Psalm 22</p> <p>- Acts 2:23, 3:18</p> <p>- 1 Peter 1:19, 20</p> <p>- Hebrews 13:20</p> <p>- Revelation 13:8</p>	<p>- Mark 15:1, Sanhedrin wills his death</p> <p>15:2 Pilate (Luke 23:6ff Herod)</p> <p>15:11 Chief Priests, multitudes</p> <p>15:13 "Crucify him"</p> <p>15:16, 24 Soldiers</p> <p>15:25 They crucified him</p> <p>- Acts 2:23 "You crucified him with wicked hands"</p> <p>3:15 "You killed the Prince of life"</p> <p>-Galatians 2:20 "The son of God loved me and gave himself <u>in my place.</u>"</p>	<p>- John 10:18 "No man takes my life from me, but I lay it down of myself"</p> <p>- John 19:30 "he bowed his head and gave over his spirit."</p> <p>- Isaiah 53:12 "he poured out his soul unto death."</p>

Who was responsible for Messiah's death: man, God and Messiah himself, and I, myself, became it was for my sins that He aggressively, volitionally and substitutionally died as Gal. 2:20 clearly states.

NOTE THAT GOD IS THE GREAT AGGRESSOR AGAINST SIN.

5. v. 29, 30 "LORD, IN VIEW OF THEIR THREATENING, WE HAVE TWO REQUESTS:

- 1) "GIVE US BOLDNESS TO SPEAK YOUR WORD; AND
- 2) "GRANT MORE SIGNS OF APPROVAL THRU THE NAME OF JESUS."

Note: they did not pray for cessation of persecution.

6. v. 31 The results: they were filled (pimplimi - type filling: see read-out #19) and they kept on speaking (imperfect tense) the Word of God with boldness!