

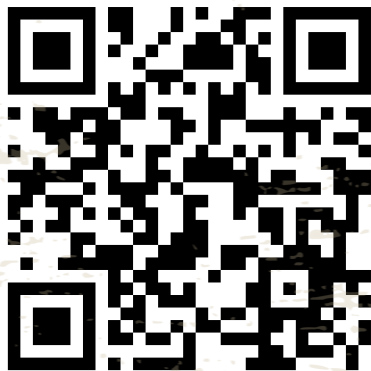
CROSS EXAMINATION – WEEK 1: MURDER MYSTERY TAKE HOME INVESTIGATION GUIDE

CASE NUMBER: #00033AD
CASE STATUS: OPEN

Thank you for joining us in Week 1 of our investigative series, 'Cross Examination.' This guide is designed to help you reflect, research, and investigate further into the case of Jesus' crucifixion. Use it individually or as a family discussion tool.

YOUR NEXT STEPS

- Continue your investigation this week. Read one of the historical sources.
- Discuss your thoughts with a friend or family member.
- Stay connected with us on social media to stay updated on the case
- Scan the QR code below to access additional resources and recommended readings.

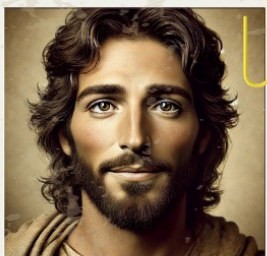


**EVIDENCE
DRAWER**



**MEET THE
SUSPECTS**

CASE OVERVIEW: WAS IT MURDER OR JUSTICE?



JESUS

Jesus of Nazareth was accused of two crimes:

- Blasphemy: Claiming to be the Son of God.
- Insurrection: Rebelling against Rome.

Based on the evidence, was He guilty of these charges or was He wrongfully convicted?

HISTORICAL EVIDENCE: DID JESUS REALLY EXIST?

The following non-biblical historical sources mention Jesus and His crucifixion. Under each source, take notes on how this evidence strengthens the historical validity of Jesus' life and death.

- **Flavius Josephus (Jewish historian, c. 93 AD)**
- **Tacitus (Roman historian, c. 116 AD)**
- **Pliny the Younger (Roman governor, c. 112 AD)**
- **The Babylonian Talmud (Jewish commentary, c. 500 AD)**
- **Lucian of Samosata (Greek satirist, c. 165 AD)**
- **Mara bar Serapion (philosopher, c. 73 AD)**

Challenge: How does this strengthen or challenge your understanding of His existence?

WHO WANTED JESUS DEAD? THE SUSPECTS & MOTIVES



**Caiaphas
(Religious Leader)**



**Annas
(Religious Leader)**



**Judas
(The Betrayer)**



**The Sanhedrin
(The Religious Court)**



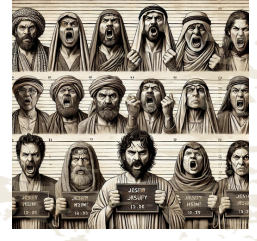
**Pontius Pilate
(The Governor)**



**Herod Antipas
(The Political Figure)**



**The Roman Soldiers
(Executioners)**



**The Crowd
(Chose Barabbas)**

Motives for the Crime:

- **Fear** - The religious leaders feared losing influence (John 11:48).
- **Jealousy** - Jesus' growing popularity (Mark 15:10).
- **Power** - The Romans and Jewish elite wanted control (Matthew 23:1-12; Matthew 21:12-13).

Reflection Question: Which suspect(s) do you think played the biggest role in Jesus execution and why?

PROPHETIC FORESHADOWING **THE MESSIAHS DEATH FORETOLD**

The Old Testament prophesied details of the Messiahs rejection, suffering, and death hundreds of years before Jesus. Here are just a few examples:

- Born of a Virgin - Isaiah 7:14 -> Fulfilled in Matthew 1:22-23
- Born in Bethlehem - Micah 5:2 -> Fulfilled in Matthew 2:1-6
- Rejected by His Own People - Isaiah 53:3 -> Fulfilled in John 1:11, Luke 4:16-30
- Betrayed for 30 Pieces of Silver - Zechariah 11:12-13 -> Fulfilled in Matthew 26:14-16, 27:3-10 - Silent Before His Accusers - Isaiah 53:7 -> Fulfilled in Matthew 27:12-14
- Crucified with Criminals - Isaiah 53:12 -> Fulfilled in Luke 23:32-33
- Pierced Hands & Feet - Psalm 22:16 -> Fulfilled in John 20:25-27
- The Suffering Servant - Isaiah 53:5 -> Fulfilled in Matthew 27:26-31

Using this information, fill out the prophecy & fulfillment timeline in your packet

Challenge: Read Isaiah 53 and compare it to the crucifixion account in Matthew 27. What stands out to you?

THE UNSOLVED MYSTERY: **WHERE IS THE BODY?**

Every murder case relies on a body, yet in this case, there is no body. This raises a critical question: What happened to Jesus' body?

Theories We Will Investigate Next Week:

- He survived and died later
- Could He have faked His death?
- The body was stolen
- Did His disciples steal and hide the body?
- He resurrected
- Is there evidence for the resurrection?

Reflection: Based on what youve seen so far, what do you think happened to Jesus' body?
