

Rejected

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"And it came to pass, as **He (Jesus)** was alone praying, and His disciples were with **Him**; and **He** asked them, saying, 'Who do the people say that I am?' They answered, saying, 'John the Baptist'; but some say, 'Elijah'; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again.' **He** said unto them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answering said, '**The Christ of God.**' And **He** strictly charged them, and commanded them to tell no man this thing; saying, 'The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.' And He said to them all, 'If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, **and follow Me**. For whoever will save his life shall lose it; but whoever will lose his life for My sake, the same shall save it.' (Luke 9:18-24)

Rejected: from the Greek word *apodokimasthenai* which means: rejected; to reject, to disapprove, to repudiate; properly, to cast away after investigation. In context: it was the religious rulers who were most active in rejecting Jesus, and His teachings, especially His teachings about Himself. For these rulers, their foundation for investigating something Jesus was often their own man made traditions, rather than the prophetic Word of God.

Elders, Chief Priests and Scribes: primarily speaking, for the most part, the ruling Jewish leaders: the members of the Sanhedrin, the high priests, scribes and lawyers; many of whom were also members of the religious sects: Pharisees and Sadducees; but also some of the common people.

The rejection of Jesus, the Christ-Messiah sent by God the Father to His chosen people: the Nation of Israel, was manifested in various ways, such as: He was oppressed, despised, afflicted, betrayed, stricken, and slain on the Cross. These things were clearly foretold by Isaiah the prophet as follows:

"Who has believed our report? (not the elders & chief priests of Israel) and to whom is the Arm of the LORD revealed? For **He** (Jesus) shall grow up before Him (the Father) as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground. **He** has no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see **Him**, there is no beauty that we should desire **Him**. He is **despised and rejected by men**; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and **we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.** Surely **He** hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet **we did esteem Him stricken**, smitten of God, **and afflicted**. But **He** was wounded for our transgressions, **He** was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was **upon Him**; and with **His stripes** we are healed. **We all like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;** and **the LORD has laid upon Him the iniquity of us all.** **He was oppressed**, and **He was afflicted**, yet **He** opened not **His** mouth. **He** is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so **He** opened not **His** mouth." (Isaiah 53:1-7)

Just as John the Baptist was rejected by the elders and chief priests; so was Jesus:

"For **I (Jesus)** say unto you, 'Among those who are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the Kingdom of God is greater than he.' And all the people who heard **Him**, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. **But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God** against themselves, being not baptized by him. And the Lord (Jesus) said, 'unto what then shall I liken the men of this generation; and to what are they like? They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, 'We have piped unto you, and you have not danced; we have mourned to you, and you have not wept.' For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine; and you say, 'He has a devil'. The **Son of Man** has come eating and drinking; and you say, 'Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners!' **But wisdom is justified by all her children.**" (Luke 7:28-35)

Jesus Himself foretold and spoke of His Rejection! Please consider the following:

"And He (Jesus) said unto the disciples, The days will come, when you shall desire to see one of the days of the **Son of Man**, and you shall not see it. And they shall say to you, See here; or, see there: go not after them, nor follow them. For as the lightning, that lightens out of the one part under heaven, shines unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in His day. But first **He must suffer many things, and be rejected by this generation.**" (Luke 17:22-25)

And again with a parable:

"Hear another parable: 'There was a certain householder, who planted a vineyard, and put a wall around it, and dug a winepress in it, and built a tower, and rented it out to vineyard-men, and went into a far country. And when the time of the fruit-harvest drew near, he sent his servants to the vineyard-men, so that they might receive the fruits of it. And the vineyard-men took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them **his son**, saying, 'They will reverence my son.' But when the vineyard-men saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir; come, **let us kill him**, and let us seize on his inheritance.' **And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and killed him.** When the lord therefore of the vineyard comes, what will he do unto those husbandmen?' They say unto **Him**, 'He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will rent out his vineyard unto other vineyard-men, who shall render him the fruits in their seasons.' Jesus said unto them, 'Did you never read in the scriptures, '***The Stone*** (speaking of Jesus Himself) *which the builders (Jewish rulers) **rejected, the same has become the Head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?*** (Psalm 118:22) Therefore say I unto you, 'The Kingdom of God **shall be taken from you**, and given to a nation (i.e. a people) bringing forth the fruits from it. And whoever shall fall on **this stone** shall be broken; but on whomever it shall fall, it will grind him to dust.' And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, **they perceived that He spoke of them.** But when **they sought to lay hands on Him**, they feared the multitude, because they took **Him (Jesus)** to be a prophet." (Matthew 21:33-46)

Jesus spoke to those who rejected Him plainly and bluntly as follows:

"Jesus said unto them, '... **You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father you will do.** He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own-self; for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because **I tell you the truth, you do not believe Me.** Which of you convicts **Me** of sin? And **if I speak the truth, why do you not believe Me?** He who is of God hears God's words; you therefore hear them not, **because you are not of God.**' Then answered the Jews, and said unto Him, 'Do **we** not say well that You are a Samaritan, and have a devil?' Jesus answered, 'I have not a devil; but I honor My Father, and you do dishonor Me. But I seek not My own glory. There is One who seeks and judges. Truly, truly, I say unto you, If a man keeps My saying, **he shall never see death.**' Then the Jews said unto Him, 'Now we know that You have a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and **You** say, 'If a man keeps My saying', he shall never taste of death.' Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead; whom do You make Yourself?' Jesus answered, 'If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing; it is **My Father who honors Me**; of whom you say, that **He** is your God. Yet **you have not known Him**; but **I know Him**; and if I should say, 'I know **Him** not', I shall be a liar like unto you; but **I know Him**, and keep His word. Your father Abraham **rejoiced to see My day**; and he saw it, **and was glad.**' Then the Jews said unto **Him**, 'You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?' Jesus said unto them, 'Truly, truly, I say unto you, Before Abraham existed, I existed.' **Then they took up stones to cast at Him**; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the Temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by." (John 8:42-59)

"Then was brought **unto Him (to Jesus)** someone possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb; and He healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spoke and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, 'Is not this the Son of David?' **But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, 'This fellow does not cast out devils, except by Beelzebub the prince of the devils.'** And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand; and if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? Therefore, they shall be your judges. **But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has come unto you.** Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house. He who is not with Me is against Me ; and he that gathers not with Me scatters abroad.' " (Matthew 12:22-30)

Eventually Jesus was Rejected before Pilate the Roman Governor:

"Pilate therefore went forth again, and said unto them, 'Behold, I bring **Him** forth to you, so that you may know that I find no fault in Him.' Then Jesus came forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate said unto them, 'Behold the man!' When the chief priests therefore and officers saw **Him**, they cried out, saying, '**Crucify Him, crucify Him.**' Pilate said unto them, 'You take **Him**, and crucify **Him**: for I find no fault in Him. The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the **Son of God.**' When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was even more afraid; and went again into the judgment hall, and said unto Jesus, 'From where are You?' But Jesus gave him no answer. Then Pilate said unto **Him**, 'Do You not Speak unto me?' Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and have power to release You? Jesus answered, 'You would have no power at all against **Me**, except it were given to you from above; therefore, he who delivered **Me** unto you has the greater sin.' And from then onward Pilate sought to release **Him**; but the Jews cried out, saying, 'If you let this **Man** go, you are not Caesar's friend; for whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar.' When Pilate therefore heard those words, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he said unto the Jews, '**Behold your King!**' But they cried out, '**Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him.**' Pilate said unto them, 'Shall I crucify **your King?**' The chief priests answered, '**We have no king but Caesar.**' " (John 18:37-40; 19:1-15)

Jesus was Rejected

He was despised and rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes !

They accused their Messiah sent to them by God of being of the devil !

They did not believe the truth of who Jesus was and claimed to be !

He suffered many things, and was rejected by that generation !

He was oppressed, He was afflicted, He was stricken !!!

They chose the pagan Caesar to be their king !!

They shouted 'Crucify Him, crucify Him.' !

They mocked Him while on the Cross !

Lord Jesus I believe in You !

I believe You are the Son of God !

I believe You are the Father's promised Savior !

I believe that You are our tried and precious Cornerstone !

I believe that You are the one and only everlasting King of Kings !

All power, dominion, glory, honor, majesty, and blessings are Yours forever and ever !