

The Laws of the Great Sanhedrin Regarding Trials

- (1) there was to be no arrest that was affected by a bribe,
- (2) there were to be no steps of criminal proceedings after sunset,
- (3) members of Sanhedrin were not allowed to participate in the arrest,
- (4) there were to be no trials before the morning sacrifice,
- (5) there were to be no secret trials, only public ones,
- (6) Sanhedrin trials could only be conducted in the hall of judgment at the Temple,
- (7) the defense would speak first, and then the accusation would be made,
- (8) all could argue in favor of acquittal, but all could not argue for a conviction,
- (9) there were to be two or three witnesses and their testimony had to agree in every detail for conviction,
- (10) there was to be no allowance for the accused to testify against himself,
- (11) the High Priest was forbidden to tear his clothes,
- (12) charges could not originate with the judges, they could only investigate charges,
- (13) the accusation of blasphemy was only valid if he pronounced the name of God himself,
- (14) a person could not be condemned on the basis of his own words,
- (15) the verdict could not be announced at night, only in the daytime,
- (16) in cases of capital punishment, the trial and the guilty verdict could not occur at the same time but had to be separated by at least twenty-four hours,

- (17) voting for the death penalty had to be done by individual count beginning with the youngest so that the elders would not influence the young,
- (18) a unanimous decision for guilt showed innocence since it was impossible for 71 men to agree without plotting,
- (19) the sentence could only be pronounced three days after the guilty verdict,
- (20) judges were to be kind and humane,
- (21) a person condemned to death was not to be scourged or beaten beforehand (Tractate Sanhedrin). Therefore, in spite of His oppression and affliction, **Jesus** did not fight it; rather, **He** gave **Himself** willingly to it.¹⁵¹⁵