

0. THE FIRST TRIAL - Story Preface

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Opening to a dungeon below St Peter in Gallicantu, a church in Jerusalem which scholars believe is located where the house of Caiaphas once stood. If that is correct, this may be the dungeon opening through which Jesus would have been lowered during his first trial. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

The first stop on this long night was at the house of Annas, father-in-law of the high priest, Caiaphas. Not much

time passed before Annas sent Jesus, still bound, to the house of Caiaphas.

Although no one can be sure where the house of Caiaphas was located, it is believed that the current church of St. Peter in Gallicantu (which means "the crowing of the cock") stands over it. Below that church is a dungeon.

Open and lit today, the dungeon was formerly closed and dark. The only entrance was a narrow opening, at the top, through which a prisoner would be lowered in a harness.

Scholars believe that Jesus may have been lowered into the dungeon at some point during His time at the house of Caiaphas.

As the religious leaders interrogated Jesus inside, Peter (one of the disciples who followed the arresting officers as they moved from place to place) remained outside. Three different people asked whether he knew Jesus. He denied it each time.

After the third denial, Peter heard a rooster crowing in the distance. When that happened, he remembered Jesus had predicted Peter would deny Him three times.

Inside the house of Caiaphas, guards mocked and beat Jesus. Putting a blindfold on him, they struck Him and asked Him to say who it was that hit Him.

When the religious council and the teachers of the law who had been invited to interrogate Jesus were all present, they asked whether He was the Son of God. Jesus responded:

You are right in saying I am.

With this admission, council members believed they had enough evidence to condemn Him. Their next stop would be the residence of Pilate, the Roman Prefect in Israel, who was in Jerusalem for Passover week.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/THE-FIRST-TRIAL-Easter-Story>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/THE-FIRST-TRIAL-Easter-Story>

Media Stream



Trial of Jesus - Steps at the House of Caiaphas

Image online, Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trial-of-Jesus-Steps-at-the-House-of-Caiaphas>



House of Caiaphas - Place of First Trial

Photo online, courtesy Peter J. Blackburn.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/House-of-Caiaphas-Place-of-First-Trial>



House of Caiaphas - Reputed Location

Image online, courtesy Christus Rex, a Vatican website.

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House of Caiaphas - St. Peter in Gallicantu

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/House-of-Caiaphas-St.-Peter-in-Gallicantu>



House of Caiaphas - Narrow Opening into Dungeon

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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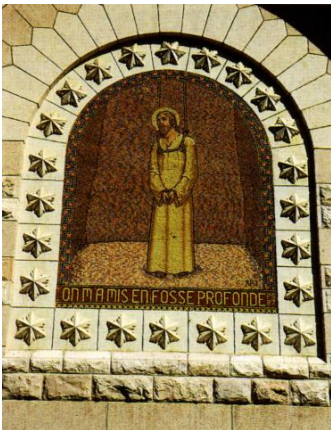
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/House-of-Caiaphas-Narrow-Opening-into-Dungeon>



House of Caiaphas - Dungeon

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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House of Caiaphas - Lowering a Prisoner into the Dungeon

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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House of Caiaphas - Peter Denies Jesus Three Times

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Trial of Jesus - Appearance Before Caiaphas

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Trial of Jesus - Caiaphas Rips His Robe

Image online, courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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