

Why Did the First Century Unbelieving Jewish People Want to Kill **Yahshua** and His Followers?

We know that it was in **Yahweh's** plan for **Yahshua** the **Messiah** to die for our sins, but what was it that was in the Jewish people's mind that made them want to persecute and kill Him? There were many things that made them want to persecute and kill Him including those that are found in this first scripture. (**Yahshua** had healed a man on the Sabbath Day and He stated that **Yahweh** was His **Father**.)

John 5 (15) The man departed, and told the Jews that it was **Yahshua**, which had made him whole. (16) And therefore did the Jews persecute **Yahshua**, and sought to slay **Him**, because **He** had done these things on the Sabbath day. (17) But **Yahshua** answered them, **My Father worketh hitherto, and I work**. (18) Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill **Him**, because **He** not only had broken the **Sabbath** [*so they thought*], but said also that **Yahweh** was His **Father**, making **Himself** equal with **Yahweh**.

Yahshua did not break the Sabbath. The Jewish leadership with their oral law had attempted to build a hedge around the Sabbath with ridiculous restrictions in an attempt to protect themselves from breaking it. **Yahshua** obeyed **Yahweh's** Sabbath laws and ignored their man-made restrictions concerning them. Therefore, they accused him of breaking the Sabbath. At that time they were still under the Old Covenant and breaking the Sabbath was to be punished by death.

Exodus 31 (14) Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it *is* holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth *any* work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. (15) Six days may work be done; but in the seventh *is* the Sabbath of rest, Holy to **Yahweh**: whosoever doeth *any* work in the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.

As seen above John 5:15-18, **Yahshua** the **Messiah** claimed that **Yahweh** was His **Father**. Therefore, as the **Son** of **Yahweh**, He would also have claim to the **name** and **deity** of **Yahweh** Who is our **Elohim**. They considered both claims as blaspheming the name of **Yahweh**. That is also indicated in these next two scriptures where **Yahshua** told them that they would see Him “sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of Heaven” and that “**I and my Father are one**”

Mark 14 (61) But **He** held **His** peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked **Him**, and said unto **Him**, Art **Thou** the **Messiah**, the **Son** of the Blessed (62) And **Yahshua** said, **I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power [Psa. 110:1], and coming in the clouds of Heaven**. (63) Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? (64) Ye have heard the BLASPHEMY: what think ye? And they all condemned **Him** to be guilty of death.

John 10 (30) **I and My Father are one**. (31) Then the Jews took up stones again to stone **Him**. (32) **Yahshua** answered them, **Many good works have I showed you from My Father; for which of those works do ye stone Me?** (33) The Jews answered **Him**, saying, For a good work we stone **Thee** not; but for blasphemy; and because that **Thou**, being a man, makest **Thyself Elohim**.

Because they considered His claim as blaspheming **Yahweh's** name by claiming His **Father's name & deity**, they condemned Him to death which was the prescribed penalty for blaspheming His name.

Leviticus 24 (16) And he that blasphemeth the name of **Yahweh**, he shall surely be put to death, *and* all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of **Yahweh**, shall be put to death.

Was having claim to **Yahweh Elohim's name & deity** blasphemy? No! The fact of the matter is that the name “**Yahshua**” in the Hebrew means “**Yah's Salvation**,” (Hebrew names usually signify who and what they are and what they do.) **Yahshua** truly was **Yahweh's Salvation** that came to **save** us from our sins.

Matthew 1 (21) And she [**Miriam-Mary**] shall bring forth a **Son**, and thou shalt call **His** name **Yahshua**: for **He** shall **SAVE His** people from their sins. (22) Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the **Sovereign** by the prophet, saying, (23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a **Son**, and they shall call **His** name **Emmanuel**, which being interpreted is, **El** with us. (24) Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of **Yahweh** had bidden him, & took unto him his wife: (25) And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn **Son**: & he called **His** name **Yahshua**.

The problem was that those Jewish people who rejected **Yahshua** were so involved with keeping the letter of the Torah, along with their oral laws and traditions, that **they could not fulfil the spirit of Yahweh's law or even know Yahweh or know Yahshua's identity.**

Luke 11 (42) **But woe unto you, Pharisees! For ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass over judgment and the love of Yahweh: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.**

Romans 9 (31) But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. (32) Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. **For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;** (33) As it is written, Behold, **I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: & whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.**

The Jewish people who rejected **Yahshua** reasoned that if **Yahshua** was the **Son** of **Yahweh** their **Elohim** then **Yahshua** would be **Elohim** too. They saw this as having two different **Elohim** which would be in violation of the first of the Ten Commandments. “**Thou shalt have no other elohim before Me.**” Having another elohim was so serious that anyone, even your own family, was to be put to death for even asking you to serve an elohim other than **Yahweh**, the **Elohim** of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Deuteronomy 13 (6) If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which *is* as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other elohim, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers; (7) *Namely*, of the elohim of the people which *are* round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the *one* end of the earth even unto the *other* end of the earth; (8) Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him: (9) But **thou shalt surely kill him;** thine hand shall be first upon him to **put him to death,** and afterwards the hand of all the people. (10) And **thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die;** because he hath sought to thrust thee away from **Yahweh** thy **Elohim**, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Because the unbelieving Jews did not understand **Yahshua** claims to His **Father's name** or His **deity** they hated Him and His followers. They considered them as blasphemers and followers of false elohim, Therefore, **they thought that Yahshua and His followers should be punished with death** according to the prescribed penalties of the law. That is the main reason why **Yahshua** warned the Apostles as well as all of His followers about being put to death by those who thought that they were doing **Yahweh** a service.

Matthew 10 (21) **And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.** (22) **And ye shall be hated of all men for My name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.** (23) **But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.**

John 16 (1) These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. (2) They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that **whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth Yahweh service.** (3) **And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor Me.**

As a very good example of unbelieving Jews thinking that they were doing **Yahweh** a service by **putting Yahshua and His followers to death**, we see the beloved Apostle Paul. Before his conversion he was doing the very same thing. That is what he was in route to Damascus to do when he was called by **Yahshua**.

Acts 22 (3) I [**Saul-Paul**] am verily a man *which am* a Jew, born in Tarsus, *a city* in Cilicia, yet brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, *and* taught according to the perfect manner of the law of the fathers, and was zealous toward **Yahweh**, as ye all are this day. (4) And **I persecuted this way unto the death**, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women. (5) As also the high priest doth bear me witness, and all the estate of the elders: from whom also I received letters unto the brethren, and went to Damascus, to bring them which were there bound unto Jerusalem, for to be punished. (6) And it came to pass, that, as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from Heaven a great **Light** round about me. (7) And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, **Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?** (8) And I answered, **Who art Thou, Sovereign?** And **He** said unto me, **I am Yahshua of Nazareth Whom thou persecutest.** ... (19) And I said, **Sovereign**, they know that I imprisoned and beat in every synagogue them that believed on thee: (20) And when the blood of thy martyr Stephen was shed, I also was standing by, and **consenting unto his death** and kept the raiment of them that slew him.

May **Yahweh** bless those who read and understand this short article and are not offended.

[Revised and/or edited in 2026 by T.A.H.]