

Acts 14:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them,

Analysis

An assault made... to use them despitefully, and to stone them—The Greek *hormē* (assault) suggests violent rushing or hostile momentum, not merely verbal threats. **Use them despitefully** translates *hybrisai* (to outrage, insult violently), denoting shameful treatment and physical abuse. **Stone them** reveals the Jewish faction's influence, since stoning was Mosaic punishment for blasphemy. This joint attack—**both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers**—shows unprecedented coalition against the apostles. The inclusion of 'rulers' indicates official sanction was sought, making this attempted lynching semi-legal.

Historical Context

Stoning required community participation, not individual violence. By AD 47-48, Jews lacked capital punishment authority under Rome, but mob stoning occasionally occurred (as with Stephen). The alliance between Jews and Gentiles here was unusual, showing how powerfully the gospel disrupted normal social alignments.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when opposition becomes physically dangerous rather than merely ideological?
2. What does the coalition of diverse enemies teach about the supernatural nature of gospel opposition?

Interlinear Text

ώς δὲ ἐγένετο ὥρμη τῶν ἐθνῶν τε καὶ
when And made an assault G3588 of the Gentiles both and
G5613 G1161 G1096 G3730 G1484 G5037 G2532

Ἰουδαίων σὺν τοῖς ἄρχοντιν αὐτούς οὐβρίσαι
of the Jews with G3588 rulers their to use them despitefully
G2453 G4862 G758 G846 G5195

καὶ λιθοβολῆσαι αὐτούς
and to stone their
G2532 G3036 G846

Additional Cross-References

Acts 14:19 (Parallel theme): And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

2 Timothy 3:11 (Parallel theme): Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.