

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

ὡς	δὲ	ἐγένετο	ὁρμή	τῶν	ἐθνῶν	τε	καὶ
when	And	made	an assault	<small>G3588</small>	of the Gentiles	both	and
<small>G5613</small>	<small>G1161</small>	<small>G1096</small>	<small>G3730</small>		<small>G1484</small>	<small>G5037</small>	<small>G2532</small>
Ἰουδαίων	σὺν	τοῖς	ἄρχουσιν	αὐτοῦς	ὕβρισαι		
of the Jews	with	<small>G3588</small>	rulers	their	to use them despitefully		
<small>G2453</small>	<small>G4862</small>		<small>G758</small>	<small>G846</small>	<small>G5195</small>		
καὶ	λιθοβολῆσαι	αὐτοῦς					
and	to stone	their					
<small>G2532</small>	<small>G3036</small>	<small>G846</small>					

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.