

Deuteronomy 13:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

Analysis

The execution method: 'And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.' Stoning was community execution, requiring multiple participants. The crime: 'sought to thrust thee away' (nadach, נָדַח, drive away, seduce) from Yahweh. This active seduction, not mere personal apostasy, merits death. The reminder of redemption—'brought thee out of Egypt, from the house of bondage'—emphasizes ingratitude's enormity. God delivered you from slavery; leading you back to spiritual slavery (idolatry) is ultimate betrayal. Covenant faithfulness demands capital response to covenant violation.

Historical Context

Stoning executed many Old Testament judgments: blasphemy (Leviticus 24:14-16), Sabbath-breaking (Numbers 15:32-36), adultery (Deuteronomy 22:21-24), idolatry (Deuteronomy 17:2-7). The method ensured community participation and made death certain. Stephen's martyrdom by stoning (Acts 7:58-60) ironically fulfilled this law illegally—mob violence, not proper trial. Jesus prevented an adulteress's stoning (John 8:3-11), not abolishing law but exposing accusers' hypocrisy and

offering grace. His sacrifice satisfies law's demands, enabling mercy for repentant sinners.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does remembering God's redemption (salvation from sin) motivate faithfulness and expose apostasy's ingratitude?
2. What does it mean that Christ was 'stoned' (crucified) bearing the penalty for our spiritual adultery (idolatry)?
3. How should gratitude for salvation affect our resolve against compromise with false teaching?

Interlinear Text

וּסְקַלְתָּ אוֹ	בְּאֲבָנֵי יָם	כִּי יָמוּת	בְּכִי שׁ
And thou shalt stone	him with stones	that he die	because he hath sought
H5619	H68	H4191	H1245
לְהִדְיוֹךְ	מֵעַל	יְהוָה	אֱלֹהֶיךָ
to thrust thee away	H5921	from the LORD	thy God
H5080		H3068	H430
הַמוֹצִיאֲךָ			
			which brought thee out
			H3318
מֵאֶרֶץ	מִצְרַיִם	מִבֵּית	עֲבָדִים:
of the land	of Egypt	from the house	of bondage
H776	H4714	H1004	H5650

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 7:25 (References Lord): And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones.

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