

# Deuteronomy 17:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shalt thou bring forth that man or that woman, which have committed that wicked thing, unto thy gates, even that man or that woman, and shalt stone them with stones, till they die.

## Analysis

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**Bring forth that man or that woman**—gender equality in covenant accountability. **Unto thy gates** (אֶל-שְׁעָרֶיךָ, el-she'arekha)—the city gate, where judicial proceedings occurred (Ruth 4:1; Deuteronomy 21:19). Public execution at the community center emphasized covenant solidarity.

**Stone them with stones, till they die** (סְקָל אֶבְנִים, sakal avanim). Stoning wasn't torture but communal execution—the whole community enforcing covenant loyalty. Verse 7 specifies witnesses cast first stones, ensuring accountability. This severity underscores idolatry's capital seriousness—spiritual cancer requiring surgical removal. Paul applies this principle to church discipline: 'purge the evil from among you' (1 Corinthians 5:13, citing this passage).

## Historical Context

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Stoning served multiple purposes:

1. communal participation in covenant enforcement
2. no single executioner bore sole responsibility
3. public deterrent.

Archaeological evidence suggests execution sites outside city gates. Jesus confronted hypocritical application of this law (John 8:3-11)—authorities eager to stone the adulteress but ignoring their own sin. New Covenant relocates 'putting to death' from physical to spiritual realm (Colossians 3:5).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does this passage inform the seriousness with which God views idolatry and covenant unfaithfulness?
2. How should the church 'purge evil from among you' today without becoming pharisaical or abusive?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהִזְכַּתְּךָ אַתְּ בָּא יְשָׁאָתְךָ אַתְּ בָּא וְאַתְּ אַתְּ  
Then shalt thou bring forth even that man H1931 H176 H853

וְאַתְּ בָּא שְׁאָלָתְךָ אַתְּ בָּא שְׁאָלָתְךָ אַתְּ בָּא שְׁאָלָתְךָ אַתְּ  
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or that woman and shalt stone them with stones till they die H4191 H68 H5619 H7451

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 24:14** (Parallel theme): Bring forth him that hath cursed without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him.

**Joshua 7:25** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Leviticus 24:16** (Parallel theme): And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, 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 the LORD, shall be put to death.