

# 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

**Bring forth that man or that woman**—gender equality in covenant accountability. **Unto thy gates** (אֶל־שַׁעְרֶיךָ, 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** (סָקַל אֲבָנִים, 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

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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וְהוֹצֵאתָ	אֶת	הָאִישׁ	הַהוּא	אוֹ	אֶת
Then shalt thou bring forth	H853	even that man	H1931	H176	H853
H3318		H376			
הָאִשָּׁה	הַהוּא	אֲשֶׁר	עָשׂוּ	אֶת	הַדָּבָר
or that woman	H1931	H834	which have committed	H853	thing
H802			H6213		H1697
הַרָעָה	הַזֶּה	אֶל	שַׁעַר יָדְךָ	אֶת	הָאִישׁ
that wicked	H2088	H413	unto thy gates	H853	even that man
H7451			H8179		H376
הָאִשָּׁה	וּסְקַלְתָּ	בָּאֲבָנֵי יָם	וְמָתוּ:		
or that woman	and shalt stone	them with stones	till they die		
H802	H5619	H68	H4191		

## 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.