

Deuteronomy 22:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then ye shall bring them both out unto the gate of that city, and ye shall stone them with stones that they die; the damsel, because she cried not, being in the city; and the man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife: so thou shalt put away evil from among you.

Analysis

Ye shall stone them with stones that they die—both parties receive capital punishment, but for different reasons. **The damsel, because she cried not, being in the city**—her silence implies consent since help was available. **The man, because he hath humbled his neighbour's wife**—the verb innah (עָנָה, humbled/violated) shows he violated another man's covenant rights.

So thou shalt put away evil from among you (u-vi'arta ha-ra mi-qirbecha, וְעִירָתְךָ מִקְרָבְךָ)—this formula appears throughout Deuteronomy (13:5, 17:7, 19:19), emphasizing covenant community purity. Sexual sin threatens the entire community's relationship with God, requiring decisive action to preserve holiness.

Historical Context

Public execution at the city gate served both judicial and pedagogical purposes. The gate was the legal center where elders adjudicated cases (Ruth 4:1-11). Stoning required community participation, preventing blood guilt from falling on individuals while demonstrating collective commitment to covenant holiness.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the NT principle "a little leaven leavens the whole lump" (1 Cor 5:6) reflect this OT concern for community holiness?
2. What does church discipline reveal about the seriousness of sexual sin and covenant faithfulness in the new covenant community?

Interlinear Text

בָּעֵד יְרֵא שְׁעָרָה שְׁעָרָה מִן הַחֲזָאתָ מֵאֶת	Then ye shall bring them both	H3318 H853 H8147 H413	אֲלֵיכֶם בְּאֶבֶנִים אֲתֶם יְמִתּוּ	out unto the gate not being in the city	H8179 H5892 H4191 H853
וְסִקְלַתָּה מִבֵּבֶן וְסִקְלַתָּה מִבֵּבֶן	and ye shall stone them with stones	H1931 H5619 H853 H68	לֹא אָשָׁר מֵבְּנֵי כָּנָעַן	that they die	H1697 H834 H3808 H6817 H4191
לֹא אָשָׁר דָּבָר עַל בְּנֵי כָּנָעַן	because he hath humbled	H5291 H5921 H1697 H834 H3808	בָּעֵד יְרֵא לֹא תְּמִתּוּ	not being in the city	H853 H853 H853 H853 H853
בָּעֵד יְרֵא לֹא תְּמִתּוּ	wife	H802 H853 H6031 H376 H5921 H1697	בָּעֵד יְרֵא לֹא תְּמִתּוּ		
בְּרֵבָבָה בְּרֵבָבָה כְּעֵד הַוְּנָדֵב	from among so thou shalt put away	H7130 H7451 H1197 H834 H376 H5921 H1697	בְּרֵבָבָה בְּרֵבָבָה כְּעֵד הַוְּנָדֵב		

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 5:13 (Evil): But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

Deuteronomy 21:14 (Parallel theme): And it shall be, if thou have no delight in her, then thou shalt let her go whither she will; but thou shalt not sell her at all for money, thou shalt not make merchandise of her, because thou hast humbled her.

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