

# Ezekiel 16:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They shall also bring up a company against thee, and they shall stone thee with stones, and thrust thee through with their swords.

## Analysis

**They shall also bring up a company against thee, and they shall stone thee with stones, and thrust thee through with their swords.** The "company" (qahal, קָהָל) refers to a gathered assembly or army—the Babylonian coalition. "Stone thee with stones" invokes Levitical punishment for adultery (Deuteronomy 22:23-24) and idolatry (Leviticus 20:2-5)—Jerusalem would experience covenant curses she despised. **Stoning was communal execution**, requiring witness participation, symbolizing corporate rejection of covenant-breakers.

"Thrust thee through with their swords" (batheq bechereb, בַּתְּקֵן בְּחֶרֶב) describes violent military conquest. The dual imagery—judicial stoning and military slaughter—combines legal execution with historical warfare. **God's judgments employ both juridical and historical means:** He is both Judge pronouncing sentence and Lord of history executing it through geopolitical events.

This verse demonstrates that international warfare is not random but operates under divine providence. Habakkuk struggled with God using wicked Babylon to judge Judah (Habakkuk 1:12-17), yet God affirmed His sovereignty over nations as instruments of discipline (Isaiah 10:5-19, Jeremiah 25:8-14, 27:5-8). The NT extends this principle: governing authorities are God's servants bearing the sword for executing wrath (Romans 13:1-4).

## Historical Context

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The Babylonian siege of Jerusalem (588-586 BC) fulfilled this prophecy precisely. Nebuchadnezzar's army constructed siege works, battered walls with rams, and eventually breached the city (2 Kings 25:1-4). Jeremiah witnessed the assault, describing famine, fire, and sword (Jeremiah 14:12, 21:7). Lamentations depicts stones of the sanctuary scattered in streets (Lamentations 4:1).

Archaeological excavations at Jerusalem reveal arrowheads, ash layers, and destroyed structures dating to 586 BC, confirming violent conquest. The Lachish Letters (contemporary Hebrew ostraca) document military communications during Babylon's Judean campaign. Excavations at Lachish show massive destruction by fire and siege. The historical record validates prophetic prediction—divine word and historical event converged in judgment.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing God's sovereignty over international conflicts affect your response to geopolitical upheaval?
2. In what ways might God use difficult circumstances or opposition as discipline to purge idolatry from your life?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהָעַל וְ	עַל יְהִי	קָה ל	וְכָגַם וְ
They shall also bring up	H5921	a company	against thee and they shall stone
H5927		H6951	H7275
אֹתָהּ וְ	בָּאֵבֶן	וּבִתְקֶה וְ	בְּחֶרְבֵּיהֶם:
H853	thee with stones	and thrust thee through	with their swords
	H68	H1333	H2719

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 23:47** (Word): And the company shall stone them with stones, and dispatch them with their swords; they shall slay their sons and their daughters, and burn up their houses with fire.