

CASTING STONES

INTRODUCTION

- A. **Leviticus 20:2, 27; 24:14; Numbers 15:32-36; Deuteronomy 17:2-5; 21:18-21; Joshua 7:20-25**

The Old Testament required stoning to death for offering child sacrifices, necromancy, cursing, Sabbath breaking, idolatry, rebelling against parents, and disobedience.

- B. **Romans 13:4**

Capital punishment remains valid today, but the method of execution is not prescribed, and the responsible authority is the State.

- C. There are a few instances of stoning in the New Testament which deserve consideration.

I. AN ADULTERESS WAS NOT STONED

- A. **John 8:2-11**

The woman caught in the very act of adultery has been presented by many to claim that no person, not even Jesus, gets to condemn sinners because Jesus let her go. Think a bit further on this.

- B. **Leviticus 20:10; Deuteronomy 22:22**

The Law of Moses, under which Israel was then governed, required the execution, not of the adulteress only, but of both the adulteress and the adulterer. It would actually have been a violation of the law to proceed with her punishment, while leaving her partner in sin unscathed.

- C. **Deuteronomy 17:6-7**

The witnesses had to be first in carrying out the penalty. Since the adulterer was likely among them, and since the whole group had likely arranged the liaison, none of them were sinless in the matter.

II. STEPHEN WAS STONED AND SO WAS PAUL

A. **Acts 6:8-14; 7:51-60**

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Stephen spoke irrefutably, but the people stubbornly resisted him, falsely accused him, and put him to death.

B. **2nd Corinthians 11:25; Acts 14:19-20**

Paul was stoned once, but, perhaps miraculously, survived.

C. **Matthew 5:10-12; 2nd Timothy 3:12; 1st Peter 4:16**

Jesus and the apostles have made clear that persecution is a predictable part of discipleship.

III. JESUS WAS NOT STONED

A. **John 8:48-59; 10:22-39**

On two occasions, the Jews meant to stone Jesus to death for what they perceived to be blasphemy, but He evaded them.

B. **Luke 4:29-30**

No matter how they were trying to kill Him, they couldn't accomplish it without His consent.

C. **John 6:15**

Even when they had more honorable intentions, if it was not part of Jesus' plans, then it was not going to happen

D. **John 7:1-10, 19-20, 25, 30; 8:18-20**

He would not be killed on their timeline, but His own.

E. **John 10:17-18**

Giving His life was very deliberate and fully under His own control.

F. **Psalms 22:16-18; Zechariah 12:10**

When He would accomplish His death, it would happen as it had been foretold with His hands and feet pierced. Crucifixion matches the prophecies, but stoning did not.