


Execution

Ref: *Sefer Shoftim, Hilchot Sanhedrin, Chapters 14 and 15*

4 METHODS OF EXECUTION

 To execute by stoning⁶, To execute by burning⁷, To execute by decapitation⁸, To execute by strangulation⁹.

 When Torah mentions death sentence without specifying, it refers to strangulation. – *Mosheh Misinai*.

When a person murders he should be executed by decapitation and similarly with *ir hanidachat* (city which worships idols) – *Mosheh Misinai*.

A King may only execute by decapitation

Order of severity:

- Stoning
- Burning
- Decapitation
- Strangulation

 2 special cemeteries were set aside for executed people i.e.

- Those stoned and burnt
- Those decapitated and strangled – *Mipi Hashmuah*

Capital cases are only adjudicated when the Temple is standing and the *Sanhedrin* is operating in Chamber of Hewn Stone in Israelite Courtyard – Where the judges sat was not consecrated.


The *Sanhedrin* went into exile **40** years before the Destruction of the Temple. It travelled to **10** places, the last being *Tveria*. It is an accepted tradition that when *Mashiach* comes the Sanhedrin will reconvene in *Tveria* and then move back to its place in the Temple.

Method of execution

- Stoning – pushed off high building **2 storeys** high (and if he is still alive) a large stone is dropped onto victim's heart. These were calculated to cause death without rupture.

 An idolater is stoned at the Gate where he performed transgression

- Burning – Molten metals are poured down throat.
- Decapitation – Head is cut off with a sword.
- Strangulation – 2 witnesses pull a cloth from both sides until expiry. (hard cloth placed within a soft cloth)

 To hang the corpse¹⁰

This only involves a blasphemer and an idolater.

Takes place after execution, and close to sunset on same day as execution. Hung from a beam implanted in ground. Hung by hands and not neck for a short time and is then buried before night.

A woman is not hung.

 To bury the executed person on the day of his execution¹¹, Not to allow his corpse to remain

unburied overnight¹².

The items used for execution are buried near the deceased but not within his grave.

18 types of people executed by stoning

10 types of people executed by burning

2 types of people executed by decapitation

6 types of people executed by strangulation

Reminder:

Pack on Misbehaviour



STONING 18 types

- Has relation with mother
- Has relations with father's wife
- Has relations with daughters in law
- Has relations with consecrated maiden (not fully married because before *chuppah*)
- Sexual relations with another man
- Relations between man and animal
- Relations between woman and animal
- *Megadef* (blasphemer)
- Idolater
- Gives his children to *molech* (*avodah zarah*)
- Divines with *ov*
- Divines with *yidoni*
- *Mesit* (entices others to worship idols)
- *Madiach* (entices a city to worship idols)
- *Mechasheif* (sorcerer)
- Desecrates *Shabbat* on purpose
- Curses one's father or mother
- Rebellious son

BURNING: 10 types

- Woman (Priestly daughter) who commits adultery
- Relations with daughter
- Relations with daughter's daughter
- Relations with son's daughter
- Relations with wife's daughter while his wife is alive
- Relations with daughter of wife's daughter while his wife is alive
- Relations with daughter of wife's son while his wife is alive
- Relations with mother-in-law while his wife is alive
- Relations with mother of mother-in-law while his wife is alive

- Relations with mother of father-in-law while his wife is alive

DECAPITATION 2 types

- Murderer
- Inhabitants of city who were enticed to idol worship

STRANGULATION 6 TYPES

- Adulterer
- One who wounds father or mother
- One who kidnaps a Jew
- Rebellious elder (*zaken mamrei*)
- False prophet
- Person who prophesises in name of an idol