

Numbers 5:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Analysis

The Lord's direct address to Moses initiates a new section of law dealing with suspected adultery. This direct revelation emphasizes that sexual purity within marriage is not merely a social convention but a divine requirement. The law of jealousy that follows demonstrates God's concern for both justice and the protection of marriage. The Reformed understanding of marriage as a covenant before God is reinforced—marital unfaithfulness is not just a personal matter but a violation of God's created order.

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern culture, a husband's suspicion of adultery could lead to arbitrary punishment or divorce of a wife without due process. This law provided a judicial procedure that protected women from false accusation while also addressing legitimate concerns about marital faithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's direct involvement in legislating marital faithfulness elevate marriage above mere social contract?
2. What does this law teach about balancing justice for the accused with protection for the marriage covenant?
3. In what ways does the seriousness with which God treats adultery inform Christian sexual ethics today?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּבֶר	יְהוָה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה	לֵאמֹר:
spake	And the LORD	H413	unto Moses	saying
H1696	H3068		H4872	H559

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