

Numbers 5:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest shall bring her near, and set her before the LORD:

Analysis

The priest brings the woman before the Lord, emphasizing that this is not merely a human legal procedure but a divine judgment. Standing before the Lord means entering God's presence where truth cannot be hidden. The woman is brought by the priest, who serves as mediator, prefiguring Christ who brings us before God's throne. The Reformed understanding of divine judgment is that all will ultimately stand before God's throne where every secret will be revealed.

Historical Context

Bringing someone before the Lord meant standing at the tabernacle entrance, in the courtyard where the bronze altar stood. This was sacred space where God's presence dwelt among His people, making oaths and judgments there particularly solemn and binding.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does standing before the Lord in judgment prefigure about the final judgment?
2. How should the reality that we all stand before God affect our daily choices?
3. In what ways does the priest's mediating role point forward to Christ's greater mediation?

Interlinear Text

לפנֵי וְקָרְבָּנָה אֶת הַכֹּהן וְקָרְבָּנָה
shall bring her near And the priest and set her before the LORD

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