

Numbers 5:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the priest shall take the jealousy offering out of the woman's hand, and shall wave the offering before the LORD, and offer it upon the altar:

Analysis

The priest taking the jealousy offering from the woman's hands and waving it before the Lord, then offering it upon the altar, incorporates the woman's accusation into the sacrificial system. The wave offering symbolized presentation to God for His acceptance or rejection. Offering it on the altar sanctifies the entire proceeding, demonstrating that this is not merely human judgment but a matter brought before God. Only after this offering could the woman drink the water, showing that divine judgment must be sought through proper sacred channels.

Historical Context

Wave offerings involved a horizontal movement of the offering before the Lord, symbolizing presentation for His inspection and acceptance. Grain offerings on the altar typically accompanied other sacrifices. Here, the memorial offering serves as a reminder before God of the matter at hand.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does the incorporation of this trial into the sacrificial system teach about bringing our disputes before God?
2. How does the required offering before drinking the water demonstrate that divine judgment must be properly sought?
3. In what ways does the wave offering symbolize our need to present all matters to God for His verdict?

Interlinear Text

וְיַלְקַח	נִ	כִּי	הַכֹּהֵן	מִ יָד	וְאֶשְׁאַשׁ	הַ	אֵת	הַמְנִיחָה
shall take		Then the priest		hand	out of the woman's		H853	offering
H3947		H3548		H3027		H802		H4503
וְהַקְנֵא	תְּ	וְהַנְּזֵן	יְ	אֵת	לִפְנֵי	הַמְנִיחָה		וְהַקְרֵב
the jealousy		and shall wave		H853	offering	before	the LORD	and offer
H7068		H5130		H4503		H6440	H3068	H7126
וְעַל	אֵת	וְעַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ					
H853	H413	it upon the altar	H4196					

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 8:27 (Sacrifice): And he put all upon Aaron's hands, and upon his sons' hands, and waved them for a wave offering before the LORD.