

# Numbers 5:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he hath made her to drink the water, then it shall come to pass, that, if she be defiled, and have done trespass against her husband, that the water that causeth the curse shall enter into her, and become bitter, and her belly shall swell, and her thigh shall rot: and the woman shall be a curse among her people.

## Analysis

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The divine judgment manifests physically—the bitter water enters her body, and if she has defiled herself, it causes her belly to swell and thigh to rot. The public nature of this judgment serves both as vindication or condemnation. If guilty, her sin is exposed; if innocent, her integrity is publicly confirmed. The curse makes the adulteress an object lesson among her people, demonstrating that sexual sin brings tangible consequences. This reflects the Reformed principle that while salvation is by grace, sin still produces temporal consequences even for believers.

## Historical Context

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The physical manifestation of guilt or innocence was immediate and supernatural. This was not a natural medical condition but a divine sign. The public nature of the results ensured that both justice was seen to be done and that the community learned from the outcome.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the public manifestation of judgment serve both justice and communal instruction?
2. What does the physical consequence of spiritual sin teach about the holistic nature of God's judgment?
3. In what ways do temporal consequences of sin serve as warnings even under the gospel of grace?

## Interlinear Text

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וְהִשָּׁקָהּ הַ	אֶת	הַמַּיִם יִם	וְהִיָּתָה הַ	אִם
And when he hath made her to drink	H8248	H853	that the water	H1961 H518
			H4325	
נִטְמָאָה		וַתַּמַּעַל לַ	מֵעַל	
then it shall come to pass that if she be defiled	H2930	and have done	trespass	
			H4603	H4604
בְּאִשָּׁהּ	וְכָאִו	כִּי הִ	הַמַּיִם יִם	הַמַּאֲכָרִים
against her husband	shall enter	H0	that the water	that causeth the curse
H376	H935		H4325	H779
לִמְרֹיִם	וְצָבָתָהּ הַ	בִּטְנָהּ הַ	וְנִפְלָהּ הַ	יִרְכָּהּ הַ
into her and become bitter	shall swell	and her belly	shall rot	and her thigh
H4751	H6638	H990	H5307	H3409
וְהִיָּתָה הַ	הָאִשָּׁה הַ	לְאֵלָהּ הַ	בְּקִרְבָּהּ	עִמָּהּ:
H1961	and the woman	shall be a curse	among	her people
	H802	H423	H7130	H5971

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 29:18** (Curse): And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence, and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, and an astonishment, and an hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations whither I have driven them:

**Jeremiah 42:18** (Curse): For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As mine anger and my fury hath been poured forth upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem; so shall my fury be poured forth upon you, when ye shall enter into Egypt: and ye shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach; and ye shall see this place no more.

**Zechariah 8:13** (Curse): And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing: fear not, but let your hands be strong.

**Isaiah 65:15** (Curse): And ye shall leave your name for a curse unto my chosen: for the Lord GOD shall slay thee, and call his servants by another name:

**Jeremiah 29:22** (Curse): And of them shall be taken up a curse by all the captivity of Judah which are in Babylon, saying, The LORD make thee like Zedekiah and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire;

**Jeremiah 24:9** (Curse): And I will deliver them to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them.

**Jeremiah 44:12** (Curse): And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be consumed, and fall in the land of Egypt; they shall even be consumed by the sword and by the famine: they shall die, from the least even unto the greatest, by the sword and by the famine: and they shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach.

**Deuteronomy 28:37** (Parallel theme): And thou shalt become an astonishment, a proverb, and a byword, among all nations whither the LORD shall lead thee.