

Numbers 5:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if the woman be not defiled, but be clean; then she shall be free, and shall conceive seed.

Analysis

The promise that the clean woman will be free and conceive seed provides powerful incentive for innocence and comfort for the falsely accused. Her vindication is not merely negative (escaping punishment) but positive (receiving blessing). The ability to conceive represents fruitfulness and divine favor, the opposite of the curse of barrenness. This demonstrates that God's justice includes not just punishing the guilty but blessing and vindicating the innocent. The Reformed doctrine of justification echoes here—those found innocent before God receive not just pardon but positive blessing.

Historical Context

Conception and childbearing were highly valued in ancient Israel, both for personal fulfillment and for continuing the family line. A woman proven innocent through this ordeal would not only be freed from suspicion but would likely experience restored marital relations and divine blessing with children.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of blessing for the innocent illustrate that God's justice includes vindication?
2. What does fruitfulness as a sign of innocence teach about the connection between righteousness and flourishing?
3. In what ways does this promise prefigure the abundant life Jesus promises to those justified by faith?

Interlinear Text

וְאִם	לֹא	נִטְמָאָה	הָאִשָּׁה	וְטָהֳרָה	וְהָיָה
H518	H3808	be not defiled	And if the woman	but be clean	H1931
		H2930	H802	H2889	
	וְנִקְיָה	וְנִזְרָאָה	זֶרַע:		
	then she shall be free	and shall conceive	seed		
	H5352	H2232	H2233		

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