

Numbers 5:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is the law of jealousies, when a wife goeth aside to another instead of her husband, and is defiled;

Analysis

The summary of the law of jealousies emphasizes that this procedure applies when a wife goes aside from her husband and defiles herself. The legal framework addresses a specific scenario of suspected marital infidelity. By codifying this law, God establishes that such matters are not to be handled through violence or arbitrary judgment but through proper judicial procedure before the Lord. This reflects the Reformed understanding that God's law provides order and justice in all areas of life, including the most intimate relationships.

Historical Context

This law was unique in the ancient Near East for providing a formal procedure that protected women from arbitrary accusation while also addressing legitimate marital concerns. It elevated marriage to a matter of sacred covenant requiring divine adjudication when trust was broken.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's detailed legislation for marital faithfulness elevate marriage above cultural norms?
2. What does the requirement for proper procedure in sensitive matters teach about justice and due process?
3. In what ways should the church address accusations of sin with both seriousness and fairness?

Interlinear Text

תֹּוּבָת תְּקִנָּה תְּשַׁבֵּת אֲשֶׁר אֲשֶׁר תְּמִתְּמִתָּה אֲשֶׁר אֲשֶׁר

H2063 This is the law of jealousies H834 goeth aside H8478
H8451 H7068 H7847 H802

אִישׁ הַנּוֹתֵר מִמֶּה: אִישׁ הַנּוֹתֵר מִמֶּה:
to another instead of her husband and is defiled
H376 H2930

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 5:19 (Parallel theme): And the priest shall charge her by an oath, and say unto the woman, If no man have lain with thee, and if thou hast not gone aside to uncleanness with another instead of thy husband, be thou free from this bitter water that causeth the curse:

Numbers 5:12 (Parallel theme): Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man's wife go aside, and commit a trespass against him,