

Numbers 5:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Or when the spirit of jealousy cometh upon him, and he be jealous over his wife, and shall set the woman before the LORD, and the priest shall execute upon her all this law.

Analysis

The spirit of jealousy upon the husband initiates the entire procedure. The law recognizes that jealousy—whether justified or not—affects the marriage and requires resolution. The husband's bringing his wife to the priest demonstrates that personal suspicion must be submitted to divine judgment, not handled through private vengeance. This teaches that even our emotions and suspicions should be brought under God's authority and handled according to His prescribed means. The Reformed principle of bringing all of life under God's lordship applies even to our feelings.

Historical Context

Without this law, a jealous husband might have acted on mere suspicion, divorcing or punishing his wife without evidence. This procedure required him to bring the matter formally before God through the priest, submitting his jealousy to divine verification rather than acting on unverified emotion.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How should Christians handle suspicions and jealousies in relationships according to biblical principles?
2. What does the requirement to bring jealousy before the Lord teach about submitting our emotions to God?
3. In what ways does this law protect both the accuser and the accused while still addressing legitimate concerns?

Interlinear Text

אִוְ	אֶיֶשׁ	אֶשְׁרַ	תָּעֵבֶר	עַל־יוֹ	רֹחַ	קִנְאָה
H176	upon him H376	H834	cometh H5674	H5921	Or when the spirit H7307	of jealousy H7068
וְקִנְיָ אֵל	אֶת־	הָאִשָּׁה	וְהָעַמּוּד	אֶת־	הָאִשָּׁה	לִפְנֵי י'
and he be jealous H7065	H853	over his wife H802	and shall set H5975	H853	over his wife H802	before H6440
יְהוָה	וְעָשָׂה	לָהּ	הַכֹּהֵן	אֶת־	כָּל־	הַתּוֹכָה
the LORD H3068	shall execute H6213	H0	and the priest H3548	H853	H3605	upon her all this law H8451
הַזֹּאת:						
H2063						