

# Numbers 5:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shall the man be guiltless from iniquity, and this woman shall bear her iniquity.

## Analysis

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The declaration that an innocent woman 'shall be free, and shall conceive seed' while a guilty woman bears her iniquity reveals God's justice in protecting the innocent and punishing the guilty. The husband bringing the case forward 'shall be guiltless' even if his suspicion proved unfounded, showing God's concern for marriage relationships and the serious consequences of adultery. This procedure safeguarded wives from false accusations while also addressing genuine infidelity, demonstrating God's perfect balance of justice and mercy.

## Historical Context

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This law protected women in a patriarchal society where husbands might make false accusations. By requiring the formal procedure before God, with priestly supervision and divine judgment, God prevented arbitrary punishment of innocent wives. The promised conception for innocent women addressed the deep desire for children in ancient Israel and demonstrated God's blessing on the faithful. This law had no parallel in other Ancient Near Eastern legal codes.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does this law demonstrate God's concern for protecting the innocent while exposing the guilty?
2. What does God's involvement in bringing truth to light teach about His care for justice in relationships?

## Interlinear Text

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|--------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| וְנִקְרֵה    | בְּאִישׁ           | עַזְנָה:      | וְנִקְרֵה | בְּאִישׁ | בְּהָאָשָׁה | בְּהָאָשָׁה |
| be guiltless | Then shall the man | from iniquity | woman     | and this | shall bear  |             |
| H5352        | H376               | H5771         | H802      | H1931    | H5375       |             |
| אֵת          | עַזְנָה:           |               |           |          |             |             |
| H853         | from iniquity      | H5771         |           |          |             |             |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 20:10** (Parallel theme): And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.