

curse. But if thou hast gone aside to another instead of thy husband, and if thou be defiled, and some man have lain with thee beside thine husband; then the priest shall charge the woman with an oath of cursing and the priest shall say unto the woman, The Lord make thee a curse and an oath among thy people when the Lord doth make thy thigh to rot, and thy belly to swell. And this water that causeth the curse shall go into thy bowels to make thy belly to swell and thy thigh to rot: and the woman shall say Amen, amen. And the priest shall write the curses in a book and he shall blot them out with the bitter water; And he shall cause the woman to drink the bitter water that causeth the curse; and the water that causeth the curse shall enter into her and become bitter. And so then the result comes that she becomes very ill if she is guilty, and if she is innocent she is quite unharmed. Of course some in reading this think it is like the ordeals which we find in some ancient people, and like we had find in the Middle Ages. But there is no way in which this could be really an ordeal. This is a very solemn presentation of a particular way in which God chose at that brief period during the time of the wilderness journey to solve this great problem of jealousy within a family. A jealousy of suspicion. He caused it by His power causing that results would come. Now of course there were psychosomatic effects in cases it might have come simply from the fear of the woman, something like that. But I think that would account for it in all cases. I don't believe this is simply giving a psychomatic test. It is a definite supernatural act of the Lord during that brief time in the camp heading toward the promised land in order to deal with certain ~~thattz~~ things that could have caused tremendous harm to the people of God. And so it is definitely a supernatural act on the part of the Lord -- a supernatural act here but greatly solemnized with these procedures which they went through. It is interesting to note how they wrote. They wrote with ink here ((where is the word ink used?)). Of course they coming out of Egypt and for over 1000 years they had been writing with ink in Egypt, something that people 150 years ago did not know but here is the definite recognition of the use of writing with ink among the people. They wrote this thing and they blotted it ~~itdzzt~~ out with the water, and she drank the water and the Lord caused