If she had committed adultery, she was be
cursed with a wasting disease, but if she did
not get sick, then she was proven innocent
and her husband was proven wrong.

During the ceremony, when the priest
pronounced the curse, the woman was
required by God to say, "Amen, Amen".
(Num 5:22).

That is the first occurrence of the word in
scripture. The Lord commands it to be said
by a person who is yielding herself to
examination by him in his presence.

The word “Amen” probably goes back a long
way. Some think it is of pagan origin (there
was an Egyptian god called Amen-Ra).

Perhaps that ancient usage reflects an even
erlier existence of the word. As to its use in
the Bible, however, we first encounter the
word in this commandment spoken by the
Lord (Num 5:22).

WHY DO WE SAY “AMEN”?

The word “Amen” is almost always the last
word of a solemn statement. In the first
example, it was said by the woman at the end
of the priest's pronouncement of the curse
and of her taking the oath.

We find the word “Amen” as the last word in
several instances in the Bible...

The word is found in the last verses of the
Bible (Rev 22:20-21).

The first three books of Psalms end with
Amen (Psa 41:13, 72:19, 89:52).

Most books of the New Testament end with
it (KJV).

In the land of Israel, when a prayer or
prophecy was made, or a law of God was
read, "All the people said, “Amen”"
(Neh 5:13, 8:6).

The Lord's example prayer ends with
“Amen” (Mtt 6:13).

Paul uses the word seven times in his letter
to the Romans at the end of doxologies or
benedictions (Rom 1:25, 9:5, 11:36, 15:33,
16:20,24,27)

Paul implies that people should say “Amen”
at the end of a prayer in church (1Co 14:16).

The word “Amen” appears therefore to be
the fitting last word for solemn utterances
made before God.

WHAT DOES “AMEN” MEAN?

Oddly, to get a scriptural answer to what
“Amen” means, we go to a place where it is
used not as the last word but the first word.

The word “Amen” in letters of the New
Testament Greek alphabet.

There are other interesting Bible passages
about the word “Amen” (See overleaf).

Jesus would often start a solemn statement
by saying "Verily" or "Truly".

In John's gospel (eg Jhn 3:3) Jesus is
recorded as using the word twice in
succession, "Verily, verily, I say to you...". This is actually the word “Amen”.

When we compare an instance of this in
Mark, with the same statement in Luke, we
find Mark has left the word untranslated (just
as αμην “Amen”), but Luke has translated it
using the word αληθος "Truly". (Mark 9:1,
Lke 9:27).

This shows us that the underlying meaning
of the word “Amen” is truth and verity. It is
a solemn affirmation.

When we say, “Amen” we are saying, "Yes
before God I agree with that, I believe that to
be true, I want that to be so".