

Numbers 30 - The Laws of Vows

III. Preparation of the second generation on the plains of Moab to enter Canaan (Num 26:1—36:13)

(1) Reorganization of Israel (Num 26:1—30:16)

(B) Spiritual reorganization (Num 28:1—30:16)

(c) Vows (30:1-16)

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1 Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the sons of Israel, saying, "This is the word which the LORD has commanded:

1 Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the sons of Israel, saying, "This is the word which the LORD has commanded.

1 Later, Moses told the elders of the Israeli tribes, "This is what the LORD has commanded:

1 And Moses spake unto the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD hath commanded.

2 If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or takes an oath to put himself under a binding obligation, he shall not break his word; he shall act in accordance with everything that comes out of his mouth.

2 If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

2 "When a man makes a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath—an obligation that is binding to himself—he is not to break his word. Instead, he is to fulfill whatever promise came out of his mouth."

2 If a man vow a vow unto the LORD, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.

3 "And if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and puts herself under a binding obligation in her father's house in her youth,

3 "Also if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and binds herself by an obligation in her father's house in her youth,

3 "When a young woman makes a vow to the LORD or pledges herself to an obligation while she still lives in her father's house,

3 If a woman also vow a vow unto the LORD, and bind herself by a bond, being in her father's house in her youth;

- If an individual made a vow he must keep it without equivocation (v1-2)

- If an unmarried daughter made such a promise without contrary counsel from her father, she must keep it (v3-4)

4 and her father hears her vow and her obligation under which she has put herself, and her father says nothing to her, then all her vows shall remain valid and every binding obligation under which she has put herself shall remain valid.

4 and her father hears her vow and her obligation by which she has bound herself, and her father says nothing to her, then all her vows shall stand and every obligation by which she has bound herself shall stand.

4 and her father hears her vow and the obligations that she had pledged herself to fulfill, yet her father keeps silent about it, then all her vows and every obligation she pledged herself to are to stand.

4 And her father hear her vow, and her bond wherewith she hath bound her soul, and her father shall hold his peace at her: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she hath bound her soul shall stand.

5 But if her father expresses disapproval to her on the day he hears *of it*, none of her vows or her obligations under which she has put herself shall remain valid; and the LORD will forgive her because her father has expressed disapproval to her.

5 But if her father should forbid her on the day he hears *of it*, none of her vows or her obligations by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the LORD will forgive her because her father had forbidden her.

5 But if her father disallows her on the same day that he hears what she has said, then all her vows and every obligation she had pledged herself to fulfill are not to stand. The LORD will forgive her, because her father has forbidden her."

5 But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her.

- If her father forbade her, however, her promise was null and void (v5)

6 "However, if she happens to marry while under her vows or the impulsive statement of her lips by which she has obligated herself,

6 "However, if she should marry while under her vows or the rash statement of her lips by which she has bound herself,

6 "If she has a husband and she makes a vow that is binding on herself, or if she makes a hasty vow with her mouth that she pledges herself to fulfill,

6 And if she had at all an husband, when she vowed, or uttered ought out of her lips, wherewith she bound her soul;

7 and her husband hears of it and says nothing to her on the day he hears *it*, then her vows shall remain valid and her binding obligations under which she has put herself shall remain valid.

7 and her husband hears of it and says nothing to her on the day he hears *it*, then her vows shall stand and her obligations by which she has bound herself shall stand.

7 and her husband hears her vow, yet remains silent on the day that he hears it, then her vows are to stand and the obligation to which she had pledged herself is to stand.

7 And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her in the day that he heard it: then her vows shall stand, and her bonds wherewith she bound her soul shall stand.

- If she were married, her husband would bear the same kind of authority over her in such matters (v6-8)

8 But if on the day her husband hears *of it*, he expresses disapproval to her, then he will annul her vow which she is under and the impulsive statement of her lips by which she has obligated herself; and the LORD will forgive her.

8 But if on the day her husband hears *of it*, he forbids her, then he shall annul her vow which she is under and the rash statement of her lips by which she has bound herself; and the LORD will forgive her.

8 But if, on the same day her husband hears and disallows her, then he has revoked her vows that she made for herself, along with any hasty vows that she spoke and to which she pledged herself to fulfill. The LORD will forgive her."

8 But if her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard it; then he shall make her vow which she vowed, and that which she uttered with her lips, wherewith she bound her soul, of none effect: and the LORD shall forgive her.

9 "But *as for* the vow of a widow or of a divorced woman, every binding obligation under which she has put herself, shall remain valid against her.

9 "But the vow of a widow or of a divorced woman, everything by which she has bound herself, shall stand against her.

9 "Everything that a widow or a divorced woman pledges herself to fulfill are to be binding on her.

9 But every vow of a widow, and of her that is divorced, wherewith they have bound their souls, shall stand against her.

- A widow or divorcee must stand by her vow in the same way as a man.

10 However, if a *married woman* vowed *in* her husband's house, or put herself under a binding obligation with an oath,

10 However, if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound herself by an obligation with an oath,

10 If, while she had been living in her late or former husband's house, she makes a vow or a promise that binds her with an oath,

10 And if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound her soul by a bond with an oath;

11 and her husband heard *it*, but said nothing to her *and* did not express disapproval to her, then all her vows shall remain valid and every binding obligation under which she put herself shall remain valid.

11 and her husband heard *it*, but said nothing to her *and* did not forbid her, then all her vows shall stand and every obligation by which she bound herself shall stand.

11 and her husband hears it but remains silent, not disallowing it, then all her vows are to stand, along with every obligation that she has pledged to fulfill.

11 And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her, and disallowed her not: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she bound her soul shall stand.

- If a husband waited for a period of time after his wife made a vow, he must bear any guilt involved in nullifying it (v10-15)

- That is, after an indeterminate period the vow was in force and could be abrogated only by an appropriate sin offering (Lev 5:4-13)

12 But if her husband actually annuls them on the day he hears *them*, then no utterance from her lips concerning her vows or the obligation *she put on* herself shall remain valid; her husband has annulled them, and the LORD will forgive her.

12 But if her husband indeed annuls them on the day he hears *them*, then whatever proceeds out of her lips concerning her vows or concerning the obligation of herself shall not stand; her husband has annulled them, and the LORD will forgive her.

12 But if her husband disallowed them the very day that he heard her, everything that she spoke relating to her vows and her obligation to herself are not to stand, because her husband revoked them. The LORD will forgive her.

12 But if her husband hath utterly made them void on the day he heard them; then whatsoever proceeded out of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand: her husband hath made them void; and the LORD shall forgive her.

13 "Every vow and every binding oath to humble herself, her husband may confirm it or her husband may annul it.

13 "Every vow and every binding oath to humble herself, her husband may confirm it or her husband may annul it.

13 Her husband may confirm or revoke every vow and binding obligation that afflicts her.

13 Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void.

14 But if her husband in fact says nothing to her from day to day, then he confirms all her vows or all her binding obligations which are on her; **he has confirmed them, because he said nothing to her** on the day he heard them.

14 But if her husband indeed says nothing to her from day to day, then he confirms all her vows or all her obligations which are on her; he has confirmed them, because he said nothing to her on the day he heard them.

14 But if her husband remains silent about her from day to day, then he has affirmed all her vows or obligations that she has obligated herself to fulfill. He has affirmed them because he remained silent from the day he heard her vows.

14 But if her husband altogether hold his peace at her from day to day; then he establisheth all her vows, or all her bonds, which are upon her: he confirmeth them, because he held his peace at her in the day that he heard them.

- "...he has confirmed them, because he said nothing to her" - by saying nothing, he's saying OK

— This principle has found its way into English law, so that if someone remains silent about something he or she is assumed to consent to it

— If we know of something wrong, we are to speak up about it. We can't give assent to sin by saying nothing about it.

15 However, if he actually annuls them after he has heard them, then he shall bear *the responsibility for her guilt.*"

15 But if he indeed annuls them after he has heard them, then he shall bear her guilt."

15 But if he nullified them after he had heard, then he will be responsible for any resulting iniquity."

15 But if he shall any ways make them void after that he hath heard them; then he shall bear her iniquity.

16 These are the statutes which the LORD commanded Moses *concerning matters* between a man and his wife, *and* between a father and his daughter *while she is* in her youth *in* her father's house.

16 These are the statutes which the LORD commanded Moses, *as* between a man and his wife, *and as* between a father and his daughter, *while she is* in her youth *in* her father's

house.

16 These are the statutes that the LORD commanded Moses concerning a man and his wife and concerning a father and his young daughter while she still lives in her father's house.

16 These are the statutes, which the LORD commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, between the father and his daughter, being yet in her youth in her father's house.