



NUMBERS 30: VOWS AND OATHS

- Almost everyone has made a vow to their god
- Wedding vows, promises made to one another in God's name
- Vowing to tell the truth in a court of law
- Biblical vows were valid and not superstition
- Biblical Law established concerning making vows



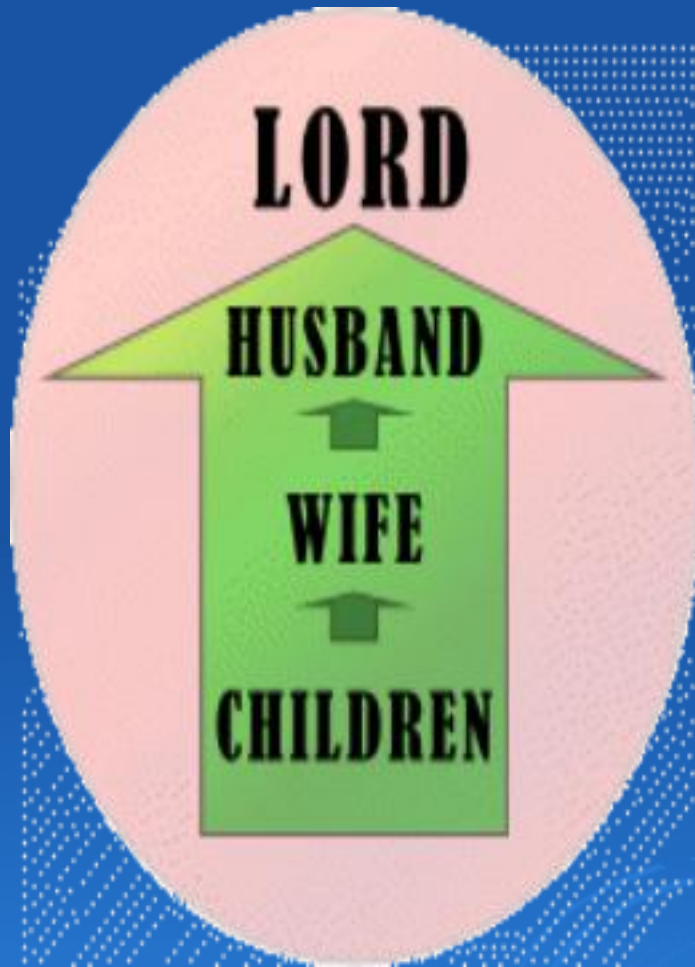
OATHS Vs. VOWS

- Oath imposes an obligation on a person
- A vow is a conditional promise
- ***Nishba be'YHWH*** = swear BY YHWH
- ***Nishba le'YHWH*** = swear TO YHWH
- In moments of crises we sometimes make promises to God
- **Vs. 3 Males** making vows
- The Lord says EVERYTHING that comes out of a Man's mouth as a vow is to be done!
- **Vs. 4 If a WOMAN** makes a vow
- Yehoveh looks upon MEN's vows differently than upon women's vows



PRINCIPLES BEHIND THE LAWS OF VOWS ALREADY ESTABLISHED

- Child is to submit to parent
- Wife to submit to husband
- Husband to submit to God
- Neither child NOR wife may substitute self-imposed obligations to God in place of the standard God-ordained duties in Torah
- The NATURE of the vow is not the issue
- Vows of a wife or child come FIRST under the husband/father, before considered valid under the Lord



VOWS IN NEW TESTAMENT ERA CONTINUED



- Gospels and Epistles include validation of vows
- Yeshua warned against the DOWNSIDE of making vows
- He said that a vow could not allow a person to evade a lawful expectation
- Matt. 15:3
- An example of wrong-minded vow making
- Tradition = doctrine
- Tradition/doctrine is NOT Scripture

NUMBERS 30 DISCUSSES 4 CASES OF VOW MAKING

- The matter of males making vows is NOT among these cases
- All vows of adult males are to be fulfilled
- Yeshua did NOT change this!
- Jesus said be very CAREFUL about making vows BECAUSE the Lord expects them ALL to be honored

THE STORY OF JEPHTHAH

- Story of a man making a rash vow
- Jephthah from the tribe of Gad
- Gilead = Gad
- Gilead needed Jephthah to help fight Ammon
- Jephthah makes a vow to God in exchange for the Lord favoring him in battle
- Judges 11:29 - 40



AN UNEXPECTED CONSEQUENCE

- Jephthah's only daughter becomes the payment of the vow
- Jephthah had vowed to sacrifice whatever came out of his tent; it turned out to be his daughter
- Jephthah followed through and killed her
- Did it from a perverted piousness
- He could have broken his vow and accepted his sin



CASE #1: UNMARRIED HEBREW GIRL



- Still living at home
- Under authority of her father
- If girl makes a vow, and father does not respond, she is obligated to fulfill her vow
- If her father disapproves of her vow, he can annul it
- The Lord will NOT count her vow being annulled as a sin against the girl for not fulfilling it
- God-Principle: obedience to her father more important than fulfilling a vow to God

CASE #2: GIRL GETS MARRIED

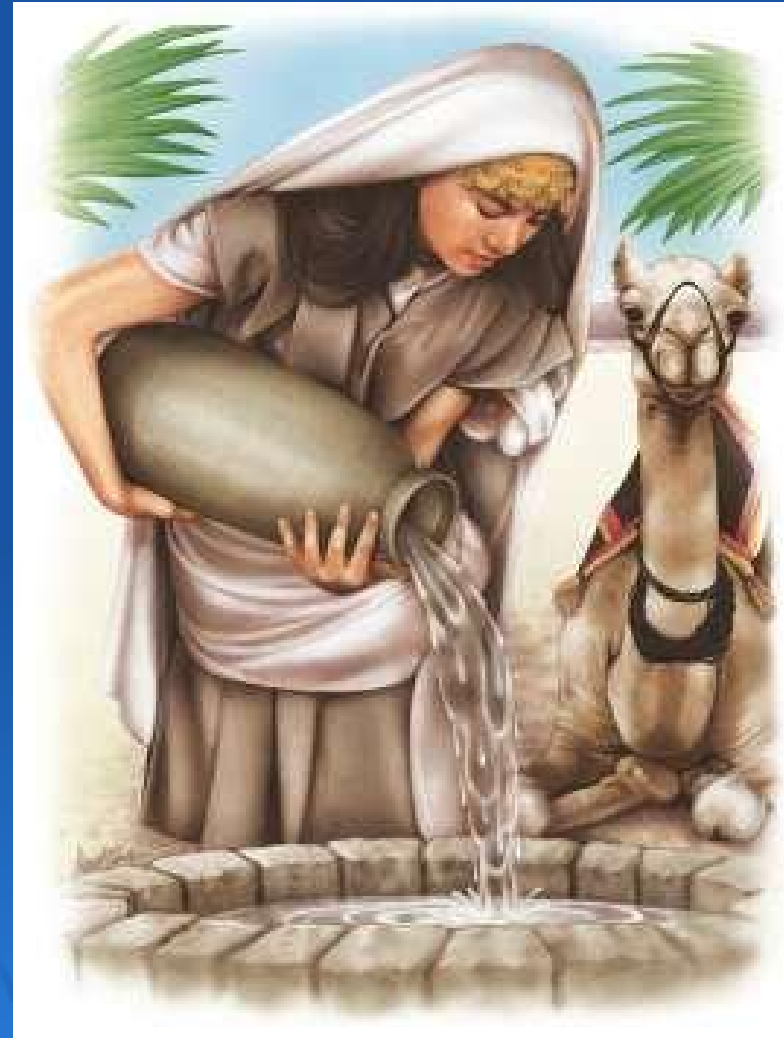


- Still living at home, girl makes vow, but father doesn't stop her therefore vow is to be fulfilled
- She gets married, husband learns of vow
- Husband has the right to annul that vow
- Authority over the girl was transferred from her father to her husband upon marriage

CASE # 3: WIDOW OR DIVORCEE

CASE #4: WIFE MAKES VOW

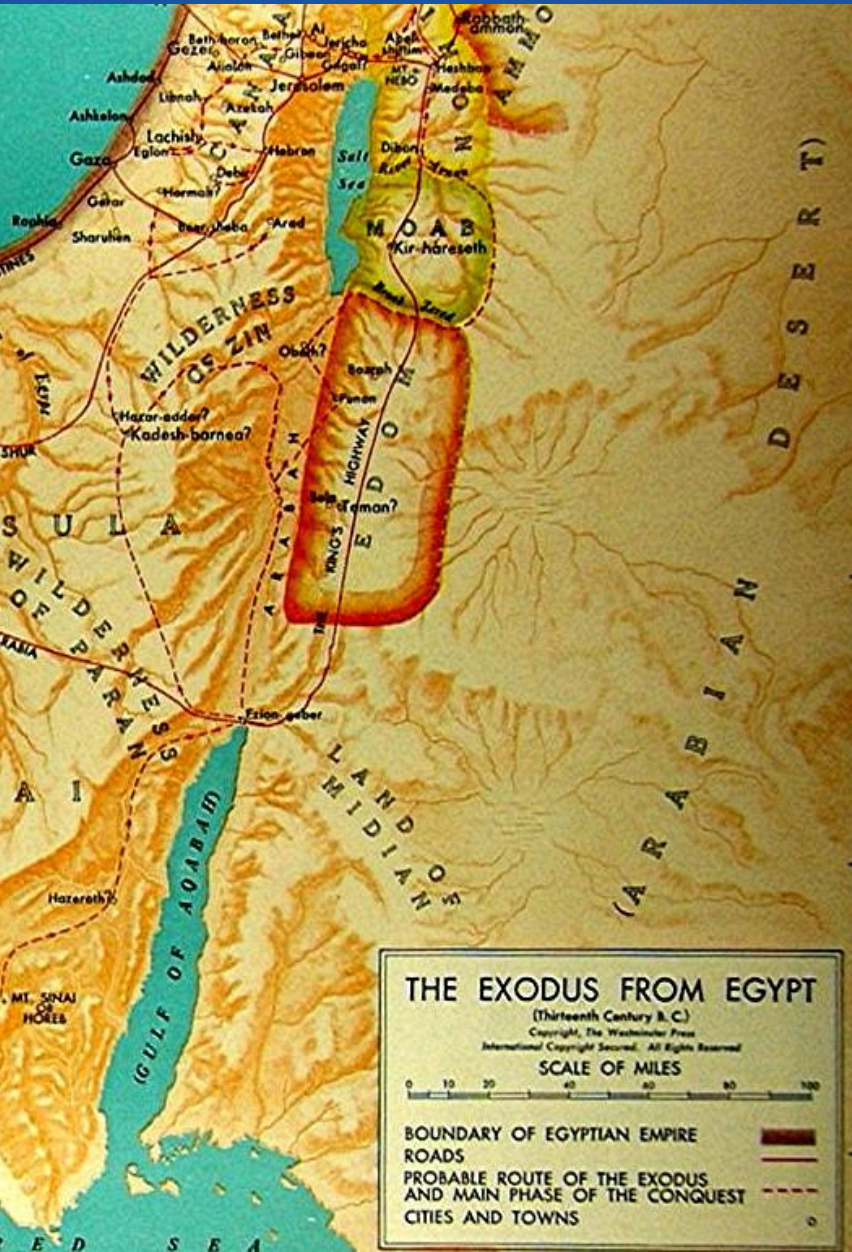
- A widow or divorced woman can make a vow and NO one has authority to annul it
- She is fully responsible to fulfill it
- Married woman makes vow, husband remains silent, so vow is valid
- Husband bears some responsibility for outcome



TWO KINDS OF VOWS

- Neder = vow A positive act involving a sacrifice
- Issar = pledge Involves abstinence from something (like a Nazarite vow)
- All vows and pledges require taking an oath
- Oath involves invoking the name of God
- Two types of Oaths:
 - 1) Assertion
 - 2) Promise
- A covenant is a promissory oath

NUMBERS 31: WAR WITH MIDIAN



- God ordered war with Midian due to their alliance with Moab
- Balak and Balaam
- Israel remained in area after Balaam incident
- Balaam convinced King Balak to get their women to use sex to entice Hebrew men
- Hebrews worshipped Chemosh
- Various Midianite clans located east of Jordan River
- Moses' army **ONLY** killed Midianites up in the Moab area