

Numbers 30

Verses 1 - 2

Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the sons of Israel, saying, “This is the word which the Lord has commanded: ²If 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.

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

Men should not make a vow before they have fully considered it because when they do make a vow, they need to keep their word

See Deut. 23:21

Or takes an oath to put himself under a binding obligation

The Nazarite’s vow consisted of refraining from certain things

They were not allowed to drink wine

Or cut their hair

Or come into close contact with the dead

This was a serious obligation and should not be taken lightly.

Verses 3 – 5

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, ⁴and 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. ⁵But 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.

If a woman makes a vow to the Lord in her youth, and her father hears her vow and her father says nothing to her, then all her vows shall remain valid

There are three qualifiers here

In her youth

Her father hears her vow

And her father says nothing to her

Then she must fulfill the vow

But if her father expresses disapproval to her on the day he hears *of it*, none of her vows shall remain valid

A father could nullify a daughter's vows but there was a qualifier to this.

He had to disapprove of the vow on the day he first heard it.

If the father could change his mind later on then a vow would not be treated seriously.

Verses 6 - 8

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

However, if she happens to marry while under her vows

This applied to vows that a woman made before she got married.

Once she marries, her husband has the same authority over his wife that her father had over her when she lived at home.

But if on the day her husband hears *of it*, he expresses disapproval to her, then he will annul her vow

There was the same qualifier here as with her father

On the day that the husband heard of the vow, he had to disapprove of it

Verses 9 - 12

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. ¹⁰ However, if a *married woman* vowed *in* her husband’s house, or put herself under a binding obligation 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. 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.**

But as for the vow of a widow or of a divorced woman, it shall remain valid

If a person makes a vow follow the advice of Solomon

See Eccl. 5:4 - 5

An honest person does not need to make a vow

See Matt 5:33 - 37

Verses 13 – 16

¹³ **“Every vow and every binding oath to humble herself, her husband may confirm it or her husband may annul it. 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. ¹⁵ However, if he actually annuls them after he has heard them, then he shall bear *the responsibility for* her guilt.” 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.**

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

If a husband annuls a vow made by his wife but he does it after the one day that is allowed, then he will be held responsible.

The penalty is not stated here. Perhaps a sin offering was expected.