

Deuteronomy 21:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And she shall put the raiment of her captivity from off her, and shall remain in thine house, and bewail her father and her mother a full month: and after that thou shalt go in unto her, and be her husband, and she shall be thy wife.

Analysis

And she shall put the raiment of her captivity from off her (וְהִסִּיכָה אֶת־שִׁמְלֹת (שָׁבִיָּה)—Removing the simlat shivyah (garment of captivity) symbolizes leaving her former life behind. This echoes Paul's language of putting off the old self and putting on the new (Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 3:9-10).

And shall remain in thine house, and bewail her father and her mother a full month (וַיִּשָּׁבָה בְּבֵיתָךְ וּבְכָתֶהּ אֶת־אָבֶיהָ וְאֶת־אִמָּהּ יָרַח יָמִים)—The verb bakah (bewail/weep) with a month's duration honors her grief. Her parents may be dead or lost forever—she needs time to mourn before embracing new life. This compassionate provision recognizes her humanity and emotional need.

Historical Context

No other ancient Near Eastern law code gave female war captives time to grieve their losses before being used sexually. This law treats the woman as a person with legitimate emotional needs, not merely as property. The month also allowed her to prove she wasn't pregnant by another man.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does honoring someone's need to grieve before moving forward reflect Christ's compassion for those in transition and loss?
2. What modern equivalents exist where powerful people should respect the emotional needs and dignity of the vulnerable rather than exploiting them?

Interlinear Text

וְהִסְיָהָ	אֶת	שְׂמֹלַת	שְׁבִיָּהּ	מַעַל יָהּ	
And she shall put	H853	the raiment	of her captivity	H5921	
H5493		H8071	H7628		
וְיִשְׁבָּהּ		בְּבֵיתָךְ	וּבְכֵתָהּ	אֶת	אָבִי יָהּ
from off her and shall remain		in thine house	and bewail	H853	her father
H3427		H1004	H1058		H853
					H1
אִמָּהּ	יָחַד	יָמֵי	וְאַחֵר	כִּי	תֵבֹא
and her mother	month	a full	and after	H3651	that thou shalt go
H517	H3391	H3117	H310		H935
					H413
וּבְעֵלָתָהּ	וְהִי	לָב	לְאִשָּׁה:		
H1167	H1961	H0	and she shall be thy wife		
			H802		