

Numbers 30:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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—The phrase **altogether hold his peace from day to day** (הַחֲרֵשׁ יָחָרֵשׁ ... מִיּוֹם אֵלִיּוֹם hacharesh yacharish... miyom el-yom, intensive silence day after day) emphasizes repeated, ongoing silence beyond the initial hearing-day. This ongoing silence irreversibly established vows—**he confirmeth them because he held his peace** (הַקִּים אַתָּם כִּי-הַחֲרֵשׁ heqim otam ki-heche'rish).

The repetitive emphasis on timing and silence establishes a crucial principle: exercising spiritual authority requires timeliness—delay forfeits authority to intervene. Eli's sons 'made themselves vile, and he restrained them not' (1 Samuel 3:13), incurring divine judgment. Spiritual leaders must act when discernment requires, not wait hoping problems resolve themselves. Silence in the face of error becomes complicity.

Historical Context

The 'day to day' formulation clarified that once the hearing-day passed without annulment, subsequent days' silence couldn't be retroactively applied. This legal

precision prevented both hasty authority exercise and indefinite uncertainty about vow status, creating clear timelines for all parties.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the principle of authority forfeited through silence challenge passive leadership hoping problems resolve without intervention?
2. What does the irreversibility of silence-ratified vows teach about the permanence of consequences from leadership abdication?
3. How can you cultivate discernment to know when situations require immediate intervention versus when wisdom counsels patient waiting?

Interlinear Text

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