

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** (הַחֶרֶשׁ יַחְרִישׁ... מִיּוֹם) hachareish 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** (כִּי־הֶחֱרִישׁ 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

וְאִם	הָיָה שְׁ	הָיָה שְׁ	לָהּ	אִשָּׁהּ	בִּיּוֹם	אֵל
H518	altogether	altogether	H0	But if her husband	at her from day	H413
	H2790	H2790		H376	H3117	
בִּיּוֹם	יִקְוֶה	כָּל	אֶת	נִדְּוָהּ	אֵל	כָּל
at her from day	then he establisheth	H853	H3605	all her vows	H176	H3605
H3117	H6965			H5088		
אֶסְרֶיהָ	אִשָּׁהּ	עַל יָדֶיהָ	יִקְוֶה	אֶת	כִּי	הָיָה שְׁ
or all her bonds	H834	H5921	then he establisheth	H853	H3588	altogether
H632			H6965			H2790
לָהּ	בִּיּוֹם	שָׁמָעָהּ:				
H0	at her from day	that he heard				
	H3117	H8085				

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