

# Numbers 30:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if he shall any ways make them void after that he hath heard them; then he shall bear her iniquity.

## Analysis

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**But if he shall any ways make them void after that he hath heard them; then he shall bear her iniquity**—The phrase **any ways make them void after** (הַפִּיר יַאֲפֵר אֹתָם אַחֲרַי שְׁמִיעוֹ hafer yafer otam acharei shom'o, 'utterly annul them after his hearing') describes attempting annulment after the same-day window closed. The result: **he shall bear her iniquity** (וְנָשָׂא אֶת־עֲוֹנָהּ venasa et-avonah, 'he will carry her guilt')—the husband becomes responsible for the broken vow, not the wife.

This startling provision demonstrates that improper exercise of authority transfers guilt to the authority figure. When leaders wrongly intervene (too late, without authorization, or from wrong motives), they bear responsibility for resulting consequences. Peter warns elders against wrongful oversight: exercise authority 'not as being lords... but examples' (1 Peter 5:3). Authority is stewardship requiring proper exercise—abuse or misuse incurs divine accountability.

## Historical Context

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This provision protected women from capricious husbandly authority exercised after silent ratification. Once a husband's silence confirmed a vow, attempting later annulment made him guilty of causing vow-breaking. This transferred guilt principle ensured thoughtful, timely authority exercise rather than impulsive control.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the guilt-transfer principle (from vow-maker to authority-figure for improper annulment) teach the serious responsibility of exercising spiritual authority?
2. What does this verse warn about leaders who wrongly intervene after the proper time for oversight has passed?
3. How can you ensure that any exercise of spiritual authority happens properly (right timing, right motivation, right authorization) to avoid bearing others' guilt?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאִם	יִפְּרֹ	יִפְּרֹ	אֶתְּ	אַחֲרָי
H518	But if he shall any ways	But if he shall any ways	H853	after
	H6565	H6565		H310
שָׁמַע וְ	וְנָשָׂא	אֶתְּ	עֲוֹנָהּ:	
that he hath heard	them then he shall bear	H853	her iniquity	
H8085	H5375		H5771	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 5:1** (Sin): And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity.