

Numbers 30:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

These are the statutes, which the LORD commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, between the father and his daughter, being yet in her youth in her father's house.

Analysis

These are the statutes, which the LORD commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, between the father and his daughter, being yet in her youth in her father's house—This closing formula (אלה החוקים eleh hachukkim, 'these are the statutes') summarizes Numbers 30's comprehensive vow regulations governing relationships **between** (בין bein, repeated three times) husband-wife and father-daughter. The phrase **being yet in her youth** (בְּנֶעְרֶיהָ בֵּית אָבִיהָ vine'ureiha veit aviha, 'in her youth in her father's house') clarifies that these provisions apply to dependent daughters, not adult women.

The chapter's comprehensive treatment establishes that vows aren't private matters between individuals and God but involve community accountability through family authority structures. While specific patriarchal forms are culturally situated, the underlying principles remain:

1. vows to God are binding and serious
2. spiritual community involves mutual accountability
3. authority includes responsibility to protect from rash commitments.

James warns: 'Let not many of you be teachers, knowing that we shall receive stricter judgment' (James 3:1)—authority brings accountability.

Historical Context

Numbers 30 provided unprecedented protections for women in ancient Near East—nowhere else did legal codes allow annulment of vows made by subordinate family members. Most cultures held individuals absolutely responsible for oaths regardless of age, gender, or circumstances. Israel's law balanced personal agency with community protection.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How do Numbers 30's vow regulations balance individual spiritual agency with community accountability through authority structures?
2. What principles from this culturally-situated patriarchal structure apply to contemporary church accountability and discipleship relationships?
3. How can you cultivate spiritual community that honors both personal responsibility before God and mutual accountability within the body of Christ?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֶּה	הַחֻקִּים	אֲשֶׁר	צִוָּה	יְהוָה	אֵת
H428	These are the statutes	H834	commanded	which the LORD	H853
	H2706		H6680	H3068	

מֹשֶׁה	בֵּין	אִישׁ	לְאִשְׁתּוֹ	בֵּין	אָבִיוֹ:
Moses	H996	between a man	and his wife	H996	between the father
H4872		H376	H802		H1

לְבַתּוֹ	בְּנֶעֱרָ יְהִי	בֵּית	אָבִיוֹ:
and his daughter	being yet in her youth	house	between the father
H1323	H5271	H1004	H1

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