

# Numbers 30:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if her father disallow her in the day that he heareth; not any of her vows, or of her bonds wherewith she hath bound her soul, shall stand: and the LORD shall forgive her, because her father disallowed her.

## Analysis

**If her father disallow her** (וְהִנִּיא אָבִיהָ אֹתָהּ, veheni aviha otah)—The verb nû' means to hinder, restrain, or forbid. Critically, this nullification must occur **in the day that he heareth** (בְּיוֹם שִׁמְעוֹ, beyom shom'o)—immediate response required. Delayed objection validates the vow, preventing capricious later interference.

**The LORD shall forgive her** (וַיְהִי וַיְסַלַּח־לָהּ, vaYHWH yislah-lah)—Salah (to forgive, pardon) appears exclusively with God as subject in the Old Testament. Though she made a binding oath to Yahweh, His grace covers the unfulfilled vow when proper authority nullifies it. This foreshadows how Christ's authority releases us from obligations we cannot fulfill (Matthew 16:19).

## Historical Context

The same-day requirement prevented fathers from using vow-nullification as a tool of manipulation. Once a father heard his daughter's vow and remained silent, he bore responsibility for its consequences. This balanced protection of the vulnerable with respect for the binding nature of oaths made to God—a revolutionary legal protection for women in the ancient world.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. What does God's forgiveness for an annulled vow reveal about His understanding of human authority structures within covenant relationship?
2. How should the same-day requirement inform our own decision-making about commitments—both in accepting them and in advising others?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵם H518	יֵהְיֶה יָא H5106	אֲבִי יֵה H1	אֲתָהּ H853	בִּי וּמִ H3117	שְׁמָעוּ H8085	כָּל H3605
	<b>disallow</b>	<b>But if her father</b>		<b>her in the day</b>	<b>that he heareth</b>	
	נִדְּרֵי יֵה H5088	וְאִסְרֵי יֵה H632	אֲשֶׁר H834	אֲסָרָהּ H631	עַל H5921	
	<b>not any of her vows</b>	<b>or of her bonds</b>		<b>wherewith she hath bound</b>		
הַנֶּפֶשׁ H5315	לֹא H3808	יָקֹוּם H6965	וַיהוָה H3068	יִסְלַח H5545	לָהּ H0	כִּי יֵהְיֶה H3588
<b>her soul</b>		<b>shall stand</b>	<b>and the LORD</b>	<b>shall forgive</b>		<b>disallow</b>
	אֲבִי יֵה H1	אֲתָהּ: H853				
	<b>But if her father</b>					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ephesians 6:1** (References Lord): Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

