

Numbers 30:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And if she had at all an husband, when she vowed, or uttered
ought out of her lips, wherewith she bound her soul;

Analysis

If she had at all an husband, when she vowed—This verse introduces marital authority superseding paternal authority at marriage. The emphatic infinitive absolute construction (ve'im hayo tihyeh le'ish) stresses the certainty of this transfer: when she becomes **an husband's** (אֲשֶׁר לְאִישׁ, le'ish, literally 'to/for a man'), covenant headship shifts.

Uttered ought out of her lips, wherewith she bound her soul (מִבְטָא שְׁפָתֶיהָ, as'er as'rah al-nafshah)—Mivta means rash utterance or hasty speech. The verb asar (to bind) indicates self-imposed obligation upon the nefesh (soul, life-essence). Marriage doesn't eliminate personal spiritual agency but places it within covenantal accountability, picturing Christ and the Church's mutual submission (Ephesians 5:21-33).

Historical Context

At marriage (typically ages 13-16 for women in ancient Israel), legal authority transferred from father to husband. This verse addresses vows made before marriage but operative after marriage—a complex legal situation. The law's careful attention to such edge cases demonstrates Scripture's comprehensive wisdom for covenant community life.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 – Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the transfer of vow-authority at marriage reflect the 'leaving and cleaving' principle of Genesis 2:24?
2. What does this passage teach about the relationship between personal spiritual commitments and covenantal household structures?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵם בַּיִז תְּהִיא לֹא יְשׁ וְנִזְרֵר יְבַעַל יְסַבְּרֵה
H518 H1961 H1961 And if she had at all an husband when she vowed H5921
H376 H5088

וְאֵת אֲמָבֵט שְׁפַת יְהִי אֲשֶׁר אָסַכְתָּה עַל	H176 or uttered H4008	ought out of her lips H8193	H834	wherewith she bound H631	H5921
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נְפָשָׁה:

her soul

H5315

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 56:12 (Parallel theme): Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.

