

Numbers 30:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But if her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard it; then he shall make her vow which she vowed, and that which she uttered with her lips, wherewith she bound her soul, of none effect: and the LORD shall forgive her.

Analysis

If her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard it (וְאִם־בַּיּוֹם שֶׁשְׁמַעַן אִישָׁה) — The verb *nû'* (disallow, forbid) gives the husband authority to nullify vows, but only immediately upon hearing. **He shall make her vow...of none effect** (וְהִפְרֵר אֶת־נִזְקָה, *vehefer et-nidrah*) — *Hefer* means to break, annul, frustrate. The husband's word can void what his wife spoke to God.

The LORD shall forgive her (וַיַּלְחַדֵּל, *vaYHWH yislah-lah*) — God's forgiveness covers the broken vow when proper authority nullifies it. This reflects Hebrews 7:22, where Jesus becomes surety of a better covenant. Our Great Husband-Redeemer bears the weight of vows we cannot fulfill, interceding for us before the Father.

Historical Context

This law protected women from two dangers:

1. manipulative husbands who might later use vows against them,
2. their own rash oaths made in emotion.

The husband's immediate veto-authority balanced with God's forgiveness created a safety mechanism unique in ancient legal codes. It assumed male headship while constraining its abuse.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's willingness to forgive annulled vows demonstrate His prioritization of covenant relationship over legal technicality?
2. In what ways does Christ's intercessory work 'annul' our impossible obligations while maintaining God's holiness and our accountability?

Interlinear Text

אֲמָת	וְיֻמָּבֵן	שָׁמַעַת	אִישָׁה	יְאַנְתָּה	אֲזַמְּתָה
H518	her on the day	H3117	that he heard	H8085	But if her husband
					disallowed
			H376		H5106
אֲתָה	וְהַפֵּר	נִזְבָּח	עַל יְפֵר אֲשֶׁר		
of none effect	H853	it then he shall make her vow which she vowed	H834		H5921
H6565		H5088			
אֲתָה	מִבְטָה	שְׁפָתַת יְפֵר	אֲשֶׁר	אֲסַב הַ	
H853	and that which she uttered	H4008	H8193	wherewith she bound	H631
עַל	נִפְשַׁת הַ	לְהַ			
H5921	her soul	H3068	H5545		
H5315	and the LORD				
	shall forgive				

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 3:16 (Parallel theme): Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

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