

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־בְּיוֹם שָׁמַע אִישָׁהּ, ve'im-beyom shemo'a ishah yani otah)—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** (וְהִפָּר אֶת־נִדְרָהּ, 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 (וַיְהִי, 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

אִם	בִּי וּם	שָׁמַעַ	אִשָּׁהּ	וְנָ יֵא	אוֹתָהּ
H518	her on the day	that he heard	But if her husband	disallowed	H853
	H3117	H8085	H376	H5106	
וְהָפָּר	אֵת	נִדְּבָהּ	אִשָּׁהּ רַ	עַל יְהִ	
of none effect	H853	it then he shall make her vow which she vowed	H834	H5921	
H6565		H5088			
וְאֵת	מִבְּטָ א	שִׁפְתֵי יְהִ	אִשָּׁהּ רַ	אֶסְבֶּה	
H853	and that which she uttered	with her lips	H834	wherewith she bound	
	H4008	H8193		H631	
עַל	נַפְשָׁהּ	וְיְהוָה	יִסְלַח	לָהּ:	
H5921	her soul	and the LORD	shall forgive	H0	
	H5315	H3068	H5545		

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.