

## Numbers 30:1-16 **Women's Protective Covering**

### **A man's vow or oath stands as stated and he is held responsible to fulfill it**

<sup>1</sup> Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes concerning the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the LORD has commanded: <sup>2</sup> If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by some agreement, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

### **A Woman has her father's covering and her vow may be overruled**

<sup>3</sup> "Or if a woman vows a vow to the LORD, and binds herself by some agreement while in her father's house in her youth, <sup>4</sup> and her father hears her vow and the agreement by which she has bound herself, and her father holds his peace, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement with which she has bound herself shall stand. <sup>5</sup> But if her father overrules her on the day that he hears, then none of her vows nor her agreements by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the LORD will release her, because her father overruled her.

### **A Woman has her husband's covering, and her vow may be overruled.**

<sup>6</sup> "But if indeed she takes a husband, while bound by her vows or by a rash utterance from her lips by which she bound herself, <sup>7</sup> and her husband hears it, and makes no response to her on the day that he hears, then her vows shall stand, and her agreements by which she bound herself shall stand. <sup>8</sup> But if her husband overrules her on the day that he hears it, he shall make void her vow which she vowed and what she uttered with her lips, by which she bound herself, and the LORD will release her.

### **A widow or divorced woman has no covering and her vow stands, she is held responsible**

<sup>9</sup> "Also any vow of a widow or a divorced woman, by which she has bound herself, shall stand against her.

### **The Husband either confirms the vow or oath or nullifies it, he bears the responsibility**

<sup>10</sup> "If she vowed in her husband's house, or bound herself by an agreement with an oath, <sup>11</sup> and her husband heard it, and made no response to her and did not overrule her, then all her vows shall stand, and every agreement by which she bound herself shall stand. <sup>12</sup> But if her husband truly made them void on the day he heard them, then whatever proceeded from her lips concerning her vows or concerning the agreement binding her, it shall not stand; her husband has made them void, and the LORD will forgive her. <sup>13</sup> Every vow and every binding oath to afflict her soul, her husband may confirm it, or her husband may make it void. <sup>14</sup> Now if her husband makes no response whatever to her from day to day, then he confirms all her vows or all the agreements that bind her; he confirms them, because he made no response to her on the day that he heard them. <sup>15</sup> But if he does make them void after he has heard them, then he shall bear her guilt."

<sup>16</sup> These are the statutes which the LORD commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, and between a father and his daughter in her youth in her father's house. NKJV

#### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ In the beginning, God placed the woman under the protective covering of her husband and took responsibility away from her placing it on the man, because it was the woman who had been deceived. [Genesis 3:1-13, 16, 1 Timothy 2:14]

- ✧ Older women are instructed to behave properly and to instruct younger women to love their husbands and children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. [Titus 2:4-5]
- ✧ The only **command** God gave to the woman is to submit to the authority of her husband. [Ephesians 2:22-24, Colossians 3:18, 1 Peter 3:1-6]
- ✧ The commands to the husband are to be responsible for his wife in a loving and cherishing role. [Ephesians 5:25-33, Colossians 3:18-19, 1 Peter 3:7]
- ✧ So here in Numbers chapter 30 we find that the woman is protected by her father and her husband even when she makes a vow or swears an oath to God.
- ✧ The fathers and husbands have the authority to veto the vow or oath of the wives or daughters.
- ✧ The fathers and husbands bear the responsibility for either confirming or disallowing the vows or oaths of their wives and daughters.
- ✧ This covering of responsibility and authority is a shield for the women and stands between the woman and her responsibility toward God.
- ✧ God will forgive the woman, and hold the man responsible.
- ✧ If the woman has no father or husband to provide this covering, then she bears her own responsibility before God.
- ✧ God loves the woman, and His best desire is for her to have the protective covering of a loving father or loving husband.