

# VOWS..PROMISES..COVENANTS

The following is a subject that is included in the Mattot (Tribes) Torah portion (parashah). Because it is so misunderstood, I have decided to have a special teaching on this alone. I hope you enjoy it. There are other vows spoken of in the bible that are associated with blessings or curses, but in this teaching I am specifically referring to what is being revealed in the Book of Numbers.

**Num. 30:1-8** *Then Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the sons of Israel, saying, "This is the word which the LORD has commanded. 2 "If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth. "Also if a woman makes a vow to the LORD, and binds herself by an obligation in her father's house in her youth, 4 and her father hears her vow and her obligation by which she has bound herself, and her father says nothing to her, then all her vows shall stand, and every obligation by which she has bound herself shall stand. 5 "But if her father should forbid her on the day he hears of it, none of her vows or her obligations by which she has bound herself shall stand; and the LORD will forgive her because her father had forbidden her. 6 "However, if she should marry while under her vows or the rash statement of her lips by which she has bound herself, 7 and her husband hears of it and says nothing to her on the day he hears it, then her vows shall stand and her obligations by which she has bound herself shall stand. 8 "But if on the day her husband hears of it, he forbids her, then he shall annul her vow which she is under and the rash statement of her lips by which she has bound herself; and the LORD will forgive her."*

**Num. 30:9-15** *"But the vow of a widow or of a divorced woman, everything by which she has bound herself, shall stand against her. 10 "However, if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound herself by an obligation with an oath, 11 and her husband heard it, but said nothing to her and did not forbid her, then all her vows shall stand, and every obligation by which she bound herself shall stand. 12 "But if her husband indeed annuls them on the day he hears them, then whatever proceeds out of her lips concerning her vows or concerning the obligation of herself, shall not stand; her husband has annulled them, and the LORD will forgive her. 13 "Every vow and every binding oath to humble herself, her husband may confirm it or her husband may annul it. 14 "But if her husband indeed says nothing to her from day to day, then he confirms all her vows or all her obligations which are on her; he has confirmed them, because he said nothing to her on the day he heard them. 15 "But if he indeed annuls them after he has heard them, then he shall bear her guilt."*

## WHAT IS A VOW?

Yah is the Great creator, but in a sense He has given us the ability to "change His creation", by making a vow. The vow actually takes His created word and adjusts it so to speak for our spoken word. He in fact gives us authority to put into action or make things happen that normally wouldn't happen. Because of this divine right He bestows upon us, the responsibilities are supernatural also. By His spoken word all things were created and by our spoken word (in a sense) we create slight changes to His Word.

A promise is something spoken between two or more people. The reason a vow is far more powerful than a promise, is because when we make a vow we are asking Yahveh to be our witness. As a result, He is going to hold us accountable for it if we break the vow. A vow is the strongest form of speech there is. Vows and promises are reserved for very specific things. With that said, the wedding vow is to be taken very seriously. We can be blessed or cursed according to our keeping or breaking that vow. So whether one understands it or not, when we divorce we are officially breaking that vow and we are cursed for doing so.

For example: whether we understand or not, Yah has given both Father's and Husband's special authority over their family. The father or husband has the authority whether he deserves it or not, the father or husband is then responsible before Yah. This is not ever to be taken lightly. This is what is revealed to us in Num. 30:1-15.

Yah will likewise blesses us for doing as we vowed to do and curses us if we don't do what we vowed to do. This is the basic principal of blessings and curses revealed to us throughout scriptures, especially in the Book of Deuteronomy.

This flies in the face of what the Feminist's in our society would have you believe. Someone has to have authority when it comes right down to it. One can argue about many things, but there can be no argument about the fact that when it comes right down to the nitty gritty, someone must have the authority to make a final decision. Someone must have the authority to step up to the plate. That authority today is revealed in the court system, but Yah's system supersedes any court system even though that court system itself is based on the Word of Yah.

In a sense Yah has vows available to us so that we can prove to Him that our word is honorable. He has proven to us throughout scriptures that He keeps His word and that His word is honorable. In the same way He gives us the opportunity to prove our worthiness in regards to our words in a sense, creating life. All the covenants in our bible are based on vows Yah made to us. Our ancestors made a covenant with Yah at Mt. Sinai. That covenant is forever for all those agreeing to be His BRIDE. That covenant/vow from Mt. Sinai is FOREVER, for all of us willing to commit to His Word. Yah promised His people at that time the "Promised Land" and He indeed delivered them into it just as He said He would. He made many promises to His people throughout history that have been passed down from generation to generation of those who accept His promises and the responsibility required in those promises. Yah has always kept His part of His contract with us, it is always us who struggle with keeping up our end of the contract. He even made a promise that if we didn't keep our end of the contract He would do it for us, IF we are obedient to His Word. That's the reason Yeshua came to die on our behalf. Yah used His own Son to pay the price for our transgressions.

That commitment is part of the "born again" concept. In order for one to be born again and achieve eternal salvation (not momentary), we must honor the vow/covenant made by our people back at Mt. Sinai. Our people are the Israelites, Israel meaning "overcome by Yah". All of us who are overcome by Yahveh are His bride Israel. There is no Jew or Gentile when we accept His ketubah (wedding contract) given out on the mountain. We are all Israel who accept this covenant/vow forever and our children can

likewise accept or deny this vow according to their free will. He made a covenant with Israel and He will never break His end of it.

It is like ripping apart Yah's soul when we make a vow like our bridal betrothal with Him and break it by not keeping His torah commandments. We are to keep that promise when we are "born again" or we are simply NOT born again. He is our Father. He is our Husband if we are truly His bride and He has the authority to bless us for keeping our vows, promises and covenants, or to not bless us when we break them. Yah takes on this responsibility just as a father or husband takes on the same responsibility of his family. A father or husbands supernatural authority is designed after Yah's supernatural authority. It can be a blessing or a curse depending on our completion or not of the promise.

## VOW OF MARRIAGE

If a daughter makes a vow, in the day that the father hears of this vow, he must make a decision for his daughter. His decision is to either allow the vow to stand or to



make it null and void. He is confirming or nullifying the vow. If he decides to annul the vow, it is as if she never spoke one at all. In the case of a wife, it works the same way.

If the daughter made a vow and the father accepts the vow and then gets married, in the day that the husband hears of the vow he has the same authority as the father. He can annul the vow if he wishes to even though it has previously been accepted. The burden of the vow is on the husband, so it is his obligation to either accept or annul the vow.

In the case of vows, the authority of the father or husband is superior to the wife or daughter who made the vow.

A marriage is started by a vow. If in the day that a young lady goes out and makes a vow of marriage and her father hears it, he has the spiritual authority to void it. The man's vow would be considered acceptable, but not that of the daughter. It's as if she never did make a vow. That's why it is so important to get the fathers participation in a wedding, without his approval (according to Torah), there is no wedding. The blessings of being married cannot take affect unless the father condones the wedding vow. **That's why even in today's traditional weddings the pastor asks: "who gives this bride to be wed"?** Tradition for many years has also been for the presiding pastor to ask if anyone objects to the marriage of the bride and groom. That is why that is asked. It is spoken to uphold the fathers right to deny the grooms approval of a wedding vow if he so deems. The one with spiritual authority presiding over the wedding must know that it is approved by the father in authority.

The father I am talking about here is a moral person. We are not talking about a worldly man, a man who hates people for no reason or rants and raves about everything going on in the world. We are talking about a virtuous fathers blessing. If the man is evil in his nature he has no blessing to offer anyone, so his condoning the wedding means absolutely nothing spiritually.

## RESPECT FOR THE FATHER OR HUSBAND

An overwhelming need that all fathers and husbands has is the need for respect. That need for respect from his family members is a core issue in the foundation of a families existence. If a man is not respected by his family members it affects the depths of his soul. Depending how great the disrespect is, how public it is made, etc., it can be devastating to a man's soul. It can literally tare him apart, seer him for the rest of his life. That disrespect is considered equivalent to any form of disrespect that you can come up with against a wife or the children. It is his judgement as to what he thinks is best for his family. If he misuses his authority it doesn't change the fact that he does have this authority. If he misuse's that authority he becomes accountable to Yah. We must trust in Yah and the authority He has given. To rebel against that authority is to rebel against Yah Himself. We need in our society, husbands and fathers who will stand up and take on the responsibilities for our families. The responsibility of the world begins right at home, at the supper table. If all is well at home, all will be well when we go out into the world and deal with the injustice all around us.

Paul's verse about a women not talking in the church is in regards to this authority of a vow. **1Cor. 14:34-35** *Let the women keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but let them subject themselves, just as the Law also says. 35 And if they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church.* This verse is tied together with the husbands authority over his family. This verse is relating to a woman speaking against the authority of her husband, which is an embarrassment to the husband. This is simply contrary to the commandments of Yah.

If one wants to have an acceptable wedding you must have the approval of the father. If this takes place Yah can bless the couple. If it doesn't then Yah cannot bless the married couple. That is one of the reasons so many couples today have a bad marriage, because it has not and cannot be blessed by Yah. This is for the protection of the bride. The same protection that a father has for his daughter is that of a husband for his wife. It doesn't mean that someone is superior, it means that some one has to be responsible for the actions of the bride and Yah has spoken that it be the father of the bride. This is all part of the authority a man has over his house, his children and with regard to his wife. Most fathers and husbands today don't know about the authority and responsibilities they have been given by Yah. Even after they do understand, most are somewhat hesitant to use their authority. Most men want their wives and children to respect and like them as a friend. This in itself is a huge error, it's not about liking one another it's about whether or not the man of the house truly loves them enough to stand on what Yah has given us for guidelines. It's about whether or not the man is going to stand up for his family members in good times and in bad. Any Dad who just stands up when it is go for the family is a fair weather Dad, he is not a true man. The family deserves better than just a fair weather

Dad, they deserve a Dad who will stand up for the families spiritual rights at all times, good or bad.

## VOWS HAVE CREATED NATIONS

Vows are so important that Nations themselves have been formed on declarations, vows. Canada and America are examples of what vows create. They came to be, in spite of much opposition, because of a vow of independence, separation from Britain. Vows make words create. Vows from someone in authority literally change reality.

## A VOW CAN BE A BLESSING OR A CURSE

A vow when heeded can create or bring to pass a blessings, but vows made in haste and not kept can likewise bring a curse. That's why Yeshua said: ***“let your answer be yes or no”***. We must be very careful when we speak words of a vow. A vow is in the fibre of your soul. When it is enforced it becomes a very powerful vehicle (blessing), when broken it becomes a powerful curse. One of the reasons married couples who get divorced sometimes suffer so much emotionally is because a portion of their soul has been damaged. The soul tie, if you will, created when the two became one, can do serious harm to the innermost parts of our soul when it is broken. Today it is common for us to say ‘we have a broken heart’, this is much more realistic than most consider. That's is why most divorces become a tragedy, because it tares the very fabric of our being. It has the affect of scar tissue, there for the remainder of our lives to remind us of our poorly spoken words. To paint a vivid picture, imagine the healing that would have to take place if ones arm was pulled off compared to being precisely cut off. It is not like a surgeons sharp cut which normally heals nicely over a short period of time. There are consequences for a broken vow, just as there are consequences for sin. Breaking a vow is in fact a sin.

## A PROMISE

A promise is totally different than a vow. A promise is like a contract. In the case of a contract we must consider the “eye for eye” concept. Damages for breaking the contract must be dealt with. It is common in the legal system (not justice system) today, to have court rulings on damages incurred from people who get into verbal or written contracts and break them. It is a basic part of the court system that is derived from the “eye for an eye” statute in the scriptures. Breaking a promise is a minor issue commonly dealt with, breaking a vow has consequences for the rest of your life. Yah holds us in account for all vows for the rest of our lives. When we promise something it is always pertaining to the future. The future depends entirely on what Yah decides to happen, so when making a promise of any kind we must always say the promise is conditional on Yah's will be done.

Yah often puts us to the test with what we have vowed or promised. Sometimes we say things without realizing that He is listening and He has the ability to put us to the test on our vows and promises at any given time. If we desire to do something we must be very careful to make a distinction between what we promise and what we vow. A promise is one thing, a vow is a whole different matter. We must have our priorities right. We must be very careful about the words that come out of our mouth. Yah is watching and He is listening. The books are open and our words and actions are being recorded, someday to be read back to us. Are you prepared to listen?

**Matt. 12:36-37** *“And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment. 37 **“For by your words you shall be justified, and by your words you shall be condemned.”**”*

**James 1:26** *“Anyone who thinks he is religiously observant but does not control his tongue is deceiving himself, and his observance counts for nothing.”*

## SUMMARY OF COVENANTS AND VOWS

Poor memory seems to be a common fault with man. Yah emphasized from the very beginning to remember: “remember my law”, “remember my Sabbaths”, “remember the poor, the widow and the orphan”, and “remember Adonai your God”. It seems all of humanity has been stricken with collective amnesia. Everyone has forgotten what Yah told them clearly to remember for perpetuity. Man has in fact forgotten Adonai. Those who claim to be His people have forgotten most of the basic things that He told them never to forget. Poor memory seems to be a common fault with mankind even though Yahveh has told us clearly from the very beginning NEVER to forget.

Our Father in Heaven gives us His own unquestionable opinion about His covenants. **Gal. 3:17** *“What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, **does not invalidate a covenant** previously ratified by Yah, so as to nullify the promise.”* The establishment of the Re-newed covenant did not make the old ones disappear, it did not abrogate the old ones. It did not cancel the old ones out. It strengthened and complemented the other covenants. That is exactly what Paul was saying in **Gal. 3:21** “when he asks: **“Is the Torah then contrary to the promises of Yah? May it never be!”**

**Isa. 54:10** *“For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, And **My covenant of peace will not be shaken,**”* Says Adonai who has compassion on you.”

**Isa. 59:21** *“And as for Me, **this is My covenant with them,**”* says Adonai: *“My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, **shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your offspring, nor from the mouth of your offspring’s offspring,**”* says Adonai, *“from now and forever.”*

As Believers, us saints must not separate Yah’s covenants, but keep them together as a whole unit, showing Yah’s total redemptive plan for mankind. We do not have a “cut and paste” Bible like some would have you think. We have a book of the living word become flesh in Yeshua Himself. It is Yeshua we should be following! Not like mankind is, using His precious name in an unworthy manner; “Hallowed by thy name”.

When we become “born again” believers, “people of the way”, we must accept all six of the covenants of Adonai in order to receive the blessings of the covenants, in order to have the covering of Yah’s authority, and in order to accept the promises and commitments in all the covenants. We cannot accept the Renewed covenant and proclaim to be partners with Yah unless we do as He said, and have His Laws and Commandments written on our hearts (Jer. 31:33-34).

Yeshua was resurrected after three days and nights as the “FIRST FRUITS”, the first born, like Abraham’s Isaac. If we believe as Abraham believed, the righteousness of Yeshua is given to us. We put on His robe of righteousness, and through faith in Him, He becomes our full armor of Yah, and we receive salvation as our reward (2Cor. 5:21).

Adonai offered up His Son Yeshua to die for us on the very same mountain Abraham offered up His Son Isaac. Abraham carried the wood for His sacrifice on His shoulders as our Yeshua bore His own wooden stake on that day of Calvary. Our God Almighty offered up His ONLY Son as a burnt offering, to be a blessing for all of us, and to make it possible for us to be set free. Each time we think about who has been offered up in place of us for the final sacrifice, we should humble ourselves, get prostrate, and thank Yah for the right to be able to be called a FRIEND. Each time we think about who has been offered up in place of us for the final sacrifice we should humble ourselves, get down on our knees, and say, "Yah have mercy on me". Each time we thank Him for our freedom, we should get down on our knees, and say: "though I am not worthy Father I accept your Hebrew Son Yeshua as the substitutionary sacrifice for me, and I accept your covenants as put before me in your precious word made flesh in Yeshua Hamashiah. "I, pledge to do my best to bring glory to your precious name."

When we accept the covenants of Yah, when we enter into His contracts, all the promises made to Abraham become rightfully ours, but first you must say "YES" to them. You must accept Yeshua into your life as the one who walked through the covenant in place of you, just as Abraham did. We must have a circumcised heart and all become of one spirit inwardly. **Rom. 2:29** *"But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from Yah."* Yah's covenants of love through the blood of Yeshua bring all us former Gentiles and Jews into union with each other, with Adonai, in one spirit. **Gal. 3:28-29** *"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Messiah Yeshua. And if you belong to Messiah, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."*

As described within this text, "blood covenants" are not to be taken lightly. If you want to call yourself a friend of Yah's then you'd best realize the seriousness of your proclamation, and the ramifications of not holding up to your end of the deal. Are you willing to truly offer up **EVERYTHING** to our Father? Are you truly willing to SURRENDER ALL? Are you willing to break open the box of alabaster and pour it all out? Have you offered up your Isaac? Have you offered up YOURSELF as a living sacrifice? Are you truly worthy of calling yourself a "**FRIEND OF THE LIVING YAH**", a "**CHILD OF Yah**"? **Rom. 9:8** *"That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of Yah, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants."* I leave that with you to chew on, for only you know what's on your heart. The truth has been made available here! **THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE!**

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excerpt from Law Book.