

Are vows always "unbreakable"

By WmTipton

Some present different OT passages to show that since God says to keep your vow, that it is never possible that God would release one from the responsibility of a vow they have made.

This is entirely false and shows that those making the assertion are not as studied as they would pretend to be.

Lets look at one small passage in Numbers 30.

"And if she vowed in her husband's house, or bound her soul by a bond with an oath; And her husband heard it, and held his peace at her, and disallowed her not: then all her vows shall stand, and every bond wherewith she bound her soul shall stand.

But if her husband hath utterly made them void on the day he heard them; then whatsoever proceeded out of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand:

her husband hath made them void; and the LORD shall forgive her.

Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void.

But if her husband altogether hold his peace at her from day to day; then he establisheth all her vows, or all her bonds, which are upon her: he confirmeth them, because he held his peace at her in the day that he heard them.

But if he shall any ways make them void after that he hath heard them; then he shall bear her iniquity.

(Num 30:10-15)

If this wife had made a vow, under normal circumstances God says "keep your vow"

But this woman is made unable to keep her vow because of her husband.

What does God say?

He says its not her that breaks it, it is the husband who has broken her vows because he knew she made them, then made her unable to fulfill them, and HE shall be accountable for it.

God holds the guilty responsible, not the innocent.

Surely this God who can allow for the breaking of a vow due to the actions of others can make an "exception" of His own choice to permit a person to put away a spouse who has made it impossible for us to be a husband or wife to them through their own actions.

Are covenants breakable

A covenant is made by one person to another. The two can make covenants together, like marriage vows being given by both the husband and the bride.

There are unconditional covenants that can be carried out no matter what. Then there are conditional covenants, such as the one presented to Israel in the OT. Over and over again throughout the OT God says Israel is breaking His covenant. For them to break it, it must be conditional.

The conditional covenant maker can finally end it if it is persistently disregarded by the person it is made to. (such as a nation or wife playing the harlot)

Israel had continually broken Gods covenant He made to them , so fully and finally He broke it entirely, so as to end it.

And I took my staff, even Beauty, and cut it asunder, that I might break my covenant which I had made with all the people.

And it was broken in that day: and so the poor of the flock that waited upon me knew that it was the word of the LORD.

(Zec 11:10-11 KJV)

There is one more OT prophet, Malachi, which reads like a dear John letter from a departing spouse, then silence from God for 400+ years until John the baptist who was the promised "Elijah" that would come. (Malachi 4:5)
God says Himself that He finally broke His covenant.