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## **Numbers Chapter 30 And 31**

### **Vows And War**

Today as we venture into the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Numbers I think that you will agree with me when I say that we are going to be challenged with a very difficult topic. In fact, I think its safe to say that it's a topic that is so challenging that most modern-day pastors won't even touch this topic with a 10 foot pole.

The topic that I'm speaking of here this evening is the topic of making vows and taking oaths. In the differences between the vow is of a man in the vows of a woman.

Vow making and oath taking is no small matter when it comes to our Father in heaven and what he tells us within the confines of his God breathed Scripture, and we are soon going to see that not only here in the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Numbers, but all throughout the Bible from the Old Testament to the New Testament.

It often times amazes me as a pastor how many modern-day Christians today actually believe in only half of the Bible. It amazes me as a pastor, as a man of God, as someone who is well studied and educated concerning the Bible just how many people there are that truly believe that the first half of their Bible from the book of Genesis to the book of Malachi is nothing but blank white pages that they don't have to be bothered with.

From the moment that we began teaching the Torah online beginning with the book of Genesis for years ago, we have repeatedly shown time and time and time again how and why the first half of the Bible must be properly understood and comprehended before anyone can turn to the book of Matthew in the back half of the Bible and attempt to understand what the very Jewish Matthew was telling us about the Son of David the Son of Abraham. Not to mention the gospel message that he came to deliver that was given to him by his Father by the way.

And today as we venture into the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Numbers and we read about the biblical concept of making a vow, I would submit to you that what we read here in the book of Numbers in the Torah, is indeed a concept, a principal, a commandment that is indeed an everlasting command that extends clear out through to the end of the book of Revelation at the end of the Bible. Keeping this in mind, I would like to begin this evenings study by reading Numbers chapter 30 so that we can know exactly what it says and just as importantly what it does not say. And so, before we go any further let us begin by opening to **Numbers chapter 30 E1**

### **Men and Vows**

**Num 30:1** Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the people of Israel, saying, "This is what the LORD has commanded.

**Num 30:2** If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

### **Women and Vows**

**Num 30:3** "If a woman vows a vow to the LORD and binds herself by a pledge, **while within her father's house in her youth,**

**Num 30:4** and her father hears of her vow and of her pledge by which she has bound herself and says nothing to her, then all her vows shall stand, and every pledge by which she has bound herself shall stand.

**Num 30:5** **But if her father opposes her on the day that he hears of it, no vow of hers, no pledge by which she has bound herself shall stand.** And the LORD will forgive her, because her father opposed her.

**Num 30:6** "If she marries a husband, while under her vows or any

thoughtless utterance of her lips by which she has bound herself,  
Num 30:7 and her husband hears of it and says nothing to her on the day that he hears, then her vows shall stand, and her pledges by which she has bound herself shall stand.

Num 30:8 But if, on the day that her husband comes to hear of it, he opposes her, then he makes void her vow that was on her, and the thoughtless utterance of her lips by which she bound herself. And the LORD will forgive her.

Num 30:9 (But any vow of a widow or of a divorced woman, anything by which she has bound herself, shall stand against her.)

Num 30:10 And if she vowed in her husband's house or bound herself by a pledge with an oath,

Num 30:11 and her husband heard of it and said nothing to her and did not oppose her, then all her vows shall stand, and every pledge by which she bound herself shall stand.

Num 30:12 But if her husband makes them null and void on the day that he hears them, then whatever proceeds out of her lips concerning her vows or concerning her pledge of herself shall not stand. Her husband has made them void, and the LORD will forgive her.

Num 30:13 Any vow and any binding oath to afflict herself, her husband may establish, or her husband may make void.

Num 30:14 But if her husband says nothing to her from day to day, then he establishes all her vows or all her pledges that are upon her. He has established them, because he said nothing to her on the day that he heard of them.

Num 30:15 But if he makes them null and void after he has heard of them, then he shall bear her iniquity."

Num 30:16 These are the statutes that the LORD commanded Moses about a man and his wife and about a father and his daughter while she is in her youth within her father's house.

Numbers chapter 30 has a lot to say about vows, doesn't it?

But what is most important is that Numbers chapter 30 is not the catchall Bible chapter when it comes to the concept, the principal, the commandment of vow making.

The Torah has much to say about vow making and so did our Messiah in the New Testament. And it is tectonically important that we understand what both our Father in heaven in the Old Testament, and our Messiah in

the New Testament had to say about making a vow or taking an oath.

Vow making and oath taking are both done by the human mouth and the human tongue. And if there is anything that we can understand about the human mouth and the human tongue, it's that the human mouth and the human tongue are bar none the most dangerous weapons on earth.

Let me say that again... the human mouth, and the human tongue are bar none the most dangerous weapons on earth.

Wars and murder and mayhem do not start by themselves. The tongue is indeed a restless evil. The tongue is full of deadly poison, and few have been able to bridle the human tongue. And therefore, before we go any farther, I would like us to hear what the apostle James had to say about the human tongue. We can find that in **James chapter 3 verses one through 12 E2**

### **Taming the Tongue**

**Jas 3:1** Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

**Jas 3:2** For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

**Jas 3:3** If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well.

**Jas 3:4** Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs.

**Jas 3:5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

**Jas 3:6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell.

**Jas 3:7** For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind,

**Jas 3:8** but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

**Jas 3:9** With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people

who are made in the likeness of God.

**Jas 3:10** From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so.

**Jas 3:11** Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water?

**Jas 3:12** Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

According to the apostle James who was the head of the Jerusalem Council and the half-brother of our Messiah Yeshua, the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life and set on fire by hell itself. The tongue is indeed a restless evil and full of deadly poison and therefore, when we begin to talk about making a vow before Yehovah our Father in heaven we need to understand a little bit about the human heart and the human tongue. (scrn 1)

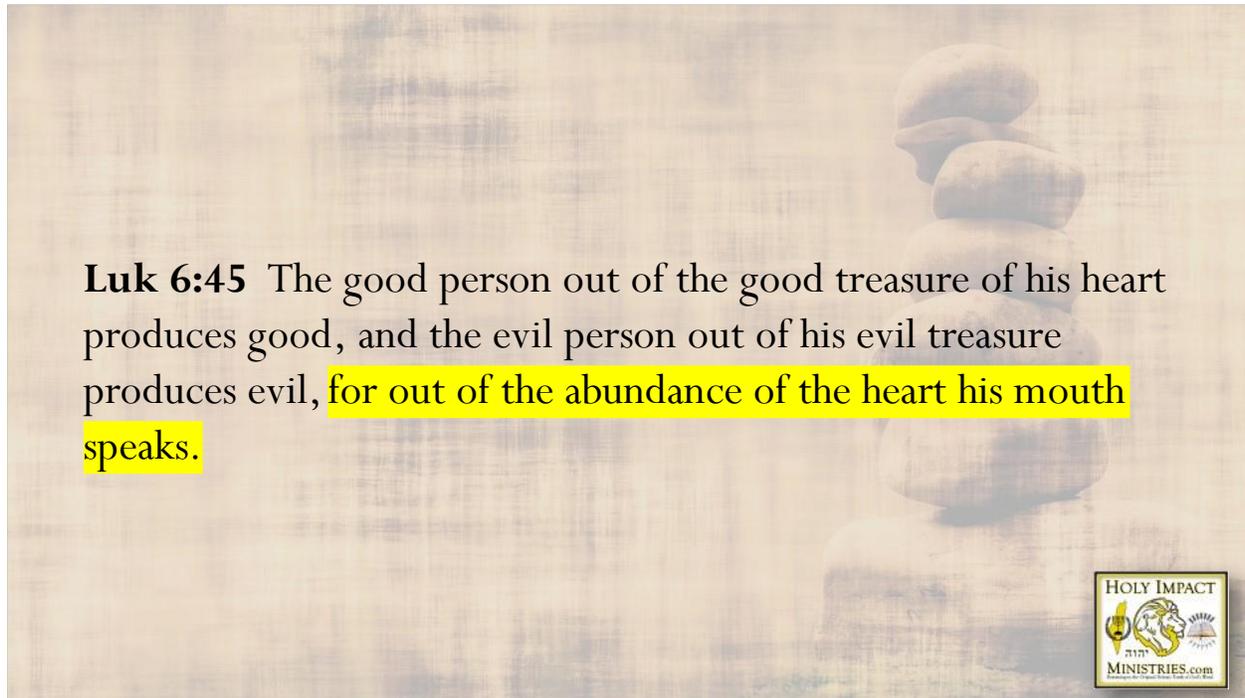
**Mat 15:18** But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.

**Mat 15:19** For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.



And so, according to our Messiah what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart and this is what defiles a person. Just as the prophet Jeremiah tells us in the Old Testament, the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked who can know it? And this is exactly

what our Messiah is telling us here in the book of Matthew. What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart of a man. And it is from the heart of a man that come evil thoughts and murder and adultery and sexual immorality and theft and false witness and slander. Here's what the apostle Luke tells us in **Luke chapter 6 verse 45 (scrn 2)**



All of this is monumentally important to understand when attempting to understand and conceptualize the dangers of vow making and oath taking. The dangers of vow making and oath taking can literally be devastating.

The Bible demands... not asks, not requests, not implies... but demands... that when a Christian makes a vow or takes an oath, that that Christian must fulfill that vow or that oath. If we have spoken it with our mouths and with our tongues, we are bound by it. Not says I, but says our God breathed Scripture and we're about to share that with you in just a few minutes but before we do I would like us to consider this; if we were standing before an earthly king here on this earth... would we make a promise to a king and then go back on that promise?

What do you think would happen if you stood before the king of Saudi Arabia and made a vow and then broke that vow to the king of Saudi Arabia? How long do you think you would live?

And if we wouldn't do that before an earthly king... then why in the world would we think it would be okay to do it before the creator of heavens and earth who is far and high above any earthly king? Listen closely to what is written in **Ecclesiastes chapter 5 verses one through seven E3**

### Fear God

**Ecc 5:1** Guard your steps when you go to the house of God. To draw near to listen is better than to offer the sacrifice of fools, for they do not know that they are doing evil.

**Ecc 5:2** Be not rash with your mouth, nor let your heart be hasty to utter a word before God, for God is in heaven and you are on earth. Therefore let your words be few.

**Ecc 5:3** For a dream comes with much business, and a fool's voice with many words.

**Ecc 5:4** When you vow a vow to God, do not delay paying it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you vow.

**Ecc 5:5** It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay.

**Ecc 5:6** Let not your mouth lead you into sin, and do not say before the messenger that it was a mistake. Why should God be angry at your voice and destroy the work of your hands?

**Ecc 5:7** For when dreams increase and words grow many, there is vanity; but God is the one you must fear.

King Soloman who was the author of the book of Ecclesiastes was said to be one of the wisest men on earth. And according to King Soloman when you vow a vow to God you are not to delay in paying it. And King Solomon warns us not to let our mouths lead us into sin. And where did King Solomon get this concept from? Once again, he got it from the Torah back in **Deuteronomy chapter 23 verses 21 through 23 (scrn 3)**

**Deu 23:21** “If you make a vow to the LORD your God, you shall not delay fulfilling it, for the LORD your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin.

**Deu 23:22** But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin.

**Deu 23:23** You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the LORD your God what you have promised with your mouth.



Once again, if you make a vow to Yehovah your God, you shall not delay in fulfilling that vow because Yehovah your Elohim will indeed require it of you and if you do not fulfill that vow, you will indeed be guilty of sin. And what is the biblical definition of sin? (**scrn 4**)

**1Jn 3:4** Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.



According to John in the New Testament the biblical definition of “sin” is the transgression of the law and this is exactly why our Father in heaven tells us that if we break a vow to him we will be guilty of “sin”... we will be guilty of transgressing his law, his spoken word, his Torah. And so what we see here is that once again, nothing has changed in the New Testament. And this is exactly why our Messiah commands us not to even take a vow or an oath in the first place. E4

### Oaths

Mat 5:33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’

Mat 5:34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God,

Mat 5:35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King.

Mat 5:36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black.

Mat 5:37 Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

Think about it for just a moment, what is our Messiah saying when he says and I quote, “Let what you say simply be yes or no anything more than this comes from evil”?

He tells us this so that we will not fall into the trap of making a vow or an oath that we cannot or will not wind up keeping. Once again, making vows and taking oaths can be extremely dangerous. And the bottom line is, that there really is no reason to make a vow or to make an oath in most cases. If we as Christians walk as true God-fearing, Messiah following, cross bearing Christians... then a simple “yes” or a simple “no” should suffice. If we say that we are going to do something, we should consider ourselves bound to doing that something to the very best of our ability. And anything more than a simple yes or a simple no according to our Messiah, comes from evil.

In order to get a better idea and the better understanding of how a vow or an oath can become dangerous... I'd like us to turn to the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book of Judges where we will find a man by the name of Jephthah who had become the leader of Israel and had gone to war against the Ammonites and actually conquered the Ammonites. But before Jephthah went to war with the Ammonites Jephthah had made a vow to Yehovah the Elohim of Israel. And I would like for us to see how this worked out for Jephthah. Let's turn to **Judges chapter 11 verses 29 through 40 E5**

### **Jephthah's Tragic Vow**

**Jdg 11:29** Then the Spirit of the LORD was upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh and passed on to Mizpah of Gilead, and from Mizpah of Gilead he passed on to the Ammonites.

**Jdg 11:30** And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD and said, "If you will give the Ammonites into my hand,

**Jdg 11:31** then whatever comes out from the doors of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Ammonites shall be the LORD's, and I will offer it up for a burnt offering."

**Jdg 11:32** So Jephthah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them, and the LORD gave them into his hand.

**Jdg 11:33** And he struck them from Aroer to the neighborhood of Minnith, twenty cities, and as far as Abel-keramim, with a great blow. So the Ammonites were subdued before the people of Israel.

**Jdg 11:34** Then Jephthah came to his home at Mizpah. And behold, his daughter came out to meet him with tambourines and with dances. She was his only child; besides her he had neither son nor daughter.

**Jdg 11:35** And as soon as he saw her, he tore his clothes and said, "Alas, my daughter! You have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me. For I have opened my mouth to the LORD, and I cannot take back my vow."

**Jdg 11:36** And she said to him, "My father, you have opened your mouth to the LORD; do to me according to what has gone out of your mouth, now that the LORD has avenged you on your enemies, on the Ammonites."

**Jdg 11:37** So she said to her father, "Let this thing be done for me: leave me alone two months, that I may go up and down on the mountains and weep for my virginity, I and my companions."

**Jdg 11:38** So he said, "Go." Then he sent her away for two months, and she departed, she and her companions, and wept for her virginity on the mountains.

Jdg 11:39 And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow that he had made. She had never known a man, and it became a custom in Israel

Jdg 11:40 that the daughters of Israel went year by year to lament the daughter of Jephthah the Gileadite four days in the year.

In verse 30, Jephthah makes a vow to Yehovah that whatever comes out from the doors of his house to meet him when he returned in peace from the Ammonites would be Yehovah's and that he would offer it up for a burnt offering. And in verse 34, we see Jephthah's only daughter, his only child coming out the door to meet him with tambourines and with dances.

Can you imagine?

His only daughter, his only child, coming out to meet him with tambourines and dances. If this doesn't put a lump in your throat, then you obviously do not have children.

But what is truly eye-opening here is what we see in verse 35 when Jephthah says and I quote, "for I have opened my mouth to Yehovah, and I cannot take back my vow."

You see for Jephthah there was no escape. For Jephthah there was no turning back. Jephthah had opened his mouth to Yehovah. And because Jephthah did fear Yehovah Jephthah knew full well without a doubt that Yehovah would indeed hold him accountable. Jephthah knew full well what was written in the Torah concerning vow making. And Jephthah was about to learn a lesson that would not only teach Jephthah... but would also teach many generations after Jephthah about the dangers of vow making. And hopefully the lessons of Jephthah have taught us all a lesson here this evening.

And so, there should be no doubt in our minds as true God-fearing, Messiah following, cross bearing Christians that making vows and taking oaths is very rarely a good idea. Let your yes be yes and your no

be no and anything more than this should indeed be seen as evil just as our Messiah tells us in the fifth chapter of Matthew.

Keeping all of this in mind, this throws a whole new light on Numbers chapter 30 does it not? **E1 show**

**Num 30:2** If a man vows a vow to the LORD, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

What are we told in Numbers chapter 30 verse two? “If a man vows a vow to Yehovah or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.”

Today in our time we often times think nothing of making a vow or taking an oath. If we break a vow or if we break an oath today, we often times think that there will be no consequences for doing such things and not fulfilling them. But I tell you the truth... there are consequences for what we say and what we do. Consider what our Messiah tells us in **Matthew chapter 12 verses 35 through 37 (scrn 5)**

**Mat 12:35** The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

**Mat 12:36** I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak,

**Mat 12:37** for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”



Let there be no mistake about it, the making of vows the taking of oaths is no small matter when it comes to our very salvation. When it comes to the mercy and the grace of the creator of the heavens and the earth making a vow or taking an oath is an extremely serious matter. And for those of you misguided professing Christians who still believe that you are once saved always saved and cannot lose your salvation... I would highly encourage you to go read Hebrews chapter 6 and Hebrews chapter 10, and Romans chapter 11, and second Peter chapter 22 along with the book of Revelation and the rest of your Bible before purchasing the snake oil that some huckster standing behind a denominational pulpit is attempting to sell you. And you might also throw in Proverbs chapter 26 verse 11 just for good measure.

You see, during the days of Moses and the prophets there was indeed a true sense of fear when it came to Yehovah the one true Elohim of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. But today, I would submit to you that the fear of God has dwindled greatly within the so-called... “church”.

It is written that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. And I

would submit to you that the wisdom of the church today has also greatly dwindled. And the dwindling of both wisdom and the fear of God will both be directly related to the downfall of today's modern day so-called... "Church".

If you would not make a vow or pledge an oath to an earthly king and then go back on that vow or that oath, then why in the world would you make a vow or pledge an oath to the creator of the heavens and the earth and not fulfill it. And yes, by the way, this does indeed include marriage vows as well. Just food for thought.

Which leads us very nicely into the differences between the vows of a man and the vows of a woman.

Believe it or not the Bible does lay out before us a hierarchy if you will, a chain of command that has been handed down from on high. And we can find that hierarchy, that chain of command in the New Testament.

**(scrn 6)**

**1Co 11:3** But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God.

**Gen 3:16** To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."



It is written, that the head of every man is the Messiah Yeshua and that the head of a wife is her husband and that the head of our Messiah is God the Father. And I am well aware of the fact that the so-called “church” today also does not recognize this hierarchy.

The so-called “church” today and her spiritual fathers that she calls pastors and priests are often times inserted in-between the man and the woman and even in-between the man and the women and our Messiah and his Father.

Being a pastor, I have counseled several couples who have been told by their previous denominational pastors that their denominational pastors have dominion over them and over their marriages. I can assure you my friends, nothing could be farther from the truth. It is written, what God has joined together let no man separate. But this once again is not what the so-called “church” today often times teaches those who willfully and intentionally follow them.

However, we can clearly see even back in the third chapter of the book of Genesis when God was doling out the punishment to the man and to the woman and to the serpent, Yehovah God clearly told the woman that her husband would indeed rule over her because of what she had done in the garden. Here’s how the apostle Paul puts it in **first Timothy chapter 2 verses 12 through 15 (scrn 7)**

**1Ti 2:12** I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet.

**1Ti 2:13** For Adam was formed first, then Eve;

**1Ti 2:14** and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

**1Ti 2:15** Yet she will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with selfcontrol.



Once again, this hierarchy, this chain of command is commanded by God for a very specific reason. It was indeed Eve who was tempted in the garden. And it was indeed Eve who transgressed first. And it was indeed Eve who gave of the forbidden fruit to her husband.

Keeping all of this in mind, Adam did also eat thereby transgressing the spoken word of God as well, but... the apostle Paul is absolutely correct when he asserts that it was indeed the woman who was originally deceived, and it was indeed the woman who then in turn originally deceived her husband.

Yehovah God himself being the head, and then his only begotten Son, and then the man, and then the woman is a hierarchy, a chain of command, that has been handed down from the very beginning of mankind. And no matter how man wants to change that originally ordained hierarchy, that ordained chain of command... no man will ever be able to break it. It has stood from the beginning of mankind, and it still stands to this very day, and it will stand until we pass on from this life on into the next where our Messiah tells us that we will at that time

no longer be given in marriage. Which is a whole other study that we don't have time for this evening.

But as for now, the head of the woman is indeed her husband like it or not. And this is why there is a difference between the vow of a man and the vow of a woman. The vow of a woman can be overridden by either her earthly father, or her earthly husband. And I know that this causes a lot of anxiety and a lot of animosity in the minds of many liberal thinking women today in our time. But... what we must understand is that the spoken word of God does not return to him empty. Once Yehovah God speaks something it becomes universal law. You either obey, or you do not belong to him. Once again, it comes down to "obedience". We can choose our own vanity... or we can choose his spoken word. The choice is ours to make.

And for those of you ladies out there who think that it's all roses for the man... I want you to think again. Because the man will be judged more strictly than the woman especially if he does override a vow made to Yehovah. If a woman loves Yehovah enough to make a vow to him and the man then comes along and breaks that vow for no good reason, do not think that Yehovah will not question the man's judgment. It is written, to whom much is given much is required. And if you have been given a measure of authority, you'd better believe that you will indeed be judged according to how you wielded that authority.

And so, the man and the woman are really not above and below one another as much as we might think at first glance. Both the man and the woman will be held accountable on Judgment Day. And both the man and the woman will be either blessed or condemned by the authority that each one of them has been given and how they have wielded that authority.

There is certainly no shame in being a woman. Without woman, there would be no man. Without the egg the seed lies dormant and cannot produce life. It was always from the very beginning God's plan for the

man and the woman to work together as one. It was always from the beginning God's plan for the man and the woman to become one flesh. It was always from the very beginning God's plan for both the man and the woman to be fruitful and to multiply in peace and tranquility loving one another as Yehovah loves them. And this hierarchy, this chain of command handed down by Yehovah was never meant to take away from that. But when sin is introduced into the equation, justice must prevail.

With sin comes consequence. With transgression comes penalty. When vanity rears its ugly head, that person must be made humble before God. The punishment of the man and the woman and the serpent in the garden of Eden reflect the justice of a just God. And it is a just God that we serve. And because our Elohim must be a just Elohim... he must serve justice upon the lawless.

Now we might not always like how he serves justice. But we can rest assured that justice will be served. And it is because justice will be served, that his children will indeed one day live in peace and security.

I know that we love to live in a world where there are no rules. And I know that the world loves to do as thou wilt. But I tell you the truth my friends. There must be rules. There must be regulations. There must be the spoken word of God. Because without it, man has already proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that he cannot rule himself.

And it will not be until the spoken word of God is written across the hearts and the minds of men that man will finally be able to live in peace and security loving and serving the Father of all humanity who is Yehovah the one true Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

But I would also like to make mention of the fact that the man was given the authority to override the vow of his wife or his daughter not in order to begrudge his wife or his daughter... but to protect his wife or his daughter.

This authority to override the vow or the oath of a wife or a daughter that was living under the roof of the man was not given to the man to use as a punishment or some kind of retribution against her. This authority was given to the man in order that the man would use wisdom and the authority given to him to guide the family in the ways of Yehovah and not in the ways of the world. And therefore, the man should not be thinking “Aha I have the upper hand!”. What the man should be thinking is “Yehovah please help me make the right decision”. Because the man’s neck is indeed on the line when it comes to the decisions that he will ultimately make because of the authority that has been placed upon his head.

And so, once again all of this was created in order to bind the man and the woman together so that together they would serve the one true Elohim of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob without conflict and in peace and security.

If Yehovah had not left either the man or the woman with authority over the family, then chaos would have been left to run rampant throughout the family. But as it is, because there is leadership that has been laid out by Yehovah, there should be no way for chaos to arise within the family if...if... the family is being obedient to the commandment of Yehovah. Once again, being obedient to Yehovah is being obedient to the hierarchy, the chain of command of Yehovah.

If my wife and I disagree about something. I as the man do not have the right to do as I please. If my wife and I disagree about something and I am wrong, and she is right... then I as the man am obligated to do what is right. And vice versa. If my wife and I disagree about something and I am right and she is wrong, then she as the woman is obligated to do what is right.

And so, you see, it’s not about power. It’s about doing what’s right. It’s not about vanity, it’s not about forcing someone to do something, it’s not about getting our own way, it’s about both the man and the woman

doing... what... is... right. And this is the reason why the man was given this authority. And if the man wields this authority in an evil way, he will indeed be judged much more strictly because he misused the authority that was entrusted to him.

And so, I hope that this helps to explain why there are differences between the vows of a man and the vows of a woman. And I hope that this also does not drive the man and the woman apart, but rather can be used in understanding to bring the man and the woman back together where they belong. The man is not meant to be a tyrant. He is meant to be a wise, gentle, loving and humble husband who is interested in the well-being of his family whom he loves. And so, we should not allow our own human vanity to misconstrued these Scriptures and thereby cause us to stumble and fall.

Continuing on in our study this evening I would like us to now open the books to Numbers chapter 31 so that we can once again continue on in knowing exactly what our God breathed Scripture does say and just as importantly what it does not say. And so, let's begin by reading **Numbers chapter 31 verses one through 31 E8**

### **Vengeance on Midian**

**Num 31:1** The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

**Num 31:2** "Avenge the people of Israel on the Midianites. Afterward you shall be gathered to your people."

**Num 31:3** So Moses spoke to the people, saying, "Arm men from among you for the war, that they may go against Midian to execute the LORD's vengeance on Midian."

**Num 31:4** You shall send a thousand from each of the tribes of Israel to the war."

**Num 31:5** So there were provided, out of the thousands of Israel, a thousand from each tribe, twelve thousand armed for war.

**Num 31:6** And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand from each tribe, together with Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, with the vessels of the sanctuary and the trumpets for the alarm in his hand.

**Num 31:7** They warred against Midian, as the LORD commanded Moses,

and killed every male.

Num 31:8 They killed the kings of Midian with the rest of their slain, Evi, Rekem, Zur, Hur, and Reba, the five kings of Midian. And they also killed Balaam the son of Beor with the sword.

Num 31:9 And the people of Israel took captive the women of Midian and their little ones, and they took as plunder all their cattle, their flocks, and all their goods.

Num 31:10 All their cities in the places where they lived, and all their encampments, they burned with fire,

Num 31:11 and took all the spoil and all the plunder, both of man and of beast.

Num 31:12 Then they brought the captives and the plunder and the spoil to Moses, and to Eleazar the priest, and to the congregation of the people of Israel, at the camp on the plains of Moab by the Jordan at Jericho.

Num 31:13 Moses and Eleazar the priest and all the chiefs of the congregation went to meet them outside the camp.

Num 31:14 And Moses was angry with the officers of the army, the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds, who had come from service in the war.

Num 31:15 Moses said to them, "Have you let all the women live?

Num 31:16 Behold, these, on Balaam's advice, caused the people of Israel to act treacherously against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and so the plague came among the congregation of the LORD.

Num 31:17 Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, and kill every woman who has known man by lying with him.

Num 31:18 But all the young girls who have not known man by lying with him keep alive for yourselves.

Num 31:19 Encamp outside the camp seven days. Whoever of you has killed any person and whoever has touched any slain, purify yourselves and your captives on the third day and on the seventh day.

Num 31:20 You shall purify every garment, every article of skin, all work of goats' hair, and every article of wood."

Num 31:21 Then Eleazar the priest said to the men in the army who had gone to battle: "This is the statute of the law that the LORD has commanded Moses:

Num 31:22 only the gold, the silver, the bronze, the iron, the tin, and the lead,

Num 31:23 everything that can stand the fire, you shall pass through the fire, and it shall be clean. Nevertheless, it shall also be purified with the water for impurity. And whatever cannot stand the fire, you shall pass through the water.

Num 31:24 You must wash your clothes on the seventh day, and you shall be clean. And afterward you may come into the camp.”

Num 31:25 The LORD said to Moses,

Num 31:26 “Take the count of the plunder that was taken, both of man and of beast, you and Eleazar the priest and the heads of the fathers' houses of the congregation,

Num 31:27 and divide the plunder into two parts between the warriors who went out to battle and all the congregation.

Num 31:28 And levy for the LORD a tribute from the men of war who went out to battle, one out of five hundred, of the people and of the oxen and of the donkeys and of the flocks.

Num 31:29 Take it from their half and give it to Eleazar the priest as a contribution to the LORD.

Num 31:30 And from the people of Israel's half you shall take one drawn out of every fifty, of the people, of the oxen, of the donkeys, and of the flocks, of all the cattle, and give them to the Levites who keep guard over the tabernacle of the LORD.”

Num 31:31 And Moses and Eleazar the priest did as the LORD commanded Moses.

The Midianites were a group of nomadic tribes who inhabited the deserts on the fringes of Canaan. They were also associated with the Ishmaelites, the Amalekites and the Moabites. And once again we must remember that it was these Midianites that had seduced the Israelites into worshipping the pagan God Baal of Peor. And it was for this reason that this military campaign is launched against them here in Numbers chapter 31.

We must remember that according to Yehovah and his Torah, there was indeed a very stiff penalty for anyone who tried to lead an Israelite astray and into the worship of another pagan God. And the house of Israel had already been commanded to destroy any city that attempted to lead them astray from the one true Elohim of Abraham Isaac and Jacob. Let's go back and read this commandment found in **Deuteronomy chapter 13 E9**

Deu 13:1 “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder,

Deu 13:2 and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,'

Deu 13:3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deu 13:4 You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

**Deu 13:5** But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall purge the evil from your midst.

Deu 13:6 "If your brother, the son of your mother, or your son or your daughter or the wife you embrace or your friend who is as your own soul entices you secretly, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which neither you nor your fathers have known,

Deu 13:7 some of the gods of the peoples who are around you, whether near you or far off from you, from the one end of the earth to the other,

Deu 13:8 you shall not yield to him or listen to him, nor shall your eye pity him, nor shall you spare him, nor shall you conceal him.

Deu 13:9 But you shall kill him. Your hand shall be first against him to put him to death, and afterward the hand of all the people.

Deu 13:10 You shall stone him to death with stones, because he sought to draw you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Deu 13:11 And all Israel shall hear and fear and never again do any such wickedness as this among you.

Deu 13:12 "If you hear in one of your cities, which the LORD your God is giving you to dwell there,

Deu 13:13 that certain worthless fellows have gone out among you and have drawn away the inhabitants of their city, saying, 'Let us go and serve other gods,' which you have not known,

Deu 13:14 then you shall inquire and make search and ask diligently. And behold, if it be true and certain that such an abomination has been done among you,

Deu 13:15 you shall surely put the inhabitants of that city to the sword, devoting it to destruction, all who are in it and its cattle, with the edge of the sword.

Deu 13:16 You shall gather all its spoil into the midst of its open square and

burn the city and all its spoil with fire, as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God. It shall be a heap forever. It shall not be built again.

Deu 13:17 None of the devoted things shall stick to your hand, that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger and show you mercy and have compassion on you and multiply you, as he swore to your fathers,

Deu 13:18 if you obey the voice of the LORD your God, keeping all his commandments that I am commanding you today, and doing what is right in the sight of the LORD your God.

Clearly Deuteronomy chapter 13 is all about keeping the house of Israel sanitized and away from other pagan gods. Whether it was an individual or a nation that was attempting to lead the house of Israel astray, that individual or that nation was to be devoted to destruction. And this was no small matter. And I want us to notice in verse 15 that Yehovah commands the house of Israel to put the inhabitants of that city to the sword devoting it to destruction all who are in it including its cattle. In other words, nothing is to be left alive. This is how important it is to our Father in heaven that we keep ourselves completely clean and sanitized of other pagan gods and the pagan worship of them.

Keeping this in mind, I would like us to consider the festivals and the man-made traditions that the so-called church today not only indulges in, but teaches others to also indulge in.

What about the man-made pagan Omni potent and omnipresent immortal Santa clauses and the divination of flying reindeer and magical Krampus elves, the infamous Evergreen tree that we force our children to bow down to in order to receive their gifts, Easter rabbits that lay colored eggs and cupids on Valentine's Day and we won't even get into Halloween and all saint's day which is nothing more than a Roman Catholic created Festival that teaches its wayward parishioners to pray to the dead.

My friends, if we think that our Father in heaven is not going to bring justice to the world we better think again. If we think that our Father in heaven is going to allow this to continue on forever, we are in for a rude

awakening.

The Elohim that we serve is a just Elohim. He has already made clear his intentions, and he has already made clear his commandments, and he has already made clear the penalty for breaking his commandments. And if we think that we can return like a dog to its vomit or like a pig to its mire after receiving the gift of the spirit of Yehovah given to us by his only begotten Son who laid his life down in order to be our Passover Lamb.... then we need to go back and read his God breathed Scripture again.

I tell you the truth, the great and terrible day of Yehovah is called the great and terrible day of Yehovah for a reason. There will be weeping and there will be gnashing of teeth. There will be blood is high as a horse's bridle. And the birds of the air will indeed feast upon the flesh of kings and queens and presidents and prime ministers. The return of our Messiah is coming and so too are the armies of heaven that follow with him upon white horses to wage war against the ungodly and the lawless.

That day is coming. And all of these people who have enticed Yehovah God's people to follow after other pagan gods are indeed going to be thrown into the winepress of the wrath of God at the return of our Messiah.

Make no mistake about it. What we read here in these God breathed Scripture is truth. And this truth is the rock that we can build our houses upon if... if we accept the rock that is the spoken word of God himself. It is our duty to endure to the end. It is our duty to conquer over the evil of this world. Because we have made the willful and intentional commitment to pick up our crosses and to follow him and to walk as he walked and to do as he did, we need to be prepared to go even to our death for him just as he went to his death for us.

My fear is, that we are all too ready to say that we will be obedient, we are all too ready to say that we love him, we are all too ready to boast

about how much we love him, but when the rubber meets the road and our material things are taken from us and our names are slandered, and our comforts are removed... will we still have the tenacity of the lion of Judah within our souls to stand? Will we still have the ability to endure? Will we still... being poor wretched and naked have the ability to stand firm even unto death just as our Messiah and the prophets all stood even unto death?

I would submit to you my friends that the so-called "church" is not preparing its people for what is to come. All they want to teach and to preach is peace and safety, peace and safety. But I would submit to you that anything but peace and safety is coming upon the world. Peace and safety will ultimately come in the end, but it will not come first... but last. My advice as a pastor, as a man of God, as one who knows... is to prepare. Please... prepare your heart and your mind and the hearts and the minds of your children and your children's children while there's still time.

Keeping all of this in mind, I would like to once again thank everybody for joining us for this evening's Bible study and I would like to encourage you to go back and to reread through the Scriptures and to consider what you have heard here this evening. Pray about these things, ponder these things, meditate on these things, renew your mind daily, and above all... please, please... take what you have heard here this evening to your own prayer closet and bow your head and bend your knee and face the holy promised land of Jerusalem and ask in the name of Yeshua Hamashiach if what you have heard here this evening be true or not.

Ask, seek, and knock on his door and on his door alone and the proper door will be opened to you. And if you will do that, and if you will stay the course to the end, you and I will surely walk to the gates of his soon coming kingdom together.