

Midrash *Matot* (“Tribes”)
Numbers 30:2(1) – 32:42

Vows

Numbers 30:2-16

Vow נִדָּר *neder*

Prohibit something that Torah allows, or
Obligate to do something in addition to Torah or to something that is optional
Solemn promise to consecrate something to God or do something to His service

Oath שְׁבֻעָה *sh'vuah* “complete” or “full” (from word for “seven”)

Implying that a person making an oath is “incomplete”

2 Examples of Vows: Jacob (Genesis 28:20-22) & **Hannah** (I Samuel 1:9-11)

Both are in a crisis:

Jacob is fleeing Esau
Hannah desperately wants a son

God is the only one to hear the vow:

Jacob was alone
Hannah spoke it in her heart

An Example of an Unwise Vow: Jephthah's Vow

Judges 11

“...he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.”

verse 2

“break his word” = “profane his word
Ignore what he has said
Regard his statement flippantly

A woman's vow can be renounced by:

Her father, if she is a minor & residing under her father's roof.

Her husband

If he immediately disavows it
If he doesn't immediately disavow, then it stands

If she is widowed or divorced, then it stands

If a woman's husband does not disavow it, then both are responsible

Defeat of the Midianites

Numbers 31:1-12

This battle is in retaliation for *Midian's* role with *Balaam* at *Ba'al Peor*

Midian is a huge territory with a huge military

To show God's Power, Israel sends an army of only 12,000 men

Deuteronomy 20:2-4

Lead by Phineas ... with the Ark of the Covenant!

This approach has not always worked out well for Israel!

I Samuel 4:1-11

They are victorious and defeat them without losing a single man!

All the soldiers + 5 kings are killed

Balaam is also killed

verse 8

They took captive the women & children – **BIG PROBLEM!**

These are the very women that seduced Israel at *Ba'al Peor*

They were Israel's weakness and were used to destroy Israel

Destroy them before they destroy you!

Matthew 5:27-30

Purification After the Battle

Numbers 31:13-24

Moses was very angry that the women were spared

All were killed except the virgins & female children

Those who did the killing or touched a dead body:
 Must be cleansed thru Purification with the ashes of the Red Heifer:
 Outside the camp for 7 days
 Purified on 3rd & 7th days
 Wash themselves & clothes after 7 days

All gold, silver & precious metals purified by fire & water of purification

Division of the Spoils

Numbers 31:25-54

All the spoils of the *Midianites* were divided:

<u>Spoils</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>50% to Soldiers</u>	<u>Deduct for God</u>	<u>50% to Camp</u>	<u>Deduct for Levites</u>
Sheep	675,000	337,500	675	337,500	6,750
Cattle	72,000	36,000	72	36,000	720
Donkeys	61,000	30,500	61	30,500	610
Persons	32,000	16,000	32	16,000	320

The Formula: 50% to the warriors & 50% to the people
 David adopted this same formula

I Samuel 30:24-25

The Tribes to Possess Gilead

Numbers 32:1-42

Complete conquest of the land east of the Jordan:

Land of *Jazer*

Between the wadis *Arnon & Jabbock*

Land of Gilead:

Between the wadis *Jabbock & Yarmuk*

Land of Bashan:

North of the *Yarmuk*

Tribes of Reuben & Gad ask Moses to allow them to settle east of the Jordan

Eventually given to them + "half" tribe of *Mannaseh*

Specifically *Machir & Gilead*

Area became known as *Gilead*

Covered with forests, orchards & vineyards

"Shall your brethren go to war while you sit here? Now why will you discourage the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land which the Lord has given them?"

verses 6 & 7

Moses feared a repeat of the results of the 10 spies' evil report

All those he spoke to were either not yet born or were very young then

These 2+ Tribes respond to Moses:

Allow us to build pens for the animals & to fortify the cities for our families

Then we will lead the armies to fight

...for the full duration of the conquest of the Land (7 years)

Before he agreed, Moses reminded them of the sanctity of their vow!

If they break their vow: "...be sure your sin will find you out."

But they kept their vow

Joshua 22:1-3

So Moses gave them the lands of:

Sihon King of the Amorites, and

Og, King of Bashan

Haftarah:

Jeremiah 1:1 – 2:3

God's Vow to Jeremiah

Brit Chadashah:

Matthew 5:33-37

Yeshua's Instructions Concerning Vows