

Chapter 30

Voluntarie vowes or oathes of men; 14. of maides in their fathers houfes, 7. or newly married; 10. of widowes, or wiues diuorced, 11. and of wiues in their husbands houfes: and how they bind, or are made frustrate.

And Moyſes told the children of Ifrael al thinges that our Lord had commanded him: ² and he fpake to the princes of the tribes of the children of Ifrael: This is the word that our Lord hath commanded: ³ If any man ^a)make a vowe to our Lord, or binde him ſelf by an oath: he ſhal not make his word frustrate, but al that he promiſed he ſhal fulfil. ⁴ If a woman vowe any thing, and binde her ſelf with an oath, ſhe that is in her fathers houſe, and as yet in maydens age: if her father know the vowe that ſhe promiſed, and the oath wherwith ſhe bound her ſoule, and hold his peace, ſhe ſhal be bound to the vowe: ⁵ Whatſoeuer ſhe promiſed and ſware, ſhe ſhal fulfil in deede. ⁶ But if immediatly as he heareth it, her father do gaine ſay it, both her vowes and her othes ^d)ſhal be frustrate, neither ſhal ſhe be bound to the promiſſe, for that her father hath gaineſaid it. ⁷ If ſhe haue a husband, and vowe any thing, and the word once going out of her mouth binde her ſoule by an oath: ⁸ the day that her husband heareth it, and doth not gaine ſay it, ſhe ſhal be bound to the vowe, and ſhal render whatſoeuer ſhe promiſed. ⁹ But if as fowne as he heareth he gaine ſay it, and make her promiſes frustrate, and the wordes wherwith ſhe had bound her ſoule: our Lord wil be ^b)propitious to her. ¹⁰ The widowe, and ſhe that is deuorced whatſoeuer they vowe, they ſhal render. ¹¹ The wife in the houſe of her husband, when ſhe hath bound her ſelf by vowe and by oath, ¹² if her husband heare, and hold his peace, neither doe gayneſay the promiſſe, ſhe ſhal render whatſoeuer

^a He that voweth abſtinenſe from a thing lawful, maketh it vnlawful to him ſelfe by his vow. *S. Aug. q. 56. in Num.*

^b In this caſe God wil not impute it to her for a ſine. *S. Aug. q. 58.*

she had promiffed. ¹³ But if forthwith he gaynefay it, she shal not be holden bound to the promiffe: becaufe her husband gaynefaid it, and our Lord wil be propitious to her. ¹⁴ If she vowe and binde her felfe by oath, to ^a)afflict her foule by fafting, or abftinence from other thinges, it shal be in the arbitrement of her husband, whether she shal do it, or not do it. ¹⁵ And if the husband hearing it hold his peace, and differre sentence til an other day: whatfoeuer she had vowed and promifed, she shal render: becaufe immediatly as he heard it, he held his peace, ¹⁶ but if he gaynefay it after that he knew it, ^b)him felfe shal beare her iniquitie. ¹⁷ Thefe are the lawes, which our Lord appointed to Moyfes betwen the husband and the wife, betwene the father and the daughter, that is as yet in maidens age, or that abideth in her fathers houle.

ANNOTATIONS

6 shal be frufrate.) Vowes, which fathers and hufbandes coulde frufrate in their daughters and wiues, muft needes be ment of thinges not commanded by God. For it was not in their powre to difpence in Gods precepts. As for example, touching the feaft of Expiation, it was not *in the arbitrement* of fathers and hufbandes (as here it was *v. 14.*) whether their daughters and wiues fhould faft or no: but was abfolutely faied: (*Leuit. 23. v. 29.*) *Euerie foule that is not afflicted* (that is, which fafteth not) *this day, shal perish out of his people.* And fo in other precepts were neceffarie obligations. Befides which it is grateful alfo to God, that his feruantes bind them felues to other good workes, wherto they are not otherwife bound.

Vowes of things
not commanded.

*S. Aug. q. 57. in
Num.*

^a By afflicting of the foule is here vnderftood, refraining fenfual delectation. *S. Aug. q. 57. in Num.*

^b The hufbād reuoking his confent, once geuen by word, or by filence to his wiues vow, finned, but the wife was bound to obey him, and fo was excufed.