

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 fruftrate.

And Moyfes told the children of Ifrael al things 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 felf by an oath: he shal not make his word fruftrate, but al that he promifed he shal fulfil. ⁴ If a woman vowe any thing, and binde her felf with an oath, fhe that is in her fathers houfe, and as yet in maydens age: if her father know the vowe that she promifed, and the oath wherwith she bound her foule, and hold his peace, fhe shal be bound to the vowe: ⁵ Whatfoeuer she promifed and fware, she shal fulfil in deede. ⁶ But if immediatly as he heareth it, her father do gaine fay it, both her vowes and her othes ^dshal be fruftrate, neither shal she be bound to the promiffe, for that her father hath gaine said it. ⁷ If she haue a husband, and vowe any thing, and the word once going out of her mouth binde her foule by an oath: ⁸ the day that her husband heareth it, and doth not gaine fay it, she shal be bound to the vowe, and shal render whatfoeuer she promifed. ⁹ But if as fowne as he heareth he gaine fay it, and make her promifes fruftrate, and the wordes wherwith she had bound her foule: our Lord wil be ^{b)}propitious to her. ¹⁰ The widowe, and she that is deuorced whatfoeuer they vowe, they shal render. ¹¹ The wife in the houfe of her husband, when she hath bound her felf by vowe and by oath, ¹² if her husband heare, and hold his peace, neither doe gaynefay the promiffe, she shal render whatfoeuer

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

^b In this cafe 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 promiffed, 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 between the husband and the wife, betwene the father and the daughter, that is as yet in maidens age, or that abideth in her fathers houfe.

ANNOTATIONS

6 shal be fruftrate.) Vowes, which fathers and hufbandes coulde fruftrate 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.