

How many vows have you made to Jehovah? One, two, or more? Do you feel that you are living up to them to the best of your ability? What about your dedication vow or your marriage vow? This article reminds us of the excellent examples that Jephthah and Hannah set for us as we faithfully strive to fulfill our vows to God.

(Matthew 5:33) “Again you heard that it was said to those of ancient times: ‘You must not swear without performing, but you must pay your vows to Jehovah.’

Paragraph 2

(Genesis 14:22, 23) But A'bram said to the king of Sod'om: “I raise my hand in an oath to Jehovah the Most High God, Maker of heaven and earth,²³ that I will not take anything that is yours, from a thread to a sandal lace, so that you may not say, ‘I made A'bram rich.’

(Hebrews 6:16, 17) For men swear by someone greater, and their oath is the end of every dispute, since it is a legal guarantee to them.¹⁷ In this same way, when God decided to demonstrate more clearly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath,

Paragraph 3

(Numbers 30:2) If a man makes a vow to Jehovah or swears an oath to impose on himself a vow of abstinence, he must not violate his word. He should do everything he vowed he would do.

(Ecclesiastes 5:4) Whenever you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it, for he finds no pleasure in the stupid ones. What you vow, pay.

(Matthew 5:33) “Again you heard that it was said to those of ancient times: ‘You must not swear without performing, but you must pay your vows to Jehovah.’

Paragraph 4

(Psalm 24:3, 4) Who may ascend to the mountain of Jehovah, And who may stand up in his holy place? ⁴ Anyone with innocent hands and a pure heart, Who has not sworn a false oath by My life, Nor taken an oath deceitfully.

Paragraph 5

(Judges 10:7-9) Then Jehovah's anger blazed against Israel, and he sold them into the hands of the Phi-lis'tines and the Am'mon-ites.⁸ So they crushed and greatly oppressed the Israelites in that year—for 18 years they oppressed all the Israelites on the side of the Jordan that had been the land of the Am'or-ites in Gil'e-ad.⁹ The Am'mon-ites would also cross the Jordan to fight against Judah and Benjamin and the house of E'phra-im; and Israel was greatly distressed.

(Judges 11:30-34) Then Jeph'thah made a vow to Jehovah and said: “If you give the Am'mon-ites into my hand,³¹ then whoever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in peace from the Am'mon-ites will become Jehovah's, and I will offer that one up as a burnt offering.”³² So Jeph'thah went to fight against the Am'mon-ites, and Jehovah gave them into his hand.³³ He struck them down with a very great slaughter from A-ro'er all the way to Min'nith—20 cities—and as far as A'bel-ker'a-mim. Thus the Am'mon-ites were subdued before the Israelites.³⁴ Finally Jeph'thah came to his home in Miz'pah, and look! his daughter was coming out to meet him, playing the tambourine and dancing! Now she was his one and only child. Besides her, he had neither son nor daughter.

Paragraph 6

(Judges 11:35-39) When he saw her, he ripped his garments and said: “Oh no, my daughter! You have broken my heart, for you have become the one I have banished. Now I have opened my mouth to Jehovah, and I am unable to turn back.”³⁶ But she said to him: “My father, if you have opened your mouth to Jehovah, do to me

as you have promised, since Jehovah has executed vengeance for you upon your enemies, the Am'mon-ites.”³⁷ She then said to her father: “Let this be done for me: Let me be alone for two months, and let me go away into the mountains, and let me weep over my virginity with my female companions.”³⁸ At this he said: “Go!” So he sent her away for two months, and she went to the mountains with her companions to weep over her virginity.³⁹ At the end of two months, she returned to her father, after which he carried out the vow he had made regarding her. She never had relations with a man. And it became a custom in Israel:

(Deuteronomy 23:21) “If you make a vow to Jehovah your God, do not be slow about paying it. For Jehovah your God will surely require it of you; otherwise, it will be a sin on your part.

(Deuteronomy 23:23) The word of your lips you should keep, and you must carry out what your own mouth vowed as a voluntary offering to Jehovah your God.

(Psalm 15:4) He rejects anyone who is contemptible, But he honors those fearing Jehovah. He does not go back on his promise, even when it is bad for him.

Paragraph 7

(1 Samuel 1:4-7) One day when El-ka'nah offered a sacrifice, he gave portions to his wife Pe-nin'nah as well as to all her sons and her daughters,⁵ but to Han'nah he gave a special portion, because Han'nah was the one he loved; but Jehovah had not given her children.⁶ Moreover, her rival wife taunted her relentlessly in order to upset her because Jehovah had not given her children.⁷ That is what she would do year after year; whenever Han'nah went up to the house of Jehovah, her rival would taunt her so much that she would weep and not eat.

(1 Samuel 1:10) Han'nah was extremely bitter, and she began to pray to Jehovah and to weep uncontrollably.

(1 Samuel 1:16) Do not take your servant for a worthless woman, for I have been speaking until now out of my great anguish and distress.”

(1 Samuel 1:11) And she made this vow: “O Jehovah of armies, if you look upon the affliction of your servant and remember me and you do not forget your servant and give to your servant a male child, I will give him to Jehovah all the days of his life, and no razor will touch his head.”

(1 Samuel 1:20) Within a year Han'nah became pregnant and gave birth to a son and named him Samuel, because, as she said, “it is from Jehovah that I have asked him.”

- (Numbers 6:2) “Speak to the Israelites and tell them, ‘If a man or a woman takes a special vow to live as a Naz'i-rite to Jehovah,
- (Numbers 6:5) “‘All the days of the vow of his Naziriteship no razor should pass over his head. He is to remain holy by letting the hair of his head grow until the days of his being set apart to Jehovah are completed.
- (Numbers 6:8) “‘He is holy to Jehovah all the days of his Naziriteship.

Paragraph 8

(1 Samuel 1:24-28) As soon as she had weaned him, she took him up to Shi'loh, along with a three-year-old bull, one e'phah of flour, and a large jar of wine, and she came to the house of Jehovah in Shi'loh and brought the young boy with her.²⁵ Then they slaughtered the bull and brought the boy to E'li.²⁶ With that she said: “Pardon me, my lord! As surely as you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing with you in this place to pray to Jehovah.²⁷ It was for this boy that I prayed, and Jehovah granted my

petition that I asked of him. ²⁸ I, in turn, now lend him to Jehovah. For all his days, he is lent to Jehovah.” And he bowed down there to Jehovah.

(1 Samuel 2:21) Jehovah turned his attention to Han'nah, so that she could conceive; and she gave birth to three more sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel continued growing up before Jehovah.

(1 Samuel 2:1, 2) Then Han'nah said in prayer: “My heart rejoices in Jehovah; My horn is exalted by Jehovah. My mouth is opened wide against my enemies, For I rejoice in your acts of salvation. ² There is no one holy like Jehovah, There is no one but you, And there is no rock like our God.

(Psalm 61:1) Hear, O God, my cry for help. Do pay attention to my prayer.

(Psalm 61:5) For you, O God, have heard my vows. You have given me the inheritance belonging to those who fear your name.

(Psalm 61:8) Then I will sing praises to your name forever As I pay my vows day after day.

Paragraph 10

(Matthew 16:24) Then Jesus said to his disciples: “If anyone wants to come after me, let him disown himself and pick up his torture stake and keep following me.

(Romans 14:8) For if we live, we live to Jehovah, and if we die, we die to Jehovah. So both if we live and if we die, we belong to Jehovah.

(Psalm 116:12) With what will I repay Jehovah For all the good he has done for me?

(Psalm 116:14) I will pay my vows to Jehovah In the presence of all his people.

Paragraph 12

(Colossians 3:23) Whatever you are doing, work at it whole-souled as for Jehovah, and not for men,

(2 Peter 1:5-8) For this very reason, put forth all earnest effort to supply to your faith virtue, to your virtue knowledge, ⁶ to your knowledge self-control, to your self-control endurance, to your endurance godly devotion, ⁷ to your godly devotion brotherly affection, to your brotherly affection love. ⁸ For if these things exist in you and overflow, they will prevent you from being either inactive or unfruitful regarding the accurate knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paragraph 13

(Romans 14:12) So, then, each of us will render an account for himself to God.

(Revelation 2:4) Nevertheless, I hold this against you, that you have left the love you had at first.

(Revelation 2:19) ‘I know your deeds, and your love and faith and ministry and endurance, and that your deeds of late are more than those you did at first.

Paragraph 14

(Genesis 2:24) That is why a man will leave his father and his mother and he will stick to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

(1 Corinthians 7:39) A wife is bound as long as her husband is alive. But if her husband should fall asleep in death, she is free to be married to whomever she wants, only in the Lord.

(Mark 10:9) Therefore, what God has yoked together, let no man put apart.”

Paragraph 15

(1 Corinthians 7:28) But even if you did marry, you would commit no sin. And if a virgin married, such a person would commit no sin. However, those who do will have tribulation in their flesh. But I am trying to spare you.

(Leviticus 19:12) You must not swear to a lie in my name and thus profane the name of your God. I am Jehovah.

(Proverbs 6:16-19) There are six things that Jehovah hates; Yes, seven things that he detests: ¹⁷ Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart plotting wicked schemes, and feet that run quickly to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness who lies with every breath, And anyone sowing contentions among brothers.

(1 Corinthians 7:27) Are you bound to a wife? Stop seeking a release. Are you freed from a wife? Stop seeking a wife.

(Malachi 2:13-16) “And there is another thing that you do, which results in covering the altar of Jehovah with tears and with weeping and sighing, so that he no longer pays attention to your gift offering or looks favorably on anything from your hand. ¹⁴ And you say, ‘For what reason?’ It is because Jehovah has acted as a witness between you and the wife of your youth, with whom you have dealt treacherously, although she is your partner and your wife by covenant. ¹⁵ But there was one who did not do it, for he had what remained of the spirit. And what was that one seeking? The offspring of God. So guard yourselves respecting your spirit, and do not deal treacherously with the wife of your youth. ¹⁶ For I hate divorce,” says Jehovah the God of Israel, “and the one who covers his garment with violence,” says Jehovah of armies. “And guard yourselves respecting your spirit, and you must not deal treacherously.

Paragraph 16

(Matthew 19:9) I say to you that whoever divorces his wife, except on the grounds of sexual immorality, and marries another commits adultery.”

(Hebrews 13:4) Let marriage be honorable among all, and let the marriage bed be without defilement, for God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers.

(1 Corinthians 7:10, 11) To the married people I give instructions, not I but the Lord, that a wife should not separate from her husband. ¹¹ But if she does separate, let her remain unmarried or else be reconciled with her husband; and a husband should not leave his wife.

Paragraph 18

(Judges 11:40) From year to year, the young women of Israel would go to give commendation to the daughter of Jeph'thah the Gil'e-ad-ite four days in the year.

(Psalm 110:3) Your people will offer themselves willingly on the day of your military force. In splendid holiness, from the womb of the dawn, You have your company of young men just like dewdrops.

Paragraph 20

(Proverbs 20:25) It is a snare for a man to cry out rashly, “Holy!” And only later to give consideration to what he vowed.

(Ecclesiastes 5:6) Do not allow your mouth to cause you to sin, and do not say before the angel that it was a mistake. Why make the true God indignant over what you say so that he has to destroy the work of your hands?

(Psalm 61:8) Then I will sing praises to your name forever As I pay my vows day after day.