

# Promises, Promises, Promises

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Leviticus 27.

B. This book deals with human behavior, human need, God's provision and behavior based upon God's provision.

C. The section appropriately ends with God's promises.

## II. God never commands a vow.

A. God delights to give—this is His nature.

B. Love ever lives and gives.

C. There is still something in the human being that wants to vow, and God makes provision for this.

D. Once one makes a vow, God expects him to fulfill it. (Numbers 30)

## III. Principles behind vows.

A. Vows made concerning persons.

1. God gives careful instruction for these kinds of promises.

2. If there was a certain amount given, that amount was to be achieved.

3. The different expectations for women and men are not an assessment of the worth of persons.

4. Provision was made for inability to pay—they were brought before the priest showing the mercy and grace of God.

B. Things excluded to pay a vow.

1. Things that were firstborn—these already belonged to God.

2. Things that were already devoted could not be used.

3. Tithes could not be used because they already belonged to God.

4. Condemned people could not be used.

C. The function of vows in our life.

1. God holds us to legalistic bargaining.
2. God loves the vow that is born from abundant thankfulness.
3. Vows are ways of God drawing us along and claiming rightful ownership of us.

**Application questions:**

1. Why does God never command us to make vows?

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2. How can vows be used positively and negatively?

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3. What are some things you have been holding back from God? Take some time and surrender ownership to God in prayer.

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