

Leviticus 27:1-34 Vows, Values and Redemption

Vows were not commanded by the Law of YeHoVaH but were made by individuals who wanted to do something over and beyond what was required by YeHoVaH in exchange for something. Typically, **vows were made to dedicate or devote someone or something of value to the service of YeHoVaH.**

In this final Chapter of Leviticus, YeHoVaH gives Instructions for the vow being made, the value of the person or the thing that is vowed, and the process for redeeming that which had been vowed.

Things to Remember

- Vows to God are voluntary.
- Vows are not to be taken lightly.
- God holds every man and woman accountable for their vows.
- It is better not to make a vow than to make a vow and break it.

The final Chapter of Leviticus focuses on voluntary vows made by individuals unto YeHoVaH.

Lev 27:1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Lev 27:2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When a man shall make a singular vow, the persons *shall be* for the LORD by thy estimation.

The verse in other Bible versions:

Lev 27:2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'If anyone makes a special vow to dedicate persons to the LORD by giving equivalent values, (NIV)

LEV 27:2 "Speak to the sons of Israel and say to them, ' When a man makes a difficult vow, he *shall be valued* according to your valuation of persons belonging to the LORD (NASB)

LEV 27:2 "Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them: When a man makes a difficult vow, he *shall be valued* in your value of persons belonging to Adonai (Jewish Masoretic Text)

LEV 27:2 "Speak to the sons of Yishraael and say to them, When a man shall make a difficult vow, in a value of persons before Shehmaa (Israelite Samaritan Text)

Lev 27:2 Speak unto the children of Israel and say unto them, When any one devoteth anything by a vow, the persons shall be for Jehovah according to thy valuation. (Darby)

Singular – **06381** אָפַלָּא {paw-law'}

Meaning: 1) to be marvellous, be wonderful, be surpassing, be extraordinary, separate by distinguishing action 1a) (Niphal) 1a1) to be beyond one's power, be difficult to do 1a2) to be difficult to understand 1a3) to be wonderful, be extraordinary 1a3a) marvellous (participle) 1b) (Piel) to separate (an offering) 1c) (Hiphil) 1c1) to do extraordinary or hard or difficult thing 1c2) to make wonderful, do wondrously 1d) (Hithpael) to show oneself wonderful or marvellous

Usage: AV - (wondrous, marvellous...) work 18, wonders 9, marvellous 8, wonderful 8, ...things 6, hard 5, wondrous 3, wondrously 2, marvellously 2, performing 2, misc 8; 71

Vow – **05088** נִדָּר neder {neh'-der} or נִדְרָה neder {nay'-der}

Meaning: 1) vow, votive offering

Usage: AV - vow 58, vowed 2; 60

Estimation – **06187** עֵרֶךְ `erek {eh'rek}

Meaning: 1) order, row, estimate, things that are set in order, layer, pile 1a) order, row 1b) estimate, valuation

Usage: AV - estimation 24, set at 1, equal 1, set in order 1, price 1, proportion 1, set 1, suit 1, taxation 1, valuest 1; 33

Hannah's Vow - 1st Samuel 1:11

1Sa 1:11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

In Malachi 1, some people reneged on their vows.

Mal 1:14 But cursed *be* the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the Lord a corrupt thing: for I *am* a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name *is* dreadful among the heathen.

No one is required to make a vow. If someone makes a vow unto YeHoVaH, they should honor it, or it would be sin in them.

Dt 23:21 When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee.

If a person chooses not to vow, it will not be a sin to him/her.

Dt 23:22 But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee.

YeHoVaH determined the value of the person based on age and gender.

Lev 27:3 And thy estimation shall be of the male from twenty years old even unto sixty years old, even thy estimation shall be fifty shekels of silver, after the shekel of the sanctuary.

Age: 20 to 60 Years

Male value: fifty shekels of silver

Female value: thirty shekels of silver

Lev 27:4 And if it *be* a female, then thy estimation shall be thirty shekels.

Age: 5 to 20 Years

Male value: twenty shekels

Female value: ten shekels

Lev 27:5 And if *it be* from five years old even unto twenty years old, then thy estimation shall be of the male twenty shekels, and for the female ten shekels.

Age: 1 Month to 5 Years

Male value: five shekels of silver

Female value: three shekels of silver

Lev 27:6 And if *it be* from a month old even unto five years old, then thy estimation shall be of the male five shekels of silver, and for the female thy estimation *shall be* three shekels of silver.

Age: Over 60 Years

Male value: fifteen shekels

Female value: ten shekels

Lev 27:7 And if *it be* from sixty years old and above; if *it be* a male, then thy estimation shall be fifteen shekels, and for the female ten shekels.

A poor person's value was determined by the Priest.

Lev 27:8 But if he be poorer than thy estimation, then he shall present himself before the priest, and the priest shall value him; according to his ability that vowed shall the priest value him.

If the vow is a beast:

Lev 27:9 And if *it be* a beast, whereof men bring an offering unto the LORD, all that *any man* giveth of such unto the LORD shall be holy.

Beast – **0929** בהמה behemah {be-hay-maw'}

Meaning: 1) beast, cattle, animal 1a) beasts (coll of all animals) 1b) cattle, livestock (of domestic animals) 1c) wild beasts

Usage: AV - beast 136, cattle 53; 189

Whatever is vowed becomes holy and is no longer to be used for any service besides that which is holy. Once it is offered, it cannot be changed. If a change is attempted, for whatever reason, both the offered beast and the beast used to change shall become holy.

Lev 27:10 He shall not alter it, nor change it, a good for a bad, or a bad for a good: and if he shall at all change beast for beast, then it and the exchange thereof shall be holy.

Lev 27:11 And if *it be* any unclean beast, of which they do not offer a sacrifice unto the LORD, then he shall present the beast before the priest:

Lev 27:12 And the priest shall value it, whether it be good or bad: as thou valuest it, *who art* the priest, so shall it be.

If there is any redemption of the beast offered as a vow, a fifth part was to be given in addition to its value.

Lev 27:13 But if he will at all redeem it, then he shall add a fifth *part* thereof unto thy estimation.

If the vow is a house:

Lev 27:14 And when a man shall sanctify his house *to be* holy unto the LORD, then the priest shall estimate it, whether it be good or bad: as the priest shall estimate it, so shall it stand. If there is any redemption of the house that was sanctified, a fifth part was to be given in addition to its value.

Lev 27:15 And if he that sanctified it will redeem his house, then he shall add the fifth *part* of the money of thy estimation unto it, and it shall be his.

If the vow is a field:

Lev 27:16 And if a man shall sanctify unto the LORD *some part* of a field of his possession, then thy estimation shall be according to the seed thereof: an homer of barley seed *shall be valued* at fifty shekels of silver.

In the Jubilee, homes and land reverted back to the family based on Leviticus 25, with the exceptions of walled cities and Priests' lands.

The Jubilee year and redemptions of property that were sanctified:

Lev 27:17 If he sanctify his field from the year of jubilee, according to thy estimation it shall stand.

Lev 27:18 But if he sanctify his field after the jubilee, then the priest shall reckon unto him the money according to the years that remain, even unto the year of the jubilee, and it shall be abated from thy estimation.

The value was based on the harvesting years that remained unto the year of Jubilee, not counting the years the land was required to rest.

If there was any redemption of the field that was sanctified, a fifth part was to be given in addition to its value.

Lev 27:19 And if he that sanctified the field will in any wise redeem it, then he shall add the fifth *part* of the money of thy estimation unto it, and it shall be assured to him.

Once the field has been sanctified and is not redeemed or sold, it is no longer eligible for redemption.

Lev 27:20 And if he will not redeem the field, or if he have sold the field to another man, it shall not be redeemed any more.

Once the field has been sanctified and is not redeemed, it is no longer eligible for redemption and will belong to the Priests.

Lev 27:21 But the field, when it goeth out in the jubilee, shall be holy unto the LORD, as a field devoted; the possession thereof shall be the priest's.

If the person who bought the field sanctifies the land he is selling, the crops of the land, based on the estimation of the priest, and the land will revert back to the family in the Jubilee.

Lev 27:22 And if *a man* sanctify unto the LORD a field which he hath bought, which *is* not of the fields of his possession;

Lev 27:23 Then the priest shall reckon unto him the worth of thy estimation, *even* unto the year of the jubilee: and he shall give thine estimation in that day, *as* a holy thing unto the LORD.

Lev 27:24 In the year of the jubilee the field shall return unto him of whom it was bought, *even* to him to whom the possession of the land *did belong*.

Lev 27:25 And all thy estimations shall be according to the shekel of the sanctuary: twenty gerahs shall be the shekel.

That which is already declared holy by YeHoVaH, such as the firstling, cannot be used in a vow.

Lev 27:26 Only the firstling of the beasts, which should be the LORD'S firstling, no man shall sanctify it; whether *it be* ox, or sheep: it *is* the LORD'S.

Unclean animals could be redeemed.

Lev 27:27 And if *it be* of an unclean beast, then he shall redeem *it* according to thine estimation, and shall add a fifth *part* of it thereto: or if it be not redeemed, then it shall be sold according to thy estimation.

Lev 27:28 Notwithstanding no devoted thing, that a man shall devote unto the LORD of all that he hath, *both* of man and beast, and of the field of his possession, shall be sold or redeemed: every devoted thing *is* most holy unto the LORD.

Redeemed – **01350** לָגַא'ל {gaw-al'}

Meaning: 1) to redeem, act as kinsman-redeemer, avenge, revenge, ransom, do the part of a kinsman 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to act as kinsman, do the part of next of kin, act as kinsman-redeemer 1a1a) by marrying brother's widow to beget a child for him, to redeem from slavery, to redeem land, to exact vengeance 1a2) to redeem (by payment) 1a3) to redeem (with God as subject) 1a3a) individuals from death 1a3b) Israel from Egyptian bondage 1a3c) Israel from exile 1b) (Niphal) 1b1) to redeem oneself 1b2) to be redeemed

Usage: AV - redeem 50, redeemer 18, kinsman 13, revenger 7, avenger 6, ransom 2, at all 2, deliver 1, kinsfolks 1, kinsman's part 1, purchase 1, stain 1, wise 1; 104

Someone condemned to death cannot be redeemed.

Lev 27:29 None devoted, which shall be devoted of men, shall be redeemed; *but* shall surely be put to death.

Devoted – **02764** כְּרֵם {khay'-rem} or (Zech. 14:11) כְּרֵם {kheh'-rem}

Meaning: 1) a thing devoted, thing dedicated, ban, devotion 2) a net, thing perforated 3) have been utterly destroyed, (appointed to) utter destruction

Usage: AV - net 9, accursed thing 9, accursed 4, curse 4, cursed thing 3, devoted 3, destruction 2, devoted thing 2, dedicated thing 1, destroyed 1; 38

Devoted – **02763** כְּרָם {khaw-ram'}

Meaning: 1) to ban, devote, destroy utterly, completely destroy, dedicate for destruction, exterminate 1a) (Hiphil) 1a1) to prohibit (for common use), ban 1a2) to consecrate, devote, dedicate for destruction 1a3) to exterminate, completely destroy 1b) (Hophal) 1b1) to be put under the ban, be devoted to destruction 1b2) to be devoted, be forfeited 1b3) to be completely destroyed 2) to split, slit, mutilate (a part of the body) 2a) (Qal) to mutilate 2b) (Hiphil) to divide

Usage: AV - destroy 34, utterly 10, devote 2, accursed 1, consecrate 1, forfeited 1, flat nose 1, utterly to make away 1, slay 1; 52

Redeemed – **06299** פָּדָה {paw-daw'}

Meaning: 1) to ransom, redeem, rescue, deliver 1a) (Qal) to ransom 1b) (Niphal) to be ransomed 1c) (Hiphil) to allow one to be ransomed 1d) (Hophal) redeemed

Usage: AV - redeem 48, deliver 5, ransom 2, rescued 1, misc 3; 59

The Tithes belong to YeHoVaH.

Lev 27:30 And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land, *or* of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD'S: *it is* holy unto the LORD.

Lev 27:31 And if a man will at all redeem *ought* of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth *part* thereof.

Lev 27:32 And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, *even* of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.

The tenth animal, male or female, belongs to YeHoVaH; good or bad, they belong to YeHoVaH automatically.

Lev 27:33 He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.

The New Testament speaks of vows twice.
The first, by Paul who had a vow on him.

Ac 18:18 And Paul *after this* tarried *there* yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn *his* head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.

The second, by four men; Paul was asked by James to pay their vow to show the people that Paul honored the Law.

Ac 21:18 And the *day* following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.

Ac 21:19 And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.

Ac 21:20 And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:

Ac 21:21 And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children, neither to walk after the customs.

Ac 21:22 What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come.

Ac 21:23 Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them;

Ac 21:24 Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave *their* heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but *that* thou thyself also walkest orderly, **and keepest the law.**

Lev 27:34 These *are* the commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel in mount Sinai.