

A Binding Contract

The cost Breaking a vow to the Lord

Leviticus 26:14-19

It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make inquiry. (Prov 20:25)

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. (Deut 23:21)

4 When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.

5 Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. (Eccl 5:4-5)

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Vers. 14-19. But if ye will not hearken. --

National transgression and disaster. --

I. A NATION'S PROGRESSIVE APOSTASY.

1. Passive indifference to Divine teachings and appeals: "Not hearken."

2. Non-compliance with Divine calls and claims: "Not do."

3. Contemptuous rejection of God's statutes: "Despise" ([Mal 3:14,15](#)).

4. Spiritual revolt from all sacred demands: "Your soul abhor My judgments" ([John 3:20](#); [Job 24:13](#)). A fearful departure from God.

5. Violation of all covenant relationship: "Ye break My covenant."

II. AN APOSTATE NATION'S, CALAMITIES.

1. Sin brings disease and physical suffering in its train (ver. 16): "Terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes and. cause sorrow of heart." Impiety inevitably drifts into impurity.

2. Failure and penury follow quickly upon habits of indulgence and impurity: "Sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it" (ver. 16). Nothing succeeds in the hands of a dissipated and dissolute man, and he becomes a prey to his hated scorners and rivals.

3. A godless life invites the ravages of the enemy (ver. 17). God withdrew His protection, and adversaries swept down upon Israel. They who repudiate Divine government are "taken captive by the devil at his will," and serve their enemies. Sin is very cruel. It "slays" its victims; slaughters their virtue, peace, happiness, hopes; destroys precious souls.

4. Sin also fills the life of wrongdoers with terrors; they "flee when none pursueth." Even in nations there is "strong confidence" and "a sound mind" only when conscious of rectitude and the enjoyment of God's approval. It paralyses a people's heart to feel that Heaven is alienated and Divine favour lost. Armies, too, have gone with assurance into battles when convinced that God is with them -- as Cromwell's

"Ironsides" -- while enemies have fled with panic, as did the Spanish Armada, when possessed with alarm that God was against them.

5. There are the yet darker calamities of abject overthrow and Divine desertion: "I will break the pride of your power, and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass" (ver. 19) -- a picture of prostration and helplessness which finds verification in

(1) Babylon's fall -- now lying buried amid bleaching sands, emblem of rebuked pride;

(2) the desolation of Jerusalem -- now a waste scene, and her children the "tribes of the wandering foot and weary breast";

(3) the buried cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum -- interred beneath volcanic ashes, a monument of sudden wrath on a voluptuous people. Such historic admonitions warn against national impiety, and call mankind to seriousness and prayer; for even in the solemn threatenings of God there lies an overt assurance of mercy, that "if a nation or individual will cease from apostasy and hearken unto Him" (ver. 18), He will turn aside the "seven times more" punishment for sins, and show the forgiveness in which He delights, and the salvation which the glorious gospel of His grace proclaims.

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**** Vow- noun - A solemn promise made to a deity (GOD) to emphatically render service*

Signs of a people's progressive decline in honoring what have been vowed.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Results or consequences of a people that fail to keep what the have vowed

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Now to reflect on ourselves.....

You had better check your vows!

Did you ever wonder why things aren't going like you think they should?

List (5) five vows that you have made in the last few years:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

List the vows that you have broken in the last few years:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

What qualifies as breaking a vow?

What does God think about our vows?

Does it matter if the vow is to man or God? (Why or Why not)

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold. (Prov 22:1)

Is it time to repent and reconfirm your vow with GOD?

Take this time to reflect and if necessary repent, reconfirm, make it right before it is too late!