

## **He That Swaereth to His Own Hurt and Changeth Not**

*Scripture reading: Judges 11:29-40*

In the book of Judges, Jephthah, a judge of Israel, swore to God to give as an offering the first thing that met him on his return from a victorious battle. His beloved and only daughter met him and he had to give her to the Lord.

His character was under severe testing. He did not flinch or say, "Lord, I did not mean this." He just turned her over to God, and since we know that God does not accept human sacrifice, then this scripture could only mean that she was given to God as a bond servant of the temple for the rest of her life.

Numbers 30:2, *"If a man vow a vow unto the Lord, or swear an oath to bind his soul with a bond; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth."*

When one reads a law as the above, the first thought which comes is, "What relationship does this have to us and our time?" The Scripture says that the law was a school-master to bring us unto Christ. When therefore we come to Christ, we do not destroy the Law. Through Christ in me I will not become a Covenant breaker. My vows at Baptism – that I will follow the Lord in death, burial and resurrection – are kept by the power of the Holy Ghost.

Paul describes "Covenant Breakers" as one of the signs of the end-time and in our time we have seen some of the greatest examples of Covenant Breakers – Hitler for instance, signed a non-aggression pact with Russia while he was preparing to attack them. More recently Russia signed a S.A.L.T. treaty with the West and has broken almost every line of it. Nearer to home – husbands and wives make matrimonial vows to one another and break them in record numbers all over the world today.

Let us return unto the Lord, to our vows of salvation, our vows of baptism, and our vows to follow the Lord wherever He goes. Let us recommit ourselves to our families and to the family of God.

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*Thought for today:* Let us return unto the Lord and keep the covenants we have vowed unto Him.