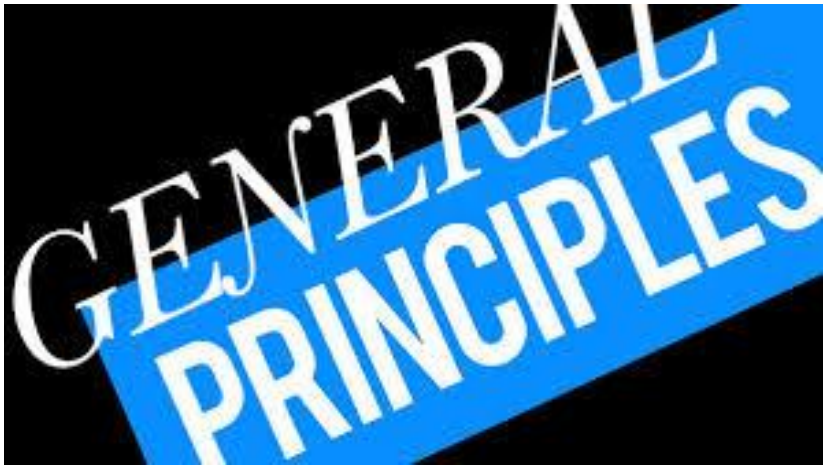
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The General Principles of Vows and Oaths 30: 16

The general principles of vows and oaths DIG: What have you learned from this chapter about vows and oaths? As ambassadors of Yeshua Messiah, why is it vitally important for us to keep our vows and oaths?

REFLECT: Why do you think God places so much importance on oaths and vows? What does that say about God and His promises? About human nature and our promises? Who can you pray for this week?

Relationships bring responsibilities, and to rush into unwise commitments is to suffer consequences that can be costly (Proverbs 20:25; Ecclesiastes 5:1-6).



These are the mitzvot which ADONAI ordered Moshe between a man and his wife, and between a father and his daughter, if she is single living in her father's house. The concluding summary indicates the general principles of the chapter and are presented in the progressive stages of the marital relationship. Intermittent examples throughout the TaNaKh advance progressive of mitzvot regarding women in Jewish society and **male-female** relationships. **Yeshua** would further elevate **women** by **His** close association with those such as **Mary**

Magdalene and **Martha**, and by **His** freedom in discussing vital theological issues with one such as **the Samaritan woman** at **Jacob's well (John 4:1-26)**.[700]

Haftarah Matot: Jeremiah 2: 3

(see the commentary on **Deuteronomy Af – Parashah**)

The Haftarah for the next twelve weeks relates to calendar days. Tradition attributes the apostasy of the golden calf to 17 Tammuz, the same day that the outer walls of the Temple were breached by the Romans (see the commentary **Jeremiah Ga – The Fall of Jerusalem**). Then follow 21 days to 9 Av, the day when both Temples were destroyed (see the commentary on **Jeremiah Gb – The Destruction of Solomon's Temple on Tisha B'Av in 586 BC**). During these three weeks, "the Haftarot of Affliction" warned of the impending doom. In today's Haftarah, read the week of the 17 Tammuz, **Jeremiah** warns of catastrophe: **Today I have placed you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant (Jeremiah 1:10).** Though **God** remembered **Isra'el's** devotion as a bride, first following **Him (Jeremiah 2:2)**, now **Isra'el** has bowed to other gods and to idols **(Jeremiah 1:16)**. Even so, **she** remains holy. Those who devour **her** will incur **God's** wrath for eating **His** firstfruits **(Jeremiah 2:3)**.[701]

B'rit Chadashah Matot: Philippians 3: 15-16

Rabbi Sha'ul (see the commentary on **Acts Bm – Paul's First Missionary Journey: Paul is Sha'ul and Sha'ul is Paul**) called **his** readers to share with **him** the pursuit of being **conformed in the image of Messiah (Romans 8:29)**. What he wanted for himself he also wanted for them. **All of us who are mature should take such a view of things (Philippians 3:15).** What **view of things**? The one he had expressed regarding persistently pressing on toward the goal. One mark of spiritual maturity is a desire to go on with **Messiah**. **Paul's** appeal here was to maturing believers who shared **his** ambitions. **He** trusted **God** to make things clear to those who disagreed with **him**. No doubt the greatest need among **God's** people is to **live up to what they** already have **in Messiah**. Most live far below **their** exalted position **in Messiah**. **Paul's** plea to **the Philippians** was that **they live up to what they had already attained**, namely a righteous position **in Messiah (Philippians 3;16)**.[702]