

RASH VOWS / *Judges 11:30-31*

Ecclesiastes 5:2 says: “And don’t make rash promises to God, for he is in heaven, and you are only here on earth. So let your words be few.” Scripture records the vows of many men and women. Some of these vows proved to be rash and unwise, and others, though extreme, were kept to the letter by those who made them. Let us learn from the examples in God’s Word not to make rash vows.

Person	Vow	Result	Reference
Jacob	To “choose” the true God and to give back a tenth to him if he kept him safe	God protected Jacob, who kept his vow to follow God	Genesis 28:20
Jephthah	To offer to the Lord whoever came out to meet him after battle (it turned out to be his daughter)	He lost his daughter	Judges 11:30-31
Hannah	To give her child back to God if God would give her a son	When Samuel was born, she dedicated him to God	1 Samuel 1:9-11
Saul	To kill anyone who ate before evening (Jonathan, his son, had not heard the command and broke it)	Saul would have killed Jonathan if soldiers had not intervened	1 Samuel 14:24-45
David	To be kind to Jonathan’s family	Mephibosheth, Jonathan’s son, was treated royally by David	2 Samuel 9:7
Ittai	To remain loyal to David	He became one of the great men in David’s army	2 Samuel 15:21
Micaiah	To say only what God told him to say	He was put in prison	1 Kings 22:14
Job	That he was not rebelling against God	His fortunes were restored	Job 42:10
Herod Antipas	To give Herodias’s daughter anything she requested	Herod was forced to order John the Baptist’s death	Mark 6:22-23
Paul	To offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving in Jerusalem	He made the sacrifice despite the danger	Acts 18:18