

breach of promise. When I was young "breach of promise suits" were rather common in this country. I haven't heard of one for years. But at that time it was considered a terrible thing for a man to be guilty of breach of promise. And here the Lord says in the KJV, Ye shall know my breach of promise. Personally I think this is one of the poorest translations to be found anywhere in the KJV -- is these particular words here. "Ye shall know my breach of promise" as if God had given a promise and now was going to break it. Actually this word which is used here *tenuah* occurs only twice in the OT. Some will suggest that it should be translated "alienation" or anger or some such term. But you see that that is only a guess. We have the word only but twice. But it is doubtless derived from the verb *nun wau aleph* [כ] ] And this verb is used in a number of cases, not a great many but a considerable no. of times, and 4 times it is used in Num. 30 and translated in the KJV as "disallow". It's used there of a husband or father making void a vow made by a dependent woman. There the husband or the father says, Yes this person has given this vow that had no authorization to give it, had no right to give it and therefore I disallow it. I cannot help thinking that that must have been what was in the mind of the translators of the KJV. The way that it is used there 4 times in Num. for the disallowing of a vow, and that that is what led them to trans. it "breach of promise." There certainly is nothing like that in the word. The word simply means that they will know what God is doing to frustrate the plan that they have, to cause them not to be able to carry out what they had promised. If it is a breach of promise it is a breach on his part of plan or intention that they had, and since we would naturally today consider it as a breach of his promise, I think it is a very unfortunate translation. The LXX trans. it "you shall know my purpose of wrath" The Vulgate trans. it "you shall know my revenge." Both of those as you see are just rough approximations of the word. We don't have any exact word in another language that fits exactly what the word doubtless means here. But it certainly does not mean a breach of promise, and I think it is unfortunate that the same statement should be made. Fortunately very few people notice this verse. Just imagine God saying, You will know how I break my promises. It would be a terrible thing but it is certainly not what is said here. But God does say that what these people have planned- they have looked forward to, God