

PRAYER MEETING

4 July 2016

Text: **Numbers 21:1-3; Psalm 61**

VOWS

1. Vow made by Jacob

First vow recorded

(Genesis 28:20-22)

- a) Made by Jacob when God gave him a vision of a ladder ascending and descending from heaven
- b) If God were to protect and preserve him
- c) He offered this prayer as a vow to God
 - i) The Lord would be his God
 - ii) The stone would be God's house
 - iii) He would give a tenth of all he has to the Lord

2. Vow made by Israel

(Numbers 21:1-3)

- a) Context
 - i) King of Arad attacked Israel (Numbers 21:1)
 - ii) Israel defeated by the King of Arad
 - iii) Some from Israel were taken as prisoners (Numbers 21:1)
- b) Vow of Israel
 - i) Asked for God's help
 - ii) Arad to be delivered into the hands of Israel
 - iii) Israel would utterly destroy the Canaanite cities of Arad (Numbers 21:2)
- c) God heard that prayer-vow
 - i) He listened (Numbers 21:3)
 - ii) He delivered Arad into the hands of Israel (Numbers 21:3)

d) Israel kept its vow

i) The Canaanite cities of Arad were utterly destroyed (Numbers 21:3)

ii) Name of the place was called “Hormah” (Destruction)

To commemorate this event

3. Vow(s) made by King David

a) When he must have been in difficult straits (Psalm 61:1)

b) His life may have been in danger (Psalm 61:7)

c) He made some vows to the Lord (Psalm 61:5)

d) He determined to fulfil his vows daily (Psalm 61:8)

e) What were those vows?

i) To abide in the tabernacle of the Lord forever?

ii) To trust in the shelter of the Lord’s wings? (Psalm 61:4)

iii) To sing praises to the Lord’s name forever? (Psalm 61:8)

KEY TEXT ON THE SUBJECT OF VOWS

Deuteronomy 23:21-23

1. Vows must be kept

2. It is a voluntary promise made to the Lord

3. It is a sin to break a vow

4. Vows are to be fulfilled without delay