



"The Truth About Lying"

Pastor Jason West | September 10, 2023
Shiloh Community Church

I. The _____

(Exodus 20:16; 23:1; Proverbs 24:28; Deuteronomy 19:16-20)

• **Definition: the deliberate act of deviating from the truth; to say something with the intent to deceive.**

A. History of Deceit

1. Satan

(Genesis 3:4; John 8:44; Revelation 20:3; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Timothy 4:1)

• **Satan's Strategy for Destroying the Nations**

2. Cain

(Genesis 4:9)

3. Abraham

(Genesis 20:2)

4. Isaac

(Genesis 26:6-7)

5. Jacob

(Genesis 27:18-19)

6. _____ Else

(Psalm 58:3; 12:2; Jeremiah 9:5)

II. The Cruel Weapon

A. We Lie About _____

(James 3:5b-6)

1. Gossip

(2 Corinthians 12:20b; Proverbs 22:1; 18:8)

2. Slander

(Ephesians 4:31; James 4:11a)

3. Betrayal

(Proverbs 25:18)

B. We Lie About _____

(Romans 1:25)

C. We Lie to _____

1. About Our Faith in God

(1 John 1:6; Acts 5:4b)

2. We Pretend That There is No _____

(John 18:37b-38a)

D. God's Response

(Zechariah 8:17; Proverbs 6:16-17; 12:22)

III. The Caution and the _____

(Proverbs 19:5; Revelation 21:8; 22:15)

IV. The _____ - Keeping God

A. God Cannot Lie

(Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18a; Romans 3:4b)

1. Every Word is _____

(Psalm 12:6a)

2. Every Word Comes to _____

(Proverbs 30:5a; Numbers 23:19)

3. Every Word is _____

(John 17:17)

B. Jesus is Truth

(John 14:6)

1. No Deceit in His Mouth

(Isaiah 53:9b)

2. Jesus Kept His Word

V. A _____ to the Truth

A. Speak _____

(Matthew 5:37; 23:16-22; Deuteronomy 10:20; 23:23)

B. Speak _____

(Colossians 3:9-10; Ephesians 4:25)

C. Speak _____

(Luke 4:22a)

D. Speak _____

(John 6:68)

E. Speak As a Gospel _____

(Acts 1:8; John 8:3)



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1. Familiarize Yourself With the Passage

- a. Read Exodus 20:1-26
- b. Read and study the context around the law
- c. Read and study the story/narrative around the law

2. Introduction to the Passage (Feel free to use this as a reference guide as you discuss the passage)

a. Biblical/Historical Context: There are two passages in the Old Testament in which we find the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21). Both of these passages contain the ninth commandment of bearing false witness against one's neighbor. The Exodus passage pertains to a trial court and, specifically, false accusations in court to accuse another person.¹ The Deuteronomy passage most likely has this particular setting in mind as well, but there is a slight difference in the way the commandment was written. The Exodus and Deuteronomy passages use two different Hebrew words for the word "false." The Exodus passage uses a word that is often used in legal contexts.² The Deuteronomy passage uses a word that refers to all of life. It means any "false rumor" containing words void of any substance.³ Deuteronomy seems to be applying the passage to any life circumstance and broadens the scope of the Exodus version.

Moses is wise to make such an expansion, because God wants his people to live and speak and act truthfully at all times and in all circumstances. Ignorance was no excuse for breaking this commandment. Ignorance, even in a court case, was considered a "travesty of justice".⁴ Since God proceeds to interact with his people in total honesty and truth, he expects his people to do the same towards each other. This covenant embodied the truth ethic because God, by nature, truthful in all his dealings and never lies (Titus 1:2).

3. Questions about the Passage

- a. What does it mean to bear false witness and what are the many forms it can take (Exodus 23:1; Proverbs 26:28; Joshua 4:11)?
- b. What was the first lie in the Bible? How did Satan lie to Eve in this situation (Genesis 3:1-7)?
- c. What is the difference between lying and deceit or are they one and the same (Jeremiah 23:26)?
- d. What are some examples in the Bible of bearing false witness and what consequences have come from it?
- e. What are some examples in the Bible where people told the truth and they were blessed because of it or were persecuted?

4. From the Passage to Life

- a. What are the different ways people can bear false witness or lie in life?
- b. Often times, temptation can come in the form of a lie. What lies are you being tempted to believe in your life?
- c. What are some ways that you can bear witness to the truth in your life (Acts 1:8)?
- d. What are some truths from Scripture that you need to start believing in your life to help you grow in Christ?

¹ John Walton, ed. Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009), 236.

² Ludwig Koehler et al., The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (Leiden: E.J. Brill, 1994-2000).

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⁴ ANET 160, 166; Eugene Carpenter, Exodus 19-40, EEC (WA: Lexham, 2016), 51.