



Lecture # 12 Part 2

The Ten Commandments, The Laws Governing Man's Duty To Others (Part 9):

Commandment Nine Concerns Man's Word and Character— Never Lie, Exodus 20:16

The Ninth Commandment Against False Testimony

“Lo taaneh vereakha ed shaker” (Exodus 20:16) “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.”

Exodus 20:16 (BHS)

¹⁶“לֹא־תִעֲנֶה בְרֵעֶךָ עֵד שָׁקֵר: ס”

“Lo taaneh vereakha **ed shaker**”

Exodus 20:16 (KJV)

¹⁶“Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”

Exodus 20:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“You shall not bear **false witness** against your neighbor.”

This is the great concern of the ninth commandment, the concern for truth, that we build our lives upon truth: build our families, friendships, businesses, clubs, schools, churches, communities, and governments upon truth. *Commandment Nine Concerns Man's Word and Character: Never Lie, Exodus 20:16.*

1. Who is to obey this commandment (v.16)?
2. What is forbidden by this commandment (v.16)?
3. What is the decision required by this commandment (v.16)?

1. (Exodus 20:16) Commandments, The Ten— Lying— Obedience: Who is to obey this commandment?

Exodus 20:16 (BHS)

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Some commentators say that this commandment was initially given to govern testimony in legal courts, to make absolutely sure that no one ever lied or gave a false testimony in court.



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There is no question this commandment does govern a person who gives evidence in court: his testimony must always be true. **But the commandment is much broader than this:** it covers far more than just legal testimony. God is declaring that no person is ever to lie against a neighbor, not on any occasion. We must never bear a false witness *against* a neighbor, and we must never bear false witness *to* a neighbor. We must always tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Ephesians 4:25 (NASB)

²⁵“Therefore, **laying aside falsehood**, SPEAK TRUTH EACH ONE of you WITH HIS NEIGHBOR, for we are members of one another.”

Colossians 3:9 (NASB)

⁹“**Do not lie to one another**, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices.”

Exodus 20:16 (NASB)

¹⁶“You shall not bear **false witness** against your neighbor.”

Exodus 23:1 (NASB)

¹“**You shall not bear a false report**; do not join your hand with a wicked man to be a malicious witness.”

Was this commandment given to govern only the ancient Israelites, only those who lived before Christ came? Was lying a problem only for the ancient world? Or, is lying still a serious problem? The answer is obvious. **This commandment is needed today as much as it was needed by the ancient world.** God’s concern for righteousness upon the earth is as strong today as it has ever been. “**You shall not bear false witness: you shall never lie**”—this commandment was given to *you*. *You* are not to lie, not ever.

Proverbs 6:16-19 (NASB)

¹⁶“There are six things which the LORD hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him:

¹⁷ Haughty eyes, **a lying tongue**, And hands that shed innocent blood,

¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

¹⁹ **A false witness who utters lies**, And one who spreads strife among brothers.”

Matthew 12:36-37 (NASB)

³⁶“But I tell you that **every careless word** that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.

³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and **by your words you will be condemned.**”