



Lecture # 13 Part 1

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.”

2. (Exodus 20:16) Commandments, The Ten— Lying— Testimony, False— Witness, False— Deception— Perjury— Tongue— Speech, False: What is forbidden by this commandment?

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.”

How is this commandment broken, violated: “**You shall not lie—never bear false witness against your neighbor**” (Exodus 20:16)?

1. This commandment is broken by lying, by telling any untruth of any kind. Man's concept of lying is this: “**If I lie, it is justifiable, but if you lie to me, it is unforgivable.**” But to God, lying is lying. The word “**lying**” (*sheqer*) means “**that which is false, untrue.**” It is **untruthfulness, deception, misrepresentation, exaggeration.**

Note how Scripture itself defines a false witness:

a. A false witness is a person who breathes out lies.

Proverbs 14:5 (NASB)

⁵“A trustworthy witness will not lie, But a false witness utters lies.”

Proverbs 19:5 (NASB)

⁵“A false witness will not go unpunished, And he who tells lies will not escape.”



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b. A false witness is a person who shares a false report.

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.”

c. A false witness is a person who deceives.

Proverbs 12:17 (NASB)

¹⁷“He who speaks truth tells what is right, But a false witness, **deceit**.”

As pointed out in note one, when some people look at the ninth commandment, they think of a courtroom scene and think that lying against someone in court is what is being forbidden. But as the Scriptures above show, *bearing false witness* means far more than just not lying against someone in court. *Bearing* false witness means any kind of lying.

Hosea 4:2 clearly shows this. When Hosea charged the people with breaking several of the commandments, he did not charge them with bearing false witness in court. He charged them with lying in their day-to-day affairs:

Hosea 4:1-2 (NASB)

¹“Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, For the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, Because there is no faithfulness or kindness Or knowledge of God in the land.

²*There is swearing, **deception**, murder, stealing and adultery. They employ violence, so that bloodshed follows bloodshed.*”

2. There are several forms or kinds of lies, and they must be diligently guarded against.

a. There is slander: thinking something bad about a person and sharing it; misrepresenting something about someone; tearing down the reputation and life of a person by spreading bad news about him.

Psalm 101:5 (NASB)

⁵“Whoever **secretly slanders** his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.”

Proverbs 10:18 (NASB)

¹⁸“He who conceals hatred *has* lying lips, And **he who spreads slander is a fool**.”