



“DON’T BEAR FALSE WITNESS; BE A FAITHFUL WITNESS”

EXODUS 20:16 BIBLE STUDY

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THE TRUTH SETS FREE



- 31 Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you remain in my word, truly you are my disciples. 32 Then you will know the **truth**, and the **truth will set you free**. (Jn 8:31-32, AT)



THE POWER OF THE TONGUE



The **tongue** has the power of **life and death**,
and those who love it will eat its fruit.

(Pr 18:21, NIV)





THE X COMMANDMENTS



- 1 The heavens (A) **declare** (B) the **glory of God** (C);
the skies (A') **proclaim** (B') the **work of his hands** (C').
 - 2 **Day after day** (A) they **pour forth** **speech** (C);
night after night (A') they **reveal** (B') **knowledge** (C').
- (Ps 19:1-2, NIV)





THE X COMMANDMENTS



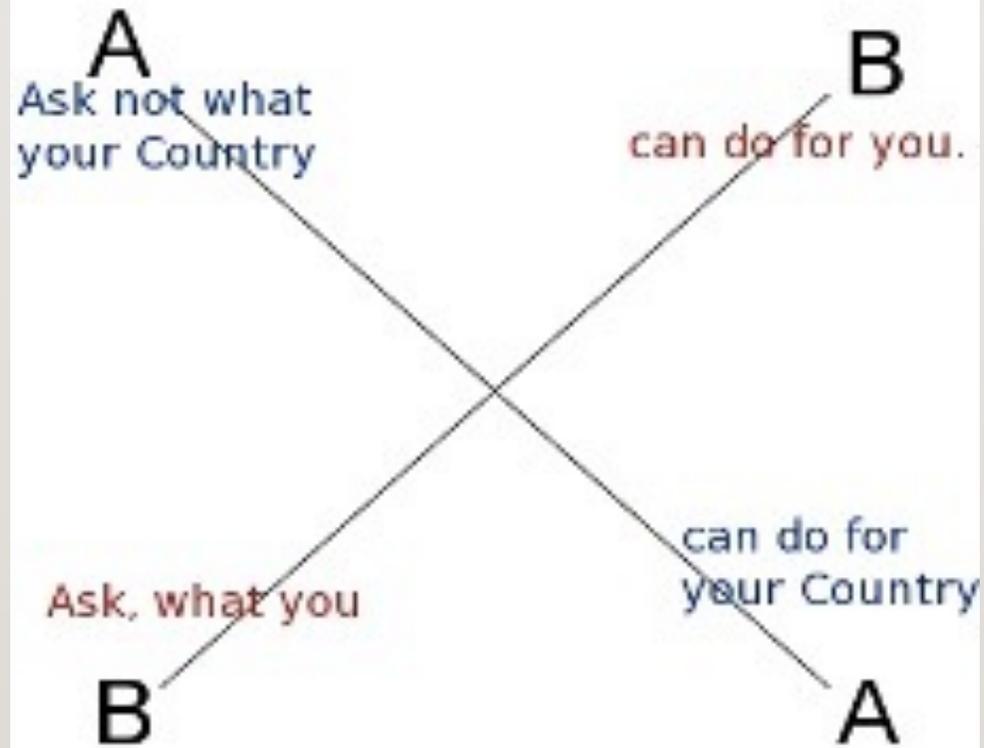
I (A) **cling** (B) to **you** (C);
your right hand (C') **upholds** (B') **me** (A').

(Ps 63:8, NIV)





THE X COMMANDMENTS





THE X COMMANDMENTS



- **A: Thoughts (Commandments 1-2)**
 - **B: Words (Commandment 3)**
 - **C: Deeds (Commandments 4-8)**
 - **B': Words (Commandment 9)**
- **A': Thoughts (Commandment 10)**



DON'T BEAR FALSE WITNESS



- You shall not testify [עֲנָה | ‘*ānâ*] false [נִשְׁקָר | *šeqer*] witness [עֵד | ‘*ēd*] against your neighbor [רֵעַ | *rēa* ‘]. (Ex 20:16, AT)



DON'T BEAR FALSE WITNESS



- 1 “Do not spread false reports. Do not help a guilty person by being a **malicious witness**.
- 2 “Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you **give testimony** [עֲנָה | ‘*ānâ*] in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd, 3 and do not show favoritism to a poor person in a lawsuit. (Ex 23:1-3, NIV)





THE WEIGHT OF WITNESSES

- 1 Now Naboth the Jezreelite had a **vineyard** in Jezreel, **beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria**. 2 And after this Ahab said to Naboth, “Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near my house, and I will give you a better vineyard for it; or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its value in money.” 3 But Naboth said to Ahab, “The LORD [YHWH] forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.” (1 Ki 21:1-3, ESV)



THE WEIGHT OF WITNESSES



- “ “The land **must not be sold permanently**, because the **land is mine** and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers.

(Lev 25:23, NIV; cf. Num 36:7; Eze 46:18)



THE WEIGHT OF WITNESSES



- And Ahab went into his house **vexed** and **sullen** because of what Naboth the Jezreelite had said to him, for he had said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” And he lay down on his bed and **turned away his face** and would **eat no food**. (1 Ki 21:4, ESV)



THE WEIGHT OF WITNESSES



- 5 But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, “Why is your spirit so vexed that you eat no food?” 6 And he said to her, “Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, ‘Give me your vineyard for money, or else, if it please you, I will give you another vineyard for it.’ And he answered, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’ ” 7 And Jezebel his wife said to him, “Do you now govern Israel? Arise and eat bread and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.” (1 Ki 21:5-7, ESV)





THE WEIGHT OF WITNESSES



- 8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name and sealed them with his seal, and she sent the letters to the elders and the leaders who lived with Naboth in his city. 9 And she wrote in the letters, "Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth at the head of the people. 10 And set **two worthless men** opposite him, and let them **bring a charge against him**, saying, 'You have cursed God and the king.' Then take him out and **stone him to death.**" (1 Ki 21:8-10, ESV)



THE WEIGHT OF WITNESSES



- 11 And the men of his city, the elders and the leaders who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them. As it was written in the letters that she had sent to them, 12 they proclaimed a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. 13 And the **two worthless men** came in and sat opposite him. And the **worthless men brought a charge against Naboth** in the presence of the people, saying, “Naboth cursed God and the king.” So they took him outside the city and **stoned him to death** with stones. 14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, “**Naboth has been stoned; he is dead.**” (1 Ki 21:11-14, ESV)



THE WEIGHT OF WITNESSES



Like a **club** or a **sword** or a **sharp arrow**

is one who gives **false testimony** against a neighbor.

(Pr 25:18, NIV)





THE WEIGHT OF WITNESSES



- **One** witness is **not enough** to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of **two** or **three** witnesses. (Dt 19:15, NIV)





THE WEIGHT OF WITNESSES



- “If anyone kills a person, the murderer is to be put to death based on the word of **witnesses** [עֵד | ‘ēd]. But no one is to be put to death based on the **testimony** [עֲנָה | ‘ānâ] of one **witness** [עֵד | ‘ēd]. (Num 35:30, NASB)



THE WEIGHT OF WITNESSES



- On the testimony of **two** or **three** witnesses a person is to be put to death, but no one is to be put to death on the testimony of only **one** witness. (Dt 17:6, NIV)





THE WEIGHT OF WITNESSES



- The hands of the **witnesses** must be the **first** in **putting that person to death**, and then the hands of all the people. You must purge the evil from among you. (Dt 17:7, NIV)





THE PENALTY FOR FALSE WITNESS

- 16 If a malicious witness takes the stand to accuse someone of a crime,
17 the two people involved in the dispute must stand in the presence of the
LORD [YHWH] before the priests and the judges who are in office at the
time. 18 The judges must make a thorough investigation, and if the witness
proves to be a **liar, giving false testimony against a fellow Israelite,**
19 then **do to the false witness as that witness intended to do to the other**
party. You must purge the evil from among you. (Dt 19:16-19, NIV)



THE PENALTY FOR FALSE WITNESS



- §1 If a man accuses another man and **charges him with homicide** but **cannot bring proof** against him, his **accuser shall be killed**. (Laws of Hammurabi, 1)
- §3 If a man comes forward to give **false testimony** in a case but **cannot bring evidence** for his accusation, if that case involves a **capital offense**, that **man shall be killed**. (Laws of Hammurabi, 3)
- §4 If he comes forward to give **(false) testimony** for (a case whose penalty is) grain or silver, **he shall be assessed the penalty** for that case. (Laws of Hammurabi, 4)



THE PENALTY FOR FALSE WITNESS



- 20 The rest of the people will hear of this and be afraid, and never again will such an evil thing be done among you. 21 Show no pity: **life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.** (Dt 19:20-21, NIV)





THE PENALTY FOR FALSE WITNESS



**“Whoever sheds human blood,
by humans shall their blood be shed;
for in the image of God
has God made mankind. (Gen 9:6, NIV)**





THE PENALTY FOR FALSE WITNESS

- 15 As soon as Jezebel heard that **Naboth had been stoned** and was **dead**, Jezebel said to Ahab, “Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money, for **Naboth is not alive**, but **dead**.” 16 And as soon as Ahab heard that **Naboth was dead**, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. (1 Ki 21:15-16, ESV)



THE PENALTY FOR FALSE WITNESS

- 17 Then the word of the LORD [YHWH] came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18 “Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria; behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession. 19 And you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD [YHWH], “Have you **killed** and also **taken possession?**” ’ And you shall say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD [YHWH]: “In the place where dogs licked up the **blood of Naboth** shall dogs lick **your own blood.**” ’ ” (1 Ki 21:17-19, ESV)



THE PENALTY FOR FALSE WITNESS



- 34 But a certain man drew his bow at random and struck the king of Israel between the scale armor and the breastplate. Therefore he said to the driver of his chariot, “Turn around and carry me out of the battle, for I am wounded.”
35 And the battle continued that day, and the king was propped up in his chariot facing the Syrians, until at evening **he died**. And the **blood of the wound** flowed into the bottom of the **chariot**. 36 And about sunset a cry went through the army, “Every man to his city, and every man to his country!”
(1 Ki 22:34-36, ESV)



THE PENALTY FOR FALSE WITNESS



- **37 So the king died**, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria. **38 And they washed the chariot by the pool of Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood, and the prostitutes washed themselves in it, according to the word of the LORD [YHWH] that he had spoken.**

(1 Ki 22:37-38, ESV)





SINFUL SLANDER



- “ ‘Do not go about **spreading slander** among your people. “ ‘Do not do anything that **endangers your neighbor’s life**. I am the LORD [YHWH]. (Lev 19:16, NIV)



SINFUL SLANDER



An **honest witness** tells the **truth**,

but a **false** [שָׁקֵר | *šeqer*] **witness** [עֵד | *'ēd*] tells **lies**. (Pr 12:17, NIV)

An **honest witness** does **not deceive**,

but a **false** [שָׁקֵר | *šeqer*] **witness** [עֵד | *'ēd*] pours out **lies**. (Pr 14:5, NIV)

A **truthful witness** **saves lives**,

but a **false witness** [different words] is **deceitful**. (Pr 14:25, NIV)





SINFUL SLANDER



A **false** [שָׁקֵר | *šeqer*] **witness** [עֵד | *'ēd*] will not go unpunished,
and whoever pours out lies will **not go free**. (Pr 19:5, NIV)

A **false** [שָׁקֵר | *šeqer*] **witness** [עֵד | *'ēd*] will not go unpunished,
and whoever pours out lies will **perish**. (Pr 19:9, NIV; cf. Pr 19:28)

A **false** [different word] **witness** [עֵד | *'ēd*] will **perish**,
but a careful listener will testify successfully.

(Pr 21:28, NIV; also see Pr 24:28)





SINFUL SLANDER



- 16 There are six things the LORD [YHWH] **hates**,
seven that are **detestable** to him:
- 17 haughty eyes,
a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood,
- 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes,
feet that are quick to rush into evil,
- 19 **a false [שָׁקֵר | *šeqer*] witness [עֵד | *'ēd*] who pours out lies**
and a person who stirs up conflict in the community. (Pr 6:16-19, NIV)





SINFUL SILENCE



- “ ‘If anyone **sins** because they **do not speak up** when they hear a public charge to **testify** regarding something they have **seen** or **learned about**, they will be **held responsible**. (Lev 5:1, NIV)





SINFUL SILENCE



- 18 When I say to a wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not **warn them** or **speak out** to dissuade them from their evil ways **in order to save their life**, that wicked person will **die for their sin**, and I will **hold you accountable for their blood**. 19 But if you **do** warn the wicked person and **they do not turn** from their wickedness or from their evil ways, **they will die** for their sin; but **you will have saved yourself**. (Eze 3:18-19, NIV)



BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



- 12 “Anyone who strikes a person with a fatal blow is to be put to death. 13 However, if it is not done intentionally, but God lets it happen, they are to flee to a place I will designate. 14 But if anyone schemes and kills **someone** [רַעַ | *rēa*] deliberately, that person is to be taken from my altar and put to death. (Ex 21:12-14, NIV)





NEW TESTAMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- You belong to your **father, the devil**, and you want to carry out your **father's desires**. He was a murderer from the beginning, **not holding to the truth**, for there is **no truth in him**. When he lies, he speaks his **native language**, for he is a **liar** and the **father of lies**. (Jn 8:44, NIV)



NEW TESTAMENT CONSIDERATIONS



- But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters **and all liars**—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” (Rev 21:8, NIV)





BE A FAITHFUL WITNESS



- But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses** [μάρτυς | *martys*] in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Ac 1:8, NIV)



BE A FAITHFUL WITNESS

- We put **no stumbling block** in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be **discredited**. (2 Cor 6:3, NIV)

