

# "The Ninth Commandment"

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "The Ninth Commandment." Following are some of the scriptures that I read.

## **Grace and expectations**

*Exodus 20:2*—"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage."

*Exodus 20:16*—"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

## **Things God hates**

In Proverbs 6:16-19, we see a list of seven characteristics that God hates. Bible students recognize that two of the characteristics are associated with the Ninth Commandment.

- The second characteristic is "a lying tongue" (verse 17).
- The sixth characteristic is "a false witness who speaks lies" (verse 19).

## **Four concepts**

In the Bible-study presentation, I organized my material into four concepts. In this article, I will refer to those four different concepts.

## **You shall not lie**

Although the ninth commandment does not use the word "lie," there is certainly a general understanding that this commandment teaches people not to lie. Notice a few scriptures about lying.

- *John 8:44*—The devil is a liar, and the father of lies.

- *Revelation 2:2*—Disciples at Ephesus tested those who claimed to be religious leaders and found them to be liars.
- *Revelation 21:8*—Included in the list of behaviors associated with the "second death" is the phrase "all liars."
- *Revelation 21:27*—Included in the list of behaviors associated with being excluded from entrance into the heavenly temple are those who lie.
- *Revelation 22:15*—Included in the list of behaviors associated with being excluded from the heavenly city are those who love and practice a lie.

At this point, I want to give my common defense of a lady called Rahab—who is a lady praised in the Bible for deception (many would call lying) that saved lives.

In Joshua 2:4-6, Rahab hid the two men on her roof and told four fantastic statements to the men from the King of Jericho.

- "The men came to me, but I did not know where they were from."
- "As the gate was being shut (when it was dark), the men went out." (They were on the roof.)
- "Where the men went, I do not know." (They were on the roof.)
- "Pursue them quickly for you may overtake them." (They were on the roof.)

Let me tell you why I view Rahab as a hero.

*Hebrews 11:31*—"By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace."

*James 2:25*—"Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?"

### **No false witness in a court case**

- *Exodus 23:1*—Do not circulate a false report and do not put your hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.
- *Deuteronomy 19:16*—A witness should not arise to testify

falsely against another.

- *Zechariah 8:17*—Do not love a false oath.

Have you ever noticed how many times that the Bible talks about having two or three witnesses?

- Numbers 35:30
- Deuteronomy 17:6-7
- Deuteronomy 19:15
- Matthew 18:16
- John 8:17
- 2 Corinthians 13:1
- 1 Timothy 5:19
- Hebrews 10:28

### **No false witness in daily living**

- *Psalms 35:11-14*—When false witnesses arose against David, he may have avoided them but he prayed for them.
- *Matthew 26:57-65*—The chief priests, elders and council sought false testimony against the Son of God to put Him to death.
- *Acts 6:11*—The leaders secretly induced men to speak against Stephen.
- *Acts 6:13*—The leaders set up false witnesses to speak against Stephen.

### **The liar received the penalty**

In God's law, the false witness received the penalty of his lie.

*Deuteronomy 19:18-19*—"If the witness is a false witness against his brother, then you shall do to him as he thought to have done to his brother."