

## The School of Biblical Law

### Covenant and Law

#### Lesson Thirty-Seven: “The Covenant Model and Commandment Nine, Part 2”

Commandment Nine answers to the fourth section of the covenant model or sanctions, which identifies the positive or negative rewards that are due based upon covenant-keeping faithfulness. Any attempt to change the reward by stealing (Commandment 8) or by bringing forth a false witness or testimony is a trespass. A false testimony is the basis of a false judgment and, conversely, a true testimony is the basis of a true judgment. If a man is due a judgment of reward or blessing, a witness may not bring an inaccurate testimony in an attempt to rob the neighbor of his due reward. In like manner, if a man is due a judgment of negative sanctions, a witness may not bring inaccurate testimony in an attempt to spare his neighbor from the penalties he has earned. Accurate and true testimonies are the basis for the judgment and justice that is meted out.

Commandments 1-5 (Love God)	Covenant Model	Commandments 6-10 (Love thy neighbor)
No other gods	Transcendence	Do not Kill
No graven images	Hierarchy	Do Not Commit Adultery
Do not take God's Name in vain	Ethics	Do Not Steal
Remember the Sabbath Day	Sanctions	Do Not Bear False Witness
Honor thy Father and Mother	Continuity	

1. To present something or someone other than accurately or truthfully is distortion and deception.

The Serpent in the garden presented inaccurate testimony about:

- Himself – He presented himself as the truth bearer.
- God – He presented God as the false witness who was lying about the reward.
- Mankind – He presented to Eve the idea of being her own sovereign rather than the hierarchy.

Adam and Eve were given the opportunity to serve as faithful witnesses, to witness against the enemy, and to participate in securing his judgment or reward for his ethics.

Jesus is called the faithful witness.

- Revelation 1:5, “... Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness ...”
- Witness is the Greek word *martus* – Strong's #3144, the masculine noun meaning to give a record, witness.
- John 18:37, “... for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth ...”
- Witness is the Greek word *martyreo* – Strong's #3140, the verb meaning to give witness or give evidence.
- Jesus was a faithful witness to Himself, to the Father, and to God's plan for man (reward).

The church is called to follow Jesus' example and give a true testimony.

- Revelation 12:11, “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...”
- Testimony is the Greek word *martyria* – Strong's #3141, the feminine noun meaning evidence given, report, record, or testimony.

2. A witness – a *martus* (Greek) – is the root of the English word for martyr.

A witness was necessary to cause the punishment or death of criminals and the penalty was often carried out by stoning (

Martyrs are those who die for their witness, which is an attempt to stop the mouth of the true witness.

Blessings or cursings, justice or inequality, righteousness or trespasses are loosed upon the earth based upon the testimony of faithful or unfaithful witnesses, respectively. Culture rises and falls based upon the testimony of earth's “Adams.”