

## The School of Biblical Law

### Covenant and Law

#### Lesson Thirty-Eight: “The Covenant Model and Commandment Nine, Part 3”

Commandment Nine communicates that, because blessings and curses are tied to the witness, no person is allowed to bring a witness without bearing both the accountability if they deliberately bear false witness or perjure and the responsibility to stand behind their words.

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. Several scriptural examples of sanctions being dispensed based upon the testimony of witnesses are found below:

Boaz fulfilled the role of kinsman redeemer for Ruth and secured the transaction before witnesses. Ruth 4:9, “And Boaz said unto the elders and unto all the people, You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech’s and all that was Chilion’s and Mahlon’s of the hand of Naomi.”

Jezebel hired false witnesses against Naboth (I Kings 21).

- The charge was that Naboth had blasphemed God (vs. 10,13) which incurred the death penalty.
- Naboth was convicted and stoned (vs. 13).
- Ahab took possession of Naboth’s vineyard (vs. 16).
- Jezebel and Ahab were given the death penalty for their false testimony (vs. 19-23).

Jesus was convicted of blaspheme at the mouth of false witnesses (Mt. 26:59-66).

- The chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false witness against Jesus.
- Jesus was convicted to death.
- The nation received the death penalty for their false testimony. “Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us and on our children” (Mt. 27:25).
- “That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom you slew between the temple and the altar. Verily I say unto you, all these things shall come upon this generation” (Mt.23:35-36).

2. False words act as an instrument of destruction.

Proverbs 25:18, “A man that bears false witness against his neighbor is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.”

Witnesses participated in the stoning.

- Deuteronomy 17:7, “The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shall put the evil away from among you.”
- A false witness could not hurl words without the corresponding responsibility of hurling stones.

It must be noted that a true witness means bearing witness to the righteous ways of God and the furtherance of His judgments and justice rather than simply being interpreted as “I cannot tell a lie.” Remember that the midwives did not disclose to Pharaoh the birth of baby boys, and Jochebed’s hiding of Moses is accounted as an act of faith in Hebrews 11:23. When truth-telling is viewed only through the eyes of personal piety or autonomous standards and when it furthers the evil agenda of evil persons whose schemes seek to destroy the people of God or the kingdom of God, it is an act of bearing false witness. Bearing a true witness means agreeing with God’s ways and work.