

“Ninth Commandment—Part 3”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website(churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Aug. 9, 2025.

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with our series. The topic is the Ten Commandments. The presentation was titled “Ninth Commandment—Part 3.”

Originally, I decided to spend five individual presentations on the Ninth Commandment. However, I am not sure at this point if the series will be five or six presentations.

Foundational scripture

■ Exodus 20:2—“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.”

Then, the Lord proceeded to remind the children of Israel about the Ten Commandments.

Old Testament lesson = After God delivered them from Egypt, He reminded them of His expectations from them.

New Testament lesson = When God offers His bountiful grace to New Testament disciples, He still has expectations of them (Romans 6:1-2, Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:4-8).

Ninth Commandment

■ Exodus 20:16—“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

Two major concepts

Following are two verses in the book of Proverbs that mention two major concepts associated with the Ninth Commandment.

■ Proverbs 19:5—“A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.”

■ Proverbs 19:9—“A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish.”

Many view the Ninth Commandment as dealing with being a false witness in the legal system and with speaking lies in general.

First three presentations

Here is a current list of the topics for the first three presentations in this series.

1. False witness in a legal setting
2. Matthew 5:38-42
3. Five examples of dealing with false witnesses

Joseph, the son of Jacob

- Genesis 39:1-6—After the Ishmaelites took Joseph to Egypt, they sold him to an officer of Pharaoh named Potiphar.
- Genesis 39:7-10—Potiphar's wife regularly made sexual advances toward Joseph.
- Genesis 39:11-18—During one of her attempts to seduce Joseph, he left his garment in her hand, and she gave a false report to her husband.
- Genesis 39:19-20—Potiphar was furious and put Joseph into a prison.

David, a servant of Saul

There is much written in the Old Testament about King Saul seeking to kill David. Notice only a few examples.

- Psalm 27:12—"Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries, because false witnesses have risen against me and breathe out violence."
- Psalm 57:4—"My soul is among lions. I lie among the sons of men who are set on fire, whose teeth are spears and arrows and their tongue a sharp sword."
- Psalm 109:2-3—"The mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful have opened against me. They have spoken against me with a lying tongue. They have also surrounded me with words of hatred."

Looking back to the book of 2 Samuel 10:1-3, we find the following—the king of Ammon died; David sent friends to comfort the new king, Hanun; the princes of Ammon warned Hanun that David sent friends to spy on him before overthrowing him, and Hanun believed the false report.

- 2 Samuel 10:4—"Therefore, Hanun took David's servants, shaved off half of their beards, cut off their garments in the middle at their buttocks and sent them away."

Shadrach, Meshack and Abed-Nego

The report given by certain Chaldeans to King Nebuchadnezzar about three Jewish servants was devious.

While the report was technically accurate (in saying that the fellows did not worship the king's gods and that they would not bow down to the gold image), the motive was to give infuriating information that would blind the king about the good service of the three men and to manipulate him to have an emotional reaction toward them.

■ Daniel 3:12—"There are certain Jews whom you have set over the affairs of the province of Babylon (Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego), but they have not paid due regard to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the gold image which you have set up."

Stephen of Jerusalem

■ Acts 6:9-11—People from the Synagogue of the Freedmen (Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia) secretly induced men to say: "We have heard him [Stephen] speak blasphemous words against Moses and God."

■ Acts 6:12—They stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes to seize Stephen and to take him before the council.

■ Acts 6:13-14—They set up false witnesses to say: "This man does not cease to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs which Moses delivered to us."

After Stephen gave a wonderful history lesson in Acts 7:1-50, he infuriated them with strong words.

■ Acts 7:51-53—Stephen said: "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers—who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."

Apostle Paul

■ Acts 16:22-23—The multitude was aware that Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison.

■ Acts 16:36-37—When the magistrates wanted to quietly release Paul and Silas, Paul responded: "They have beaten us (innocent Roman citizens) openly and thrown us into prison. And now they want to release us secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out."

■ Acts 17:6-7—When the mob was looking for Paul, they dragged Jason and some of the brethren out of Jason's home and said: "These who have turned the world upside down have harbored them, and these are all acting contrary to the decrees of Caesar."

- Acts 21:28—When some Jews of Asia saw Paul in the temple, they cried out: “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against the people, the law and this place [the temple].”
- Acts 21:30-31—The people dragged Paul out of the temple and were seeking to kill him.