

# Torah Studies – Commandment #8

**Exodus 20:15** “Thou shalt not steal.”

## Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
THOU SHALT NOT	3808	lô'	never
STEAL	1589	gânab	to <i>deceive</i> : - carry away, secretly bring, steal (away), get by stealth.

## **Biblical Perspective on Theft**

In the **Torah**, all stealing is of equal magnitude, in that stealing takes away the life of the owner, as it says in Proverbs 1:19 – “So *are* the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; *which* taketh away the life of the owners thereof.”

The **Torah** instructs us not to steal or deal dishonestly (*Leviticus 19:35-36*). Most people know that stealing and cheating are not okay. But, some might think that it's not a problem to steal if it's only a small amount. But, in **Torah**, there is no such thing as “petty” theft.

The **Torah** prohibits multiple forms of taking something that really belongs to another:

1. גניבה - **geneva** is to take something from someone else's possession without their knowledge.
2. גזילה - **gezela** is grabbing something from someone else's possession by force, in plain sight
3. עושק - **oshek** is to withhold somebody else's item from them with force, such as they gave you money and now are asking for it back and you refuse to give it.
4. Additionally, **Ribbit** (*lending with interest*), **Onaat Mamon** (*overcharging or cheating*), and imbalanced weights are also forms of stealing as these are all forms of causing financial loss to another person.

## Torah Studies – Statutes #506-508

*Statute 506: The food we enjoy is a gift provided by Yahweh. For this reason, when we eat and are full we are to bless Yahweh with the praise of thanks giving.*

*Statute 507: Everything we have is provided by Yahweh, Who is the true Owner of all. Thus, when we are blessed with possessions, property, resources, and funds we must not forget to obey Yahweh’s Torah and to worship Him as Sovereign God.*

*Statute 508: Do not let your heart be pridefully lifted up, taking the credit to yourself for the blessings of Yahweh in your life.*

**Deuteronomy 8:10-14** “When thou hast **eaten** and **art full**, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which He hath given thee. **Beware** that thou **forget not** the LORD thy God, in not keeping His Commandments, and His Judgments, and His Statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then **thine heart** be **lifted up**, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.”

### **Key Word Study:**

Key Word	Strong’s Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
EATEN	398	'âkal	to eat, consume, devour, feed (with) plenty
ART FULL	7646	śâba'	to sate, to satisfy, have enough
BEWARE	8104	shâmar	to hedge about (as with thorns), that is, guard; generally to protect, attend to, watchman
FORGET NOT	7911	shâkach	to mislay, that is, to be oblivious of from want of memory or attention
THINE HEART	3824	lêbâb	the heart (as the most interior organ), bethink themselves, understanding
LIFTED UP	7311	rûm	to be high actively to rise or raise, exalt (self), presumptuously, (be) proud, breed worms

# Torah Studies – Statutes #506-508 (*continued*)

## BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES ON RENDERING PRAISE TO YAWEH:

“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures.”

James 1:16-18 (NKJV)

It is very tempting for us to think of ourselves as the owners of “our” time, talents, resources, position, property and/or money, which we possess. But taking credit for “our” possessions and talents – which truly belong to Yahweh – is a form of stealing.

Maybe we have a very strong work ethic, tempting us to believe that what blessings we received have come because we worked hard and made it happen for ourselves or that we deserve it. But, as Scripture says, we cannot make one hair white or black. We have no control over the amount of time we have. And our very breath, strength, and intellect to work comes from Yahweh. Thus, if we think of ourselves as providing all in our possessions, we are stealing glory from God unto ourselves.

Another way we may be stealing Yahweh’s rightful praise is through superstition / luck / idol worship. Some say, “Oh! You’re so lucky!” But the word “luck” comes from “Lucifer”! We don’t want to give God’s glory to happenstance or idolatry! NOTHING comes to us by chance. It only comes to us from the provision of our sovereign God, Who knows the end from the beginning.

We must begin to transform how we think and speak so that our words accurately reflect God’s work in our lives. Instead of “I got a raise,” say “God gave me a raise.” Instead of “I got a promotion,” say “Yahweh gave me a promotion.” Do you see the difference? By changing the way we think and speak, we take the focus and glory off self and put it back where it belongs – on God.

Praise for all He has done is a tribute offering that we are to bring unto Him in thanksgiving for all He has provided.

- “Through Yahshua, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that openly profess His Name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” Hebrews 13:15-16
- *“I will give thanks to You, Yahweh, with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds.” Psalm 9:1*

## Torah Studies – Statutes #509

*Statute 509: Do not forsake the support of those who work full-time as priests of Yahweh.*

**Deuteronomy 12:19** “**Take heed** to thyself that thou **forsake not** the Levite as long as thou livest upon the earth.”

### **Key Word Study:**

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
TAKE HEED	8104	shâmar	to <i>hedge</i> about (as with thorns), that is, <i>guard</i> ; generally to <i>protect, attend to, beware</i>
FORSAKE NOT	5800	ʿâzab	to <i>loosen</i> , that is, <i>relinquish, permit, etc.</i> : - commit self, fail, forsake, leave destitute

### **CROSS REFERENCES:**

Deuteronomy 14:27-29; 2 Chronicles 11:13-14, 2 Chronicles 31:4-21; Nehemiah 10:34-39; 1 Corinthians 9:10-14

- **1 Thessalonians 5:12-13** “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in Yahweh, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.”
- **2 Corinthians 9:14** “In the same way, Yahweh commanded that those who proclaim the Gospel should get their living by the Gospel.”
- **2 Chronicles 31:4** “And he commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and the Levites, that they might give themselves to the Law of the Lord.”
- **1 Corinthians 9:7** “Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock without getting some of the milk?”

## Torah Studies – Statutes #510-511

*Statute 510: If you lend money to someone – specifically a brother or sister in Messiah – do not treat him or her like a Creditor would treat him. This means that you must not exploit the needs of your poor brother or sister in order to bring yourself financial gain.*

*Statute 511: If you lend money to someone – specifically a brother or sister in Messiah – do not charge him interest on the loan.*

**Exodus 22:25** “If thou **lend** money to any of My people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an **usurer**, neither shalt thou lay upon him **usury**.”

### Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
LEND	3867	lâvâh	to twine, to unite, to remain; also to borrow or to lend: - abide with, cleave, join self
USURER	5383	nâshâh	borrow on security or interest, creditor, exact, extortioner, lend, usurer, taker of usury
USURY	5392	neshek	interest on a debt: - usury

### **BIBLE PERSPECTIVES ON MONEY LOANS:**

Before the creation of usury laws, *usury* could refer to interest in general. Now, *usury* refers to exorbitantly (and illegally) high interest rates. The King James Version uses the word *usury* in its older meaning. For example, in Exodus 22:25, the basic rule regarding interest is “If thou lend money to any of My people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer, neither shalt thou lay upon him usury” (KJV). However, in the English Standard Version, the same verse reads, “If you lend money to any of My people with you who is poor, you shall not be like a moneylender to him, and you shall not exact interest from him.”

Yahweh’s people are forbidden from charging “usury,” or interest, on loans to fellow believers (Deuteronomy 23:19), but it is okay to charge interest on loans to those who are not a part of spiritual Israel (Deuteronomy 23:20).

## Torah Studies – Statutes #512-513

*Statute 512: Employers are to pay their employees promptly, upon the agreed-upon payday.*

*Statute 513: Failure to pay one’s employee(s) on the agreed-upon payday is counted as defrauding and robbing one’s neighbour, before Yahweh. This is true, even if the payment is “only” late by one day.*

**Leviticus 19:13** “Thou shalt not **defraud** thy neighbour, neither **rob** him: the **wages** of him that is hired shall not abide with thee **all night** until the morning.”

### **Key Word Study:**

Key Word	Strong’s Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
DEFRAUD	6231	ʿâshaq	to <i>press</i> upon, that is, <i>oppress, defraud, violate, get deceitfully, violence, wrong</i>
ROB	1497	gâzal	to <i>pluck</i> off; specifically to <i>flay, strip</i> or <i>rob, spoil, take away</i> (by force, violence), <i>tear</i>
WAGES	6468	p <sup>ec</sup> ûllâh	<i>work</i> : - labour, reward, wages, work
ALL NIGHT	3885	lûn	to <i>stop</i> overnight, to <i>stay</i> permanently; to be <i>obstinate, to complain</i> ): - abide all night

### **CROSS REFERENCES:**

Deuteronomy 24:14-15; Job 31:39; Jeremiah 22:13; Malachi 3:5; James 5:4

## Torah Studies – Statutes #514

*Statute 514: Kidnapping is a capital offense in the Eyes of God.*

**Exodus 21:16** “And he that **stealeth** a man, and **selleth** him, or if he be found in his hand, he shall surely be put to death.”

### **Key Word Study:**

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
STEALETH	1589	<i>gānab</i>	to thief, to deceive, carry away, secretly bring, steal (away), get by stealth
SELLETH	4376	<i>mākar</i>	to sell, literally (as merchandise, a daughter in marriage, into slavery), or figuratively (to surrender): - X at all, sell (away, -er, self).

### **CROSS REFERENCES:**

Genesis 40:15; Deuteronomy 24:7; 1 Timothy 1:10; Genesis 37:28

## Torah Studies – Statutes #515-516

*Statute 515: Do not unjustly change the property lines between yours and your neighbors' property.*

*Statute 516: When the land was legally purchased, whatever the original boundary lines were, those are the property lines that must be recognized between yourself and your neighbors.*

**Deuteronomy 19:14** “Thou shalt not **remove** thy neighbour's **landmark**, which they **of old time** have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.”

### Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
REMOVE	5253	nâsag	to <i>retreat</i> : - departing away, remove, take (hold), turn away
LANDMARK	1366	g <sup>c</sup> bûl	a <i>cord</i> , a <i>boundary</i> ; the <i>territory</i> enclosed: - border, coast, landmark, limit, quarter, space
OF OLD TIME	7223	ri'shôn	<i>first</i> , in place, time or rank, before (-time), beginning

### **BIBLE STUDIES:**

Before the extensive use of fences, landed property was marked out by stones or posts, set up so as to ascertain the divisions of family estates. It was easy to remove one of these landmarks, and set it in a different place; and thus a dishonest man might enlarge his own estate by deceitfully claiming that of his neighbour.

Hence it was a matter of considerable importance to prevent this crime among the Israelites; among whom, removing them would be equivalent to forging, altering, destroying, or concealing the title-deeds of an estate among us. Accordingly, by the Mosaic law, it was not only prohibited in the commandment against covetousness, but we find a particular curse expressly annexed to it in Deuteronomy 27:17, “Cursed *be* he that removeth his neighbour's landmark. And all the people shall say, Amen.”

- **Job 24:2** “Some remove the landmarks; they violently take away flocks, and feed *thereof*.”
- **Pro 22:28** “Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.”
- **Hosea 5:10** “The princes of Judah were like them that remove the bound: *therefore* I will pour out my wrath upon them like water.”



## Torah Studies – Statutes #517-519

*Statute 517: Do not steal from another, nor get their property through stealth.*

*Statute 518: Do not be untrue or tell lies.*

*Statute 519: Do not cheat, nor deal falsely with another.*

**Leviticus 19:11** “Ye shall not **steal**, neither **deal falsely**, neither **lie** one to another.”

### **Key Word Study:**

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
STEAL	1589	gânab	to <i>thieve</i> , to <i>deceive</i> : - carry away, secretly bring, steal (away), get by stealth
DEAL FALSELY	3584	kâchash	to <i>be untrue</i> , in word (to <i>lie</i> , <i>feign</i> , <i>disown</i> ) or deed (to <i>disappoint</i> , <i>fail</i> ), be found liars
LIE	8266	shâqar	to <i>cheat</i> , that is, <i>be untrue</i> (usually in words): - fail, deal falsely, lie

### **Cross References:**

- Leviticus 6:2; Exodus 20:15, Exodus 20:17, Exodus 22:1, Exodus 22:7, Exodus 22:10-12; Deuteronomy 5:19; Jeremiah 6:13, Jeremiah 7:9-11; Zechariah 5:3-4, Zechariah 8:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:8-10; Ephesians 4:28
- 1 Kings 13:18; Psalm 101:7, Psalm 116:11; Jeremiah 9:3-5; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 3:4; Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9; 1 Timothy 1:10; Revelation 21:8

If an accidental loss of property occurs, or no witnesses are found and one cannot prove a person has stolen, his own sworn witness that he is innocent must be accepted by the accuser:

**Exodus 22:10-11** If a man deliver unto his neighbour an ass, or an ox, or a sheep, or any beast, to keep; and it die, or be hurt, or driven away, **no man seeing it: Then shall an oath of Yahweh be between them both, that he hath not put his hand unto his neighbour's goods; and the owner of it shall accept thereof, and he shall not make it good.**"