

Torah Studies – Commandment #9

Exodus 20:16 “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
THOU SHALT NOT	3808	lô'	never
BEAR	6030	ʿânâh	to <i>eye</i> or (generally) to <i>heed</i> , that is, <i>pay attention</i> , to speak; specifically to <i>sing, shout, testify, announce</i>
FALSE	8267	sheqer	an <i>untruth</i> , without a cause, deceitful
WITNESS	5707	ʿêd	<i>a witness</i> ; abstractly <i>testimony</i> ; specifically a <i>recorder, a prince</i>
AGAINST THY NEIGHBOUR	7453	rêa'	an <i>associate</i> , brother, companion, fellow, friend, husband, lover, neighbour, another

TRUTH vs DECEPTION – It's About Two Kingdoms:

The threat of deception is the most sobering of all dangers to sincere believers. If we are deceived, we increasingly walk in spiritual darkness until we can no longer discern our true condition, nor find the way out. Like fish trapped in a cave, we not only lose our vision, but we also lose our sense of the need of it. Clearly, we must not fall a prey to deception! But, then the chilling reality dawns on us... We can't out-think, out-plan, or out-smart the devil nor rely on our own perceptions or senses to discern his lies.

So how can we be safe against the deceptions already coming upon the world? There is much reason to hope, for the Truth sets us free—on every level. Far from a random and unavoidable “cliff edge”, according to Scripture, **only those who are deceivable will fall a prey to deception.** Further, Yahweh has lovingly provided His people with a 100%, guaranteed shield against being **deceivable.** Thus, as we increasingly use this Shield, even the most epic deceptions lose their power.

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- Matthew 24:24 “For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets... insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

Of all the sobering Scriptural warnings about the dangers of the Last Days, perhaps the one that chills even the sincerest believer to the bone is the threat of deception. For how can a believer stand for the Truth, if he or she has been deceived? If our own perceptions of what is right can be manipulated and skewed, how can we be sure of where we stand? How can we be certain that we will not “Fall Away” (Luke 8:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4) and find ourselves among the astonished, self-deceived, who only discover that they have left the Truth when it is far too late?

- Matthew 7:21-23 - “Not every one that saith unto Me, Sovereign, Master, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven... Many will say to Me in that Day, Sovereign, Master, have we not prophesied in Thy Name? And in Thy Name have cast out devils? And in Thy Name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”

Already, we are witnessing the blasting “winds” of deception (Ephesians 4:14). With increasing alarm, we witness our former teachers, spiritual leaders, fellowship members, and even our close friends and family members being swept off their former Scriptural footings by these dangerous, deceiving doctrinal winds. We stand at the cusp of the Last Day events. The Saviour’s End-time prophecies of Matthew 24 are happening all around us. And the winds of deception have already risen to a near over-mastering level. Yet, we know that the deceiving winds are only beginning to blow! What protection will we have when they reach such a pitch that they are a threat even to the “very elect”, as Christ warned in Matthew 24:24. In fact, in Scripture, we are warned in sixty different verses against being deceived! Here are a few:

- 2 Timothy 3:13 “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”
- Ephesians 4:14 “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive”
- 1 Timothy 4:1 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the Latter Times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”
- Revelation 12:9 “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

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But the threat of deception has been such that many are afraid to face it. Thus, believers often comfort themselves by embracing false hopes about the threat of deception. One such is the commonly-held belief that no one will receive the Mark of the Beast through deception.

Although largely unspoken, many have expected that there would be the spiritual equivalent to clear queue lines to receive the Mark of the Beast or the Seal of Yahweh. It's almost as if believers have thought that each member of mankind would be able to make a consensual and informed decision regarding which "line" he or she would join. Do we almost imagine there will be an announcer heard over a spiritual com-system calling out, "Line up to determine your eternal destiny! Please stand in Line A to receive the Seal of Yahweh. And please join Line B if you would like to receive the Mark of the Beast!"

Revelation 19:20 plainly tells us that many will receive the Mark of the Beast through deception. This means that a sobering proportion of people, who ultimately receive the Mark of the Beast, will not have done so consensually; nor through having made an informed and clear choice to receive it:

- "And the Beast was taken, and with him the False Prophet that wrought miracles before him, with **which he deceived them that had received the Mark of the Beast**, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a Lake of Fire burning with brimstone." Rev. 19:20

One of hell's biggest weapons—a true curse which keeps people hopelessly imprisoned in the dragon's keep—is deception. In the Last Days, deception will be unleashed upon the masses and employed to new and epic proportions!

- 2 Timothy 3:13 "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived."
- 1 Timothy 4:1 "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the Latter Times some shall depart from the Faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."
- Revelation 12:9 "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

Clearly, if many will even receive the Mark of the Beast because of it, the threat of deception is the most sobering of all dangers! For if we are deceived, we increasingly walk in spiritual darkness until we can no longer discern our true condition, nor find the way out. Like fish trapped in a cave, we not only lose our vision, but we also lose our sense of the need of it.

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- 2 Corinthians 4:4 “The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the Light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ Who is the Image of God.”

The resulting spiritual blindness is the worst part of being deceived. For Yahshua is Salvation and there is no Salvation in other. Yet, when we are spiritually blind, we do not see nor seek Him, making deliverance from the Enemy’s clutches increasingly impossible, the blinder we become. Notably then, the question must be asked: how can anyone, possessed by hell, ever hope to escape? And since every unsaved person is a part of the kingdom of hell, how can anyone be saved out of it? While it is true that blindness is a condition which Satan puts upon his captives, it is not true that every captive of hell is also blind! Yahweh has Promised that the Light of Truth and the opportunity for Salvation is given to every person.

- John 12:46 “I Am come a Light into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me should not abide in darkness.”
- John 1:9 “That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”

What we do with it, when we are presented with the Light of Truth, determines whether we’ll be blessed with continuing Light, or whether Truth will be taken away.

Consider the story of the deliverance of the Gerasene demoniacs (Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39), frequently known as the Miracle of the Gadarene Swine. The two demon-possessed men lived in a cave, cast out of society and beyond human help—or restraint, as was clearly demonstrated by the fact that they kept breaking the chains the magistrates tried to use to shackle and control them.

They were isolated, self-destructive and tormented. According to the Gospel record, the men were possessed by a “Legion” of demonic entities (Luke 8:30). To put this into perspective, a Roman legion was about 5000 soldiers! But notice what Scripture tells us these demon-possessed men did, when they met Yahshua, Who is the Light of the world.

First, the possessed men immediately recognized Yahshua as Messiah and as soon as He stepped off the boat onto their shore, they ran to Him and knelt down before Him. Even under the influence of the demons, they recognized and acknowledged Yahshua’s Identity.

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A man possessed by thousands of demons recognized Yahshua. But the religious leaders, possessing thousands of Scriptures, couldn't!

Since it is Satan who causes spiritual blindness and deception, it may seem shocking that a demon-possessed individual could see, while the supposed righteous people—the spiritual leaders of Israel—were as blind as proverbial bats? Clearly, it isn't a person's initial level of bondage and darkness, which determines whether he or she can perceive the Light of Truth!

So, if our level of deceivableness is not determined by the magnitude of our original bondage, what does make us deceivable? At what point does the kingdom of hell get the legal right to curse an individual with impenetrable darkness and deception? As we saw in John 12:46 and John 1:9, Yahweh shines the Light of Truth upon the life-path of every person on earth, at one point or another.

The question is what we do with the Light, when it shines upon us. If we receive the Light and walk in it, more will come, eventually fully dispelling darkness and deception from our lives, completely! But, if we reject the Light, or even the opportunity to see it, that blessing of Light dims and goes out, leaving the person in a deepening darkness that is actually the result of their own choosing!

Thus, as Scripture teaches, those who are ultimately deceived are not victims of deception. Rather, by rejecting and turning from the Light Yahweh sends them, they are *willing participants* in the process of becoming deceived. In the Bible, Light and Truth are equated. Spiritual darkness and deception are also different names for the same condition.

With this in mind, let's look at John 3:19-20:

- “And this is the condemnation, that Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than Light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the Light, neither cometh to the Light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.”
- John 12:35 “Then Yahshua said unto them, Yet a little while is the Light with you. Walk while ye have the Light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.”

No human can hope to resist the wiles of the devil through out-thinking, out-perceiving, or out-intuiting deception—especially the overmastering level of deception, which characterizes the Last Days (Matthew 24:24). But while we cannot, by strength of willpower or intellect, defeat overmastering deception, we ***do*** choose whether or not we are deceivable. **It is in choosing whether we can be deceived, or not, that we actually participate in our own deception**

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— or choose not to be deceived. But the critical point where we determine whether we'll be deceivable is not at the time of the deception, but before it. How so?

To answer this question, we must Scripturally see the one and only Safeguard—the Shield—Yahweh has provided against being deceived. **The only Shield against deception is Truth—specifically, a love of the Truth.** Repeatedly, in Scripture Yahweh warns that if we do not love Truth, we will be deceived. In other words, loving Truth prevents deceivableness.

Thus, loving Truth is our only protection from falling prey to deception. Conversely also, failing to love Truth comes with the curse, or consequence, of being able to be deceived. Let's see this in the Bible:

- 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 “And with all **deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the Truth,** that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the Truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Second Thessalonians tells us that if we don't love the Truth, we are not only “unrighteous” but we also then make ourselves “deceivable”. Soberingly, if we are able to be deceived—deceivable—we surely will be deceived by the overmastering level of lies which hell is putting upon the world in these final days. We may know this, beyond question, because the Biblical consequence for failing to love the Truth is that we will be sent “strong delusions” causing us to ultimately “believe lies”.

A love of the Truth is Heaven's only anti-deception Shield! When we love the Truth (aka Light), we are protected from deception. When we fail to love the Truth, we will surely be deceived, ultimately resulting in eternal damnation.

Thus, how we handle the Truth plays a huge part in determining our eternal destiny! And this reality is both comforting and sobering, at the same time. It is comforting because it is wonderful to realize that, while we cannot out-think deception directly, we can choose to be safeguarded from deception, through the Shield of the Love of the Truth. It is sobering also, because loving the Truth is far more involved than most understand. It is not sufficient to simply claim to love the Truth.

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Considering how vitally important it is to love the Truth; we need to fully understand what that involves and how it manifests in the life of the Truth-lover. Here are the Scriptural defining characteristics which demonstrate a love of the Truth in a life:

- SHEMA ISRAEL—Deut. 6:4-9
- TURN FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT—Acts 26:18
- EXPOSE HIDDEN DARKNESS—1 Corinthians 4:5
- BEHOLD THE LIGHT—Psalm 89:15
- REPENT FOR BITTERNESS & HATE—1 John 2:9-11.
- READ & MEMORIZE GOD’S WORD—Psalm 119:105
- PUT ON THE ARMOR OF LIGHT—Romans 13:12
- HAVE A “SINGLE” EYE—Matthew 6:22-23

A mere claim to love the Truth is insufficient to shield us from the devil’s End-time deceptions. Our love of the Truth must be genuine. And when we really, fully love Truth, we are transformed into citizens of the Kingdom of Light... There is no darkness in the Kingdom of Yahweh (Light)... So, lies have no place in our lives if we are choosing Yahweh.

Torah Studies – Statutes #533-539

Statute 533: Do not speak false or untrue words.

Statute 534: Do not give an untrue testimony or a false witness.

Statute 535: Do not support idolatry, through word or witness.

Statute 536: Do not follow the crowd to do that which is evil.

Statute 537: Do not give a false testimony nor support an unjust cause.

Statute 538: Do not make agreements with the wicked, nor participate in twisting judgment or causing moral depravity to gain ground.

Statute 539: Do not unrighteously align yourself against the poor or weak.

Exodus 23:1-3 “Thou shalt not **raise** a **false report**: **put** not **thine hand** with the **wicked** to be an **unrighteous witness**. Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither **shalt thou speak** in a **cause** to decline after many to **wrest** judgment: Neither shalt thou **countenance** a **poor man** in his cause.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
RAISE	5375	nâśá'	to <i>lift, advance</i> , bring (forth), give, go on, help, swear
FALSE REPORT	7723/ 8088	shâv' / shêma'	<i>lying sound, rumor</i> , idolatrous announcement;
PUT	7896	shîyth	to <i>place</i> , apply, appoint, array, bring
THINE HAND	3027	yâd	custody, debt, dominion, fellowship, force
WICKED	7563	râshâ'	<i>wrong; bad person</i> : - + condemned, guilty, ungodly, wicked (man), that did wrong
UNRIGHTEOUS	2555	châmâs	<i>violence; wrong; unjust gain</i> : - cruel, damage, false, injustice, violence

Torah Studies – Statutes #533-539 (continued)

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
WITNESS	5707	ʿêd	<i>a witness; abstractly testimony; specifically a recorder, that is, prince: - witness</i>
SHALT THOU SPEAK	6030	ʿânâh	<i>to heed, that is, pay attention, testify, announce: - give account, afflict</i>
CAUSE	7379	rîyb	<i>a contest (personal or legal), chiding, contend, contention, strife, strive (-ing), suit</i>

Cross Reference:

- Psalm 15:1-4** "A Psalm of David. Yahweh, who shall abide in Thy Tabernacle? Who shall dwell in Thy holy Hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. *He that* backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but He honoureth them that fear Yahweh. *He that* sweareth to *his own* hurt, and changeth not."

Torah Studies – Statutes #540-543

Statute 540: Judges and all involved with judgment must not pervert justice by rendering or influencing judgment according to his own bias.

Statute 541: Just and righteous judgment is to be rendered according to the Torah.

Statute 542: Judges and all involved with judgment must not be partial towards the rich or powerful, nor be biased against the poor or powerless, but must influence and render judgment by what is true and righteous alone.

Statute 543: Do not gossip against nor slander others.

Leviticus 19:15-16 “Ye shall do no **unrighteousness** in **judgment**: thou shalt not **respect** the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in **righteousness** shalt thou **judge** thy neighbour. Thou shalt not go up and down as a **talebearer** among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I *am* the LORD.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
UNRIGHTEOUSNESS	5766	evel	(moral) <i>evil</i> : - iniquity, perverseness, unjust, unrighteousness, wickedness
JUDGMENT	4941	mishpâṭ	a <i>verdict</i> , including the act, the place, the suit, the crime, and the penalty; abstractly <i>justice</i>
RESPECT	5375	nâśâ'	to <i>lift</i> , accept, advance, arise, forgive, regard, magnify
RIGHTEOUSNESS	6664	tsedeq	the <i>right, equity, prosperity</i> : even, justice, righteous cause
JUDGE	8199	shâphaṭ	to <i>judge</i> , that is, pronounce <i>sentence</i> (for or against); by implication to <i>vindicate</i> or <i>punish</i>
TALEBEARER	8199	rakiyl	a scandal monger (aka gossip), slander

Cross References:

- Deuteronomy 16:19
- Deuteronomy 27:19
- Proverbs 18:5

Torah Studies – Statutes #544-546

Statute 544: Do not accept donations, gifts or rewards of any kind, when they are given with the intent to bribe.

Statute 545: Do not allow bribery of any kind to turn a blind eye and lose true discernment against evil.

Statute 546: Do not accept anything that comes with strings attached, to pervert righteous speech, actions, or decisions.

Exodus 23:8 “And thou shalt take no **gift**: for the gift **blindeth** the **wise**, and **perverteth** the **words** of the **righteous**.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
GIFT	7810	shachad	a <i>donation</i> , bribe bribery, gift, present, reward
BLINDETH	5786	ʿâvar	through the idea of a <i>film</i> over the eyes; to <i>blind</i> , put out
WISE	6493	piqqêach	<i>clear sighted</i> ; figuratively <i>intelligent</i> : - seeing, wise
PERVERTETH	5557	sâlaph	properly to <i>wrench</i> , that is, (figuratively) to <i>subvert</i> : - overthrow, pervert
WORDS	1697	dâbâr	a <i>word</i> ; a <i>matter</i> , a <i>cause</i> , act, advice, business, judgment, counsel
RIGHTEOUS	6662	tsaddîyq	<i>just</i> : - just, lawful, righteous (man)

Cross References:

- Isaiah 1:12-18
- Matthew 5:23-24

Torah Studies – Statutes #547-550

Statute 547: Do not make decisions in judgment based upon a person’s status, power, personal friendship, or position.

Statute 548: Invest the same amount of time and care in seeking righteous justice for the poor and weak as you do for the wealthy and powerful.

Statute 549: Do not alter true judgment, nor change your testimony, out of fear of threats or violence.

Statute 550: Judgment is Yahweh’s. As such, all aspects of it must be conducted righteously and with this over-arching awareness.

Deuteronomy 1:17 “Ye shall not **respect** persons in **judgment**; but ye shall hear the **small** as well as the **great**; ye shall not be **afraid** of the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring it unto me, and I will hear it.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong’s Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
RESPECT	5234	nâkar	to scrutinize, to acknowledge, care for, respect, revere, or to disregard, ignore
JUDGMENT	4941	mishpâṭ	a verdict (favorable or unfavorable) pronounced judicially, sentence, formal decree
SMALL	6996	qâṭân	diminutive, literally (in quantity, size or number) or figuratively (in age or importance):
GREAT	1419	gâdôl	great, older; elder, great (man), high, long, loud, mighty, noble
AFRAID	1481	gûr	to turn aside from the road, to shrink, fear, be afraid

Cross References:

- Acts 10:34-35
- Romans 2:11
- Ephesians 6:9

Torah Studies – Statutes #551-554

Statute 551: One witness alone is not sufficient to accuse someone of iniquity, sin, or a crime.

Statute 552: If only one witness believes a wrong has been committed by someone, he may not speak against the person, nor accuse them since he is the sole witness.

Statute 553: The testimony of two or three witnesses is required to make an accusation against someone for a sin, iniquity, or crime.

Statute 554: If the testimony of two or three witnesses stands in harmony that someone has committed a sin or a crime, the accusation stands as fact, at their corroborated testimony.

Deuteronomy 19:15 “One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
WITNESS	5707	‘êd	<i>a witness; abstractly testimony; specifically, a recorder, witness</i>
FOR ANY INIQUITY	5771	‘âvôn	<i>perversity, (moral) evil: - fault, iniquity, mischief, punishment (of iniquity), sin</i>
HE SINNETH	2398	châṭâ'	<i>to miss; to sin; to forfeit, lack, (causatively) lead astray, bear the blame</i>
MOUTH	6310	peh	<i>the mouth, (particularly speech); according to, saying, sentence, word</i>
SHALL THE MATTER	1697	dâbâr	<i>a matter (as spoken of) of thing; a cause, glory, harm, judgment</i>
BE ESTABLISHED	6965	qûm	<i>to rise, accomplish, ordain, perform, pitch, raise (up), remain, succeed</i>

Cross References:

- Deuteronomy 17:6
- Matthew 18:16
- 1 Timothy 5:19

Torah Studies – Statutes #555-557

Statute 555: When you see that a matter is false, stay far away from it.

Statute 556: Have absolutely nothing to do with supporting a deceptive cause.

Statute 557: Have a wise and holy fear to do these false things, for Yahweh will not justify (make righteous) anyone who participates in destroying the innocent.

Exodus 23:7 “**Keep thee far** from a **false matter**; and the **innocent** and **righteous slay** thou not: for I will not **justify** the **wicked**.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
KEEP THEE FAR	7368	râchaq	to <i>widen, recede, remove</i> (keep self), withdraw far, a good way (off)
FALSE MATTER	1697/8267	dâbâr/sheqer	an <i>untruth</i> ; a <i>sham</i> , word or action without a cause, deceitful, wrongfully
INNOCENT	5355	nâqîy	<i>innocent</i> : - blameless, clean, clear, exempted, free, guiltless, quit (equipped)
RIGHTEOUS	6662	tsaddîyq	<i>just</i> : - just, lawful, righteous (man), to make righteous, be cleansed
SLAY	2026	hârag	to <i>smite</i> with deadly intent: - destroy, out of hand, kill, murder
JUSTIFY	6663	tsâdaq	to <i>be</i> (causatively <i>make</i>) <i>right</i> , cleanse, clear self, (be, turn to) righteousness
WICKED	7563	râshâ'	<i>wrong; bad</i> person: - + condemned, guilty, ungodly, wicked, that did wrong

Cross References:

- Deuteronomy 19:16-21
- Proverbs 4:14-15
- Romans 1:18
- Romans 2:5-6

Torah Studies – Statutes #558-562

Statute 558: When a person gives testimony against someone, those rendering judgment must thoroughly investigate the evidence that this is a credible witness, bearing true testimony.

Statute 559: Be afraid of giving false testimony against someone, because if the thorough investigation of the witness reveals he/she is a false witness, bearing false testimony, righteous judgment requires that the false witness receive the punishment that he/she was trying to put upon someone else. If the testimony of the false witness would have caused the accused person to have their hand or foot cut off, the hand or foot of the false witness is to be cut off, or if it was a capital offense, the false witness should be executed. Whatever punishment would have been given to the accused is to be given to the false accuser.

Statute 560: When the punishment would have been given to the accused is to be given to the false accuser and the accuser begs for mercy to not receive that punishment, the judges are not to relent nor show mercy towards the false witness.

Statute 561: Live in the awareness that failure to give the false accuser the punishment which he/she tried to wrongly put on the accused is a crime so great in Yahweh's Eyes that it will bring "evil among" the whole assembly, bringing the Judgments of Yahweh upon the whole assembly involved.

Statute 562: Be afraid to falsely accuse someone, as this is a serious crime in Yahweh's Eyes.

Deuteronomy 19:18-21 "And the **judges** shall make **diligent inquisition**: and, behold, if the witness be a **false witness**, and hath testified falsely against his brother. Then shall ye do unto him, as **he had thought** to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou **put the evil away** from among you. And those which **remain** shall **hear**, and **fear**, and shall henceforth commit no more any such evil among you. And **thine eye** shall not **pity**; but life shall go for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot."

Torah Studies – Statutes #558-562 (continued)

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
JUDGES	8199	shâphaṭ	to <i>judge</i> , to <i>vindicate</i> or <i>punish</i> ; to <i>govern</i> ; passively to <i>litigate</i> , rule
DILIGENT INQUISTION	1875	dârash	to <i>follow</i> (for pursuit or search); to <i>seek</i> or <i>ask</i> , to <i>diligently inquire</i>
FALSE	8267	sheqer	an <i>untruth</i> ; a <i>sham</i> , without a cause, deceitful, false, vain (thing), wrongfully
WITNESS	5707	ʿêd	a <i>witness</i> ; abstractly <i>testimony</i> ; specifically a <i>recorder</i>
HE HAD THOUGHT	2161	zâmam	to <i>plan</i> , usually in a bad sense: - consider, devise, imagine, plot, purpose, think (evil)
PUT THE EVIL AWAY	7451	raʿ	adversity, affliction, bad, calamity, + displeasure, wrong, wretchedness
REMAIN	7604	shâ'ar	to <i>swell up</i> , <i>be (make) redundant</i> : - leave, remnant, reserve, the rest

Cross References:

- Deuteronomy 13:14
- Deuteronomy 17:4
- 2 Chronicles 19:6-7
- Proverbs 19:5
- Jeremiah 14:15
- Daniel 6:24

Torah Studies – Statutes #563-565

Statute 563: If a person lies to, swears falsely or deals deceptively with someone, it is a trespass against Yahweh as well as the other person.

Statute 564: If a person lies to, swears falsely or deals deceptively with someone and desires to repent and get right with God, he must make full restoration to the one he has offended for everything he deceptively gained.

Statute 565: If any property was gained through deceit, the deceiver must restore the property plus 20% of its value to the one he has offended.

Leviticus 6:2-5 “If a soul **sin**, and **commit** a **trespass** against the LORD, and **lie** unto his **neighbour** in that which was **delivered him to keep**, or in **fellowship**, or in a thing **taken away by violence**, or hath **deceived** his neighbour; Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein: Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is **guilty**, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found, Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
SIN	H2398	châ'at'	to miss; to sin; to forfeit, lack, lead astray, condemn: - bear the blame, harm he hath done, offend (cause, make) sin, trespassive
COMMIT	H4603	mâ'al	to cover up; to act covertly, treacherously: - transgress, (commit, do a) trespass
TRESPASS	H4604	ma'al	treachery, that is, sin: - falsehood, grievously, sore, transgression, trespass
LIE	H3584	kâchash	to be untrue, in word (to lie, feign, disown) or deed (to disappoint, fail, cringe): - deceive, deny, dissemble, fail, deal falsely, be found liars, (be-) lie, lying, submit selves
NEIGHBOUR	H5997	'âmîyth	to associate; companionship; a comrade or kindred man: - another, fellow, neighbour.

Torah Studies – Statutes #563-565 (*continued*)

Cross References:

- Psalm 51:4
- Leviticus 19:12

Torah Studies – Statutes #566-568

Statute 566: If a person makes a promise or vows a vow, it is a promise-vow which is primarily made unto Yahweh.

Statute 567: A promise or a vow is a soul-bond, that yokes the vower until the promise of the vow is paid/completed.

Statute 568: If a person promises to do something, he may not break his word. He must do all that he has promised to do.

Numbers 30:2 “If a man **vow** a vow unto the Lord, or **swear** an oath to **bind** his soul **with a bond**; he shall not break his word, he shall do according to all that proceedeth out of his mouth.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
VOW	H5087	nawdar	<i>to promise (to do or give something to God): make a vow.</i>
SWEAR	H7650	shaba	To be complete... to seven oneself... to adjure, charge, take an oath...
BIND	H631	asar	<i>To yoke, or hitch, to fasten, to join battle... hold... prison... put in bonds... tie</i>
WITH A BOND	H632	esar	An obligation or vow... binding... bond

Cross References:

- Deuteronomy 23:21-22
- Psalm 76:11
- Job 22:27
- Psalm 22:25
- Psalm 50:14
- Psalm 66:13-14
- Psalm 116:14 & 18
- Ecclesiastes 5:4-5
- Nahum 1:15

Torah Studies – Statutes #569-578

Statute 569: If you cannot (beyond question) find the truth of a matter, bring your problem/case/issue to the full-time priests of Yahweh who are well-versed in Torah, in the place of worship and keeping of the Feasts (aka, the Place which Yahweh shall choose – Deut 12:5-7).

Statute 570: If the two sides of a point of contention cannot agree on what is the truth of a matter, bring your problem/case/issue to the full-time priests of Yahweh who are well-versed in Torah.

Statute 571: Through fervent prayer and through demonstration by finding the answer in the Torah Statutes, the priests of Yahweh will give you the correct answer and course of action in your difficult matter.

Statute 572: You must do according to all the priests show and instruct you to do. This is the resolution of the matter.

Statute 573: You may not deviate, even slightly, from that which the priests of Yahweh instruct you to do.

Statute 574: To find the truth of the matter, bring issues of controversy over an accusation of murder or bloodshed before the priests.

Statute 575: To find the truth of the matter, bring issues of controversy over the death of animal before the priests.

Statute 576: To find the truth of the matter, bring issues of contention and strife between two parties before the priests.

Statute 577: To find the truth of the matter, bring issues of accusations regarding responsibility for causing disease or medical malpractice before the priests.

Statute 578: When two parties get involved in a fight – physically, or otherwise – for resolution, bring the situation before the priests.

Deuteronomy 17:8-13 “If there arise a matter too hard for thee in judgment, between **blood** and blood, between **plea** and plea, and between **stroke** and stroke, *being* matters of controversy within thy gates: then shalt thou arise, and get thee up into the place which the LORD thy God shall choose; And thou shalt come unto the priests the Levites, and unto the judge that shall be in those days, and enquire; and they shall shew thee the sentence of judgment: And thou shalt do according to the sentence, which they of that place which the LORD shall choose shall shew...

Torah Studies – Statutes #569-578 *(continued)*

...thee; and thou shalt observe to do according to all that they inform thee: According to the sentence of the law which they shall teach thee, and according to the judgment which they shall tell thee, thou shalt do: thou shalt not decline from the sentence which they shall shew thee, *to the right hand, nor to the left.* And the man that will do presumptuously, and will not hearken unto the priest that standeth to minister there before the LORD thy God, or unto the judge, even that man shall die: and thou shalt put away the evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear, and fear, and do no more presumptuously.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
BLOOD	H1818	dam	Blood (as that which when shed causes death) of man or an animal...
PLEA	H1779	diyn	Judgment, strife, cause...
BIND	H631	asar	<i>To yoke, or hitch, to fasten, to join battle... hold... prison... put in bonds... tie</i>
WITH A BOND	H632	esar	An obligation or vow... binding... bond

Bible Study on God's People Serving in Judgment:

In this set of Statutes, we plainly see that the priests, leaders in the Body of Christ, are to function in a judgment ministry, for the purpose of finding the Truth and bringing peace and resolution to conflicts in Israel.

This idea is also found in the New Testament:

Colossians 2:16-17 “Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body *is* of Christ.”

The KJV translation adds a word, not found in the original text

“but the Body *is* of Christ” should read “but the Body of Christ” (without the “is”).

Torah Studies – Statutes #569-578 (*continued*)

Modern Bible translations have wide variations in their translations and paraphrases of the section “but the substance is of Christ.” Some versions substitute words that essentially imply that the Old Testament laws weren’t real (they were only a shadow) and that genuine reality is in Christ. But this interpretation does a disservice to the original meaning and message.

The Greek word translated as “substance” means “body” (Online Bible Greek Lexicon). And the word “is” was inserted by the translators because they thought it helped the word flow. Without the word “is,” it reads, “but the body of Christ.”

Paul is famous for his long sentences. He begins verse 16 with, “So, let no one judge you”; and he ends verse 17 with, “but the body of Christ.” In other words: let no man or group of men judge you on how you are practicing worship and Torah-keeping. Listen (*follow the advice and counsel of*) only to the Body of Christ, the Church (Colossians 1:24; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 27)!

Torah Studies – Statutes #581-583

Statute 581: To ensure that truth and righteous judgment are done, we are to only appoint qualified leaders who fear God.

Statute 582: To ensure that truth and righteous judgment are done, we are to only appoint leaders who love truth and have demonstrated a life of living in integrity.

Statute 583: To ensure that truth and righteous judgment are done, we are to only appoint leaders who hate covetousness.

Exodus 18:21 “Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place *such* over them, *to be* rulers of thousands, *and* rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”

Key Word Study:

Key Word	Strong's Number	Hebrew Word	Meaning
BLOOD	H1818	dam	Blood (as that which when shed causes death) of man or an animal...
PLEA	H1779	diyn	Judgment, strife, cause...
BIND	H631	asar	<i>To yoke, or hitch, to fasten, to join battle... hold... prison... put in bonds... tie</i>
WITH A BOND	H632	esar	An obligation or vow... binding... bond

Cross References:

- Acts 6:3
- Deuteronomy 16:18-19
- Ecclesiastes 12:13