

Lying Is Approved and Sanctioned

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(Exodus 1:18-20; 1 Kings 22:21-22; Joshua 2:4-6; James 2:25)

Lying Forbidden

(Exodus 20:16; Proverbs 12:22; Revelation 21:8)

As mentioned in many other studies on this website, Almighty God does not give a command and then reverse it (Num. 23:19; 1Sam. 15:29; Mal. 3:6). If lying is condemned, all other Biblical references that appear to contradict this command need to be closely scrutinized. Those who wish to demean and criticize God will not put forth the time or effort required to discover the real meaning behind any apparent contradictions in scripture.

Before examining these in this study, it is important to consider the following facts which will be corroborated by a number of Biblical examples:

- 1) God records the good and evil deeds of mankind as well as those of spirit-beings in the heavenly realm. Because He allows evil or sinful acts to occur and be recorded, it does not mean He condones them.
- 2) Because God is kind, loving, and patient, He will work with people for a long time with the goal that they will repent of breaking His law and commandments and learn to trust Him (i.e. have faith in Him).
- 3) God does not have a "knee-jerk reaction" when someone He is working with sins. However, if they refuse to repent He will eventually allow them to "reap" the results, or consequences, of their sinful actions (cf. 2Sam. 12:1-15).

4) When God first calls an individual, His expectation, that they will immediately embrace and willingly obey all His commands, is low. He knows these individuals are just beginning to learn about Him and what He expects from them. Therefore, they need time to grow in the grace and knowledge of His son, Jesus Christ (cf. 2Pet. 3:18).

With these principles in mind, the scriptures that some use to claim God approves and sanctions lying will be exposed as fraudulent. The first example involves the midwives in the nation of Israel prior to their exodus out of Egypt. As these midwives had been living under a repressive regime for a period of 400 years, they were conditioned to obey their slave-masters (cf. Ex. 1:13-14). These women could not have known very much about Almighty God, or His law and commandments, because they were subject to the Egyptian religious system, which worshipped many gods. These same women, along with the entire nation of Israel, would not hear all of Almighty God's commands until they left Egypt and arrived at Mt. Sinai about fifty days after their exodus. Therefore, the fact that these midwives obeyed God, regarding sparing the lives of the firstborn sons of the Israelites, was amazing. However, the method they used was against God's will and word, but He made allowances knowing they were acting out of a combination of fear and ignorance (cf. Ac. 17:30). They did not have a close relationship with Him that would allow them to trust Him completely with their lives. If they had a close relationship with Almighty God, they would not have lied to Pharaoh (Ex. 1:19). Instead, they would have trusted God to protect them as they stood up for what was right in accordance with His word and will. The Bible has many examples of God's faithful servants trusting Him with their lives as they obeyed His law and commandments, in spite of tremendous perils (Heb. 11:35-38).

Then Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, 'Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image which I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?' ¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. ¹⁸But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up' (Dan. 3:14-18; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

The fact the midwives did not kill the firstborn sons of the Israelites is the reason that Almighty God dealt well with them. God did not deal well with them because they lied.

But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive (Ex. 1:17).

Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people (of Israel) multiplied and grew very mighty (numerous). ²¹ And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them (Ex. 1:20-21; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Even Abraham who became one of God's most faithful servants did not trust Him at first. Abraham had to learn to trust God. It is evident from Abraham's early years that he preferred to rely on his own reasoning processes which were

very adept at justifying sinful acts, as they are with all of mankind (cf. Rom. 8:5-8).

Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, 'Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance. ¹²Therefore it will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife'; and they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you (Gen. 12:10-13).



BUT THE MIDWIVES FEARED GOD, AND DID NOT DO AS THE KING OF EGYPT COMMANDED THEM, BUT SAVED THE MALE CHILDREN ALIVE.

[Exodus 1:17](#)

Just as the Hebrew midwives lied to the king of Egypt; so Abraham lied to a Pharaoh hundreds of years before. Because God records what sinners do as they go through their lives, it does not mean He condones their actions.

The next scripture, that is used to claim that God approves of lying, is Joshua 2:4-6 which also deals with someone who did not know Almighty God, except from what she heard from other people's reports (cf. Jos. 2:9-11). Rahab hid two men who had been sent by Joshua, and then she lied to her countrymen when they asked her to turn them over.

Then the woman (Rahab) took the two men and hid them; and she said, 'Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. ⁵And it happened as the gate was being shut, when it was dark, that the men went out. Where

the men went I do not know; pursue them quickly, for you may overtake them. ⁶But she had brought them up to the roof and hidden them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order on the roof (Jos. 2:4-6; Ed. notes in parenthesis).

Just as the Hebrew midwives saved the male children from being killed; so Rahab saved the two men that Joshua sent out as spies. Rahab's works were commended and in time she would have an opportunity to learn more about God and his way of living, which is based upon His law and commandments, one of which forbids lying (Ex. 20:16; Prov. 12:22; Rev. 21:8),

Likewise, was not **Rehab the harlot** also justified by works (not by lies or harlotry) when she received the messengers (from Joshua) and sent them out another way? (Jas. 2:25; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

If anyone claims to be a Christian and does not trust in God to protect and provide for them, based on their obedience to His law and commandments, it is because they lack faith (Jas. 2:17-26). In other words, they have not developed a close relationship with Him through obedience to His every word (Mt. 4:4). For example, if one of God's commands states that we are to cease from our normal work on the Sabbath day (see study: God's Holy Days), and this command is ignored or intentionally broken, the individual who does this must repent and then start obeying this command. If they refuse to repent, they will never learn to trust that God will provide for them. Even in this day and age some people have been fired from their job for obeying the Sabbath command. But God will always make sure they receive their basic needs one way or another (Neh. 9:15; 1Ki. 17:4, 6; Ps. 34:10; Isa. 65:13). So, it is by obedience to God's commands that a person can know whether they have faith, or trust, in Him. (Jas. 2:18) It is because modern Christianity has rejected God's

law and commandments that Jesus Christ asked the following question regarding the subject of faith.

... Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he really find faith on the earth? (Lk. 18:8b). Sadly, if Christ were to return in this present generation that has rejected his Father's law and commands, he would find very few who could be described as faithful. Instead, Christ described those who would be alive at his return as being lawless, and this is clearly evident in both religion and society today.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of my Father, the one in the heavens. ²²Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophecy in your name, and in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many powerful works?' ²³And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you, depart from me you workers of lawlessness!' (Mt. 7:21-23; RNT; emphasis added; lawlessness - 1Jn. 3:4).

Christ made it abundantly plain that everlasting life is not going to be granted to those who persist in breaking his Father's law and commands.

But he (Christ) said to him (rich young man), 'Why do you call me good? Only One is good (in the ultimate sense - Christ's heavenly Father); and if you desire to enter life (everlasting), keep the commandments' (Mt. 19:17; RNT; cf. Rev. 12:17; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The final scripture that some use to accuse God of approving and sanctioning lying is 1 Kings 22:21-22, which can be reviewed in the study entitled: God cannot lie.

In conclusion, God records what we do, both the good and the evil, and He works to lead people to repent of sin (Rom. 2:4b). As lying is a sin, He does not condone it in any way, shape, or form. If He did, why would anyone need to repent of it? Jesus Christ made it plain that the source of lies is Satan, it is unacceptable behavior and its consequence, if one is unrepentant, is death (Rom. 6:23; Eze. 18:4, 20). Those who accuse Almighty God of approving and sanctioning lies are under the influence of Satan, their "father" (Jn. 8:44).

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