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*Bible Doctrine Presented in Visual Format*

# AN ANALYSIS ON CHARACTERS IN THE BIBLE WHO LIED

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# THE ACCOUNTS IN A SINGLE CHART

ACCOUNT IN QUESTION	THE MALICIOUS LIE	LIED FOR UNJUST GAIN	DENIAL OF SIN	TOOK THE INITIATIVE	LIE OF PROTECTION	SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES	HAD TIME TO PREPARE AN ANSWER	LIED WITH AN OBVIOUS MOTIVE TO SIN	MINISTRY SITUATION
Rahab					✓				✓
The Unnamed Woman					✓				✓
Samsom					✓		✓		✓
Micaiah (joked around)				✓			✓		✓
Cain			✓	✓		~	✓	✓	
Peter				~	✓		~		✓
Aaron			✓	~	✓		✓		
Gehazi		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
The Amalekite		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Ahab and Jezebel	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Potiphar's Wife	✓			✓		~	✓	✓	

It is NOT okay to lie. PERIOD.

# AN INTRODUCTION

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
WHY PEOPLE LIE	Lying is typically not rooted in wanting to serve God, but rather in fleshly desires. It is generally comprised of a number of reasons: wanting to hurt someone, wishing to attain unjust gain, attempting to conceal a matter, or generate a lie of protection. A lie is a lie, even a white lie.	Lies will often lead to more lies in efforts to cover up the original lies. Also, often times a lie is part of a larger series of sins.
ON VARIOUS DEGREES	Lying is lying, but not all lies are on the same level, which we can realize because of the cases in the Bible. (Not that this is an excuse to lie.) From the perspective of seriousness, lying would fall into one of two categories: the planned lie and the unplanned one. The planned lie, the far more serious one, is when you formulate a lie with the intent to sin. You take the initiative. The unplanned is the one when you're backed up in a corner and a lie slips out. There is far less initiative here. In this lesson, each case will be dealt a roundabout number as an assessment of the weight of the lie, with 10 being the most serious, and 0 being the lightest.	A broader society accepting lying, a very prevalent practice in some areas in the world, is not the standard regarding speaking the truth or lies. God's word, the Bible, will always be the standard of truth.  (See Psalm 34:13; Prov 12:22; 19:9; Col 3:9-10; Rev 21:8)
ON THE PREPARED ANSWER WITH EXAMPLES FROM THE BIBLE	When encountering a sensitive situation where communication has to be exchanged, an answer must be prepared. When God commanded Samuel to anoint David as king, Saul was still king. Samuel knew Saul would have him killed, so God <sup>1</sup> had Samuel take a heifer to sacrifice, which served as his answer (1 Sam 16:1-2). Since this was a ministry situation, Samuel probably had more leeway in coming up with that answer. There would be less leeway in a secular context.	Missionaries going to predominately Muslim areas or restricted access countries would need to enter the country with prepared answers. In situations like that, you engage in selective witnessing.
	When Jacob and his gang were preparing to enter Egyptian society, Joseph helped them with a prepared answer regarding their occupation. To the Egyptians, shepherding was despicable. Joseph told them to say that that was how they were brought up (Gen 46:31-34). In doing so, the truth was told in such a manner as to diminish the derogatory nature of the vocation.	Often times, you just have to accept the results of telling the truth without "the prepared answer." Abraham should have spoken the truth about his wife.
Depending on the situation, you might have to enter the situation without a prepared answer. Other times, you just tell the truth and accept the consequences.		

<sup>1</sup> Notice how God did not simply say something like, "Don't worry about it. I got you covered."

# TYPES OF LIES

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
ON THE MALICIOUS LIE	The malicious lie, the worst type of lie, blatantly seeks to hurt people, with vengeance, dislike, or an attempt to get something through unjust means being the motive. The liar does not care what the consequences are for the party who gets hurt. This type of liar will have all sorts of issues in other departments in life. Perhaps, this lie was even crafted in such a way as to hurt as much as possible. In the end, the results of the malicious lie will seriously hurt both the liar and the victim.	Whether it happens in this world or the next, the truth will surface (Mar 4:22). Normally, the truth surfaces while yet in this world, often causing a major embarrassment for the liar.
ON THE LIE OF UNJUST GAIN	Lying for unjust gain is rooted in covetousness to the extent that they step over the law of God to get what they want. They undoubtedly are familiar with lying before executing such a lie.	Objects attained in this manner will not satisfy the recipient's craving.
ON THE DENIAL OF SIN	Denying one has committed a sin, when they have, in fact, committed a sin, is lying. This is perhaps to cause less embarrassment in front of their friends or to escape punishment. In accepting the consequences of one's doings, you actually learn a lesson, thus potentially preventing future reoccurrences of the same sin. Harboring and denying your sin will keep you in a state of agony.	The Bible says that your sin will find you out (Num 32:23). Routinely reading the entire Bible will greatly assist in lessening your volume of sins.
ON THE LIE OF PROTECTION	This lie seeks to protect information or people in some form. This one would be a lighter lie than the malicious lie. In this regard, the Bible stories do not record serious consequences when executing a lie of protection. Is this an excuse to lie? By no means is this an excuse to lie.	Ananias and Sapphira died. Michal may have gotten a slap on the wrist. Their lies were on different levels.
ON GENERAL DECEPTION	Some lies would fit into the category of general deception. So, if you're dealing with a lie that does not fall into any of the prior categories, this would be the one. This is the "other" category. Saying something looks nice when it does not is being polite. God is not going to strike you dead over the matter. You might want to think about how you are going present a constructive criticism.	The fine line between a lie and being polite vary in different cultures, but this should not be an excuse to stretch it to the kilt.

Sometimes, you could simply not answer the question.

# Questions Regarding the Overall Theology . . .

1. Is it okay to lie? Have you ever lied?

2. Is it okay to lie only if it is a white lie? How does God view a white lie? Is a half truth or partial truth a lie?

3. What about when you are working for God undercover in a restricted access country?

4. What should you do when you know sensitive information is being passed about and you are being questioned?

5. What are your thoughts on the various types of lies? Do you believe the severity of a lie is the same when dealing with different types of lies?

6. Is it okay to lie when you are between a rock and a hard spot?

7. Is it okay to lie when directly working for God in a ministry?

8. When making an insurance claim, are prepared answers okay? Discuss the truth and prepared answers in this context.

9. Discuss the differences between providing a prepared answer to a friend, to family member, in a social situation, to an authority figure or when in a foreign country.

10. What should someone do if they haven't prepared an answer and all of a sudden they are between a rock and a hard spot?

11. In what contexts do you come up with a prepared answer? In what context do you NOT come up with a prepared answer and give the original, unabridged answer?

12. Should you have a prepared answer for sensitive topics? (See I Peter 3:15) Does the I Peter 3:15 passage only pertain to matters of faith?

13. Can Samuel's prepared answer be construed as a half truth?

14. Discuss similarities and differences between the prepared answers in the context of Samuel's case or Joseph's case when his family was entering Egyptian society.

15. Have you ever given a prepared answer when you were in a sensitive situation?

16. Should prepared answers only be given in a ministerial context, or can they also be given in secular contexts?

17. Have you ever been between a rock and hard spot and simply came out with the truth? What were the results?

18. Distinguish between a prepared answer as God had Samuel prepare and telling the whole truth as the other party is wanting?

A white lie is a lie.

# 1. RAHAB LIES ABOUT THE SPIES (Joshua 2:1-6)

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
ON THE TYPE AND MOTIVE	This was a lie of protection. It was known that the spies were at Rahab's place. Rahab's motive to lie about the spies' whereabouts was rooted in serving God.	Serving God does not serve as an excuse to lie about any matter.
ON THE PLOT	Rahab, a Gentile, hears about Israel and their God. She readily accepts the God of Israel as her God. Then, by God's providence, her house is in the city wall, making it convenient to hide the spies. After being confronted about the men (spies), she lies about their whereabouts; she is actually hiding the spies on the roof.	After the destruction of Jericho, with their people group gone with the wind, they had to blend into their new culture and religion.
	She can be excused, but not defended, says a commentator. <sup>1a</sup> "Nor are men to tell lies one to another upon any account," says another. <sup>1b</sup> Yet another says that had she made it a point not to lie, the Lord would have provided an escape route. <sup>1c</sup>	The Lord did forgive her; however it's also clear that God did not bless her for lying, <sup>3d</sup> but for hiding the men.
ON TAKING THE INITIATIVE	Rahab did not maliciously think up of a way to sin. She was serving the God of Israel, and suddenly, she was up against a wall. On a scale of 1-10, she gets a 1-2.	In this case, telling the whole truth may have been viewed as a betrayal.
ON THE TIMING FACTOR	Since it was a known fact that she had the men at her place, she probably did have some time to think about a prepared answer, knowing she would be questioned.	With her many sins, you think she hesitated to lie about the matter?
ON HANDLING THE MATTER	Though originally pagan, she stopped embracing her pagan culture. <sup>1e</sup> However, with virtually no experience as a committed servant of God, it's no wonder she lied.	Was her lie justified? No, but her options were seriously limited.
ON THE REPERCUSSIONS	We have no information on the punishment Rahab received for lying. Matter of fact, the lie is never brought up again in the scriptures anywhere. We do know that she was crowned a hero, and a host of her kinfolk also were spared from the wrath of God. It makes you wonder what God thought about Rahab's lie.	Maybe she got a slap on the wrist. Then, she gets put into the hall of faith in Hebrews. The heroic aspect is for hiding the spies, not for lying.

Perhaps, Rahab could have also hid herself from the public during the time in question, only to come out during the night, thus avoiding a confrontation.

<sup>1a</sup> Esword (Version 7.5, 2021) Albert Barnes, notes from Joshua 2:4. <sup>1b</sup> Esword (Version 7.5, 2021) John Gill, notes from Joshua 2:4. <sup>1c</sup> Esword (Version 7.5, 2021) David Guzik, notes from Joshua 2:4.

<sup>1d</sup> Pratt, Bill "DID GOD BLESS RAHAB FOR LYING?," July 1 2015, <https://www.toughquestionsanswered.org/2015/07/01/did-god-bless-rahab-for-lying/> (accessed January 25, 2023).

<sup>1e</sup> Lyons, Eric "Did God Approve of Rahab's Lie?," July 2017, <https://apologeticspress.org/did-god-approve-of-rahabs-lie-5437/> (accessed January 25, 2023).

# Questions Regarding Rahab's Lie about the Spies

Questions pertaining to Doctrine and Theology	Questions leaning towards application
1. Had Rahab told the truth, do you think it would have been recognized as a betrayal?	18. A man hides people from 666. The man is confronted. What should the man say?
2. Was Rahab justified in her lie?	19. Do you believe you have ever been justified in a lie?
3. For what reason was Rahab was crowned a hero? For lying or for something else?	20. Have you ever lied and justified yourself because of the reason?
4. What do you think Rahab should have done?	21. Had you been in Rahab's shoes, what would you have done?
5. Had Jesus been in Rahab's place, what do you think he would have done?	22. Have you thought up any ways she could have handled the situation better?
6. Do you think God's providence led Rahab to have her house in the wall of Jericho?	23. How should a missionary in a Muslim country handle similar situations?
7. Should the spies and Rahab discuss the situation for a plan B, including an answer?	24. Do you know of any missionaries in restricted access countries?
8. Discuss the difference between Rahab's lie and Joseph's brothers' lie.	25. How has God's providence helped you in your hour of need?
9. Had Rahab told the truth, do you think God would still have protected the spies?	26. When have you ever been tempted to lie?
10. Had Rahab told the truth, would that have affected the outcome at Jericho?	27. When a minister in a ministry situation is up against the wall, is it okay to lie?
11. Do you think God allowed such a story to take place as an example of lying for God?	28. Is there anything in this account that seems to contradict other truths in the Bible?
12. The ten commandments had been issued. Was this an issue?	29. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?
13. Was Rahab subject to the ten commandments even though she had not read them?	30. What point in this passage spoke to you the most?
14. Does never having heard any preaching mitigate her level of accountability?	31. Were there any surprises in this passage?
15. She hid the spies on the roof, not in her house. Why?	32. How would apply this lesson to your own life?
16. Do you think blending into Israeli society was a massive culture shock for them?	33. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?
17. Do you think God punished Rahab for her lie? Should Rahab have told the truth?	34. Can you think of any situations in the 21st century similar to Rahab's?



## 2. THE UNNAMED WOMAN LIES ABOUT HIDING TWO MEN (II Sam 17:1-20)

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
ON THE TYPE OF LIE AND MOTIVE	With an obvious motive to serve, she wanted to protect the men in hiding. Had this woman been named and mentioned again in the Bible, she'd probably get more attention for her deed of hiding David's men in relation to her lie.	Serving God is not an excuse to lie. Any sensitive situation needs to be thought out beforehand.
ON THE PLOT OF THE ACCOUNT	Absalom, who had intentions to overthrow king David's administration, set out to capture David. Jonathan and Ahimazz were sent to give king David, who had already fled, the update with counsel on handling the matter. In the process, Jonathan and Ahimazz were seen by one of Absalom's men, but they were not seen at Bahurim, where they were hid in a well by an unnamed woman. When the woman was questioned about the men's whereabouts, she let out a lie.	Rahab had no experience under a teacher from Israel, whereas the unnamed woman did. If God does allow lying to protect, he did not put it in the Bible, probably to keep people from stretching the practice to the kilt.
ON TAKING THE INITIATIVE	The unnamed woman did not take the initiative to lie, but rather after having been backed up in a corner, she let a lie slip out of her mouth. "We must not do evil that good may come of it." <sup>2a</sup> However, she did not deny that they had been there. <sup>2b</sup>	The main goal in this matter was to hide the servants successfully. On a scale of 1-10, she gets a 2-3.
ON THE TIMING FACTOR	Once Absalom's men arrived onto the scene, this unnamed woman would not have had much time to figure out what to say. Factors like this would lessen the sin.	The main goal was to hide the men, not to keep from lying.
WAYS TO HANDLE THE MATTER	Of all the accounts of characters in the Bible who lied, this case is the most difficult to handle. The unnamed woman was serving God, and with king David's servants, Jonathan and Ahimazz, needing protection, the only other viable method I can think of is after hiding the men, she could have gone into the house or somewhere else on the property and basically hide herself, and then, come what may, not come out until after the show. Or, maybe she could just have played dumb.	Of these types of stories, we always have the plot of the account, but God may not necessarily insert his judgment call on the matter. When that is the case, we can do some conjecturing or leave the matter alone.
ON THE REPERCUSSIONS	No repercussions on the lying are explicitly mentioned here.	Did she only get a slap on the wrist?

With Ahithophel, David's top advisor, gravitating towards helping Absalom's insurrection, his counsel had to be undone. ( See II Sam 17:14.)

<sup>2a</sup> Eswold (Version 7.5, 2021) Matthew Henry, notes from II Samuel 17:20.

<sup>2b</sup> Eswold (Version 7.5, 2021) Albert Barnes, notes from II Samuel 17:20.

# Questions Regarding the Unnamed Woman's Lie

Questions pertaining to Doctrine and Theology	Questions leaning towards application
1. Do you think the unnamed woman knew Absalom's men were coming?	18. What point in this passage spoke to you the most?
2. Who was the unnamed woman?	19. Were there any surprises in this passage?
3. Do you think God would do more than give her a slap on the wrist for lying?	20. How would you apply this lesson to your own life?
4. Had she given up the men, do you think God would have been upset?	21. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?
5. Had she given up the men, had king David's administration been overthrown?	22. Can you think of any situations in the 21st century similar to this account?
6. Was the main issue on lying or on restoring David's administration (II Sam 17:14)?	23. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?
7. Do you think the unnamed woman originally thought through a prepared answer?	24. Is there anything in this account that seems to contradict other truths in the Bible?
8. Is the unnamed woman a hero? If so, in what respect?	25. Have you thought up any ways she could have handled the situation better?
9. Between Rahab and the unnamed woman, who is the bigger hero? Why?	26. Had you been in the place of the unnamed woman, what would you have done?
10. What kind of punishment do you think God would lay on the unnamed woman?	27. Do you think in such a situation as the unnamed woman, it is okay to lie?
11. How similar is Rahab's account to that of the unnamed woman in II Sam 17?	28. Have you ever lied in a similar situation?
12. What are differences between Rahab and the unnamed woman in II Sam 17?	29. Have you ever lied after you were saved?
13. Between the woman in II Sam 17 and Rahab, who knew more on spiritual matters?	30. Have you ever lied after you became an adult?
14. What was the name of the location? What were the names of David's servants?	31. Have you ever lied to an authority figure? government official?
15. Did the servants of David make it to David? Did David listen to the counsel?	32. Discuss answering a question when on the stand in a court of law.
16. Which is the key verse in this account? (II Sam 17:1-20)	33. What should our response be to this story?
17. Who gave the counsel that the two servants of David were taking to David?	34. Why do you think God is silent on his judgement call?

### 3. SAMSON'S LIES TO DELILAH (Judges 16:6-14)

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
ON THE TYPE OF LIE AND MOTIVE	While Samson's lies would fall into the category of protection, he would have had a number of thoughts on the matter. First, he couldn't just spill his secret of the source of his strength which was given to him by God. Secondly, he probably enjoyed having fun with the matter. He was unstoppable. Thirdly, he was trying to get Delilah to stop bothering him about the source of his strength.	Samson's strength rested in the length of his hair, not on whether he lied about the source of his strength.
ON THE PLOT OF THE ACCOUNT	At this time, his woman was the infamous Delilah. Delilah was trying hard to discover the secret of his strength; she was going in for the kill. In the process, Samson lies to Delilah. The lies, comprised of false information that supposedly led to him having his strength stripped, included being bound by seven fresh bowstrings, being bound by new ropes, and weaving the locks in his hair and fastening it with a pin. Some may say they weren't lies, just divergent strategies.	Delilah was proving from her actions that she was seeking to undo him. Once his secret was out, it would be the first time in his life that his strength would be as other men; he should have carefully thought this out.
ON TAKING THE INITIATIVE	He lied when questioned. On a scale of 1-10, he gets a 2-3.	Some lies carry lesser consequences.
ON THE TIMING FACTOR	Initially, he would not have had time to think out an answer. Honestly, this could not have been the first time he was questioned. When an official questions you, it's harder to sidestep an answer. Here, it was an intimate friend who inquired.	He should have had his prepared answers down pat. Perhaps, his prepared answers may have run out.
WAYS TO HANDLE THE MATTER	Since his strength was his livelihood, keeping the source of that strength a secret was of utmost importance. He could have come up with a prepared answer like, "my strength comes from God." He did not have to answer her. There's not a walk in life that comes without aggravations; his was keeping his secret a secret.	While his eye for Philistine women came from God, he still needed to employ biblical principles. Visiting a brothel and living with his girlfriend were not good decisions on his part.
ON THE REPERCUSSIONS	Maybe, God did not even give him a slap on the wrist for the divergent strategies.	His secret lost cost him his life.

The commentators did not have much to say about Samson's lies.

# Questions Regarding Samson's Lies to Delilah

## Questions pertaining to Doctrine and Theology

## Questions leaning towards application

1. What was Samsom's motive to let out blatant lies?

18. What point in this passage spoke to you the most?

2. What was Samson thinking when he was lying to Delilah?

19. Were there any surprises in this passage?

3. Was Samson to be blamed for capitulating and giving out his secret?

20. How would you apply this lesson to your own life?

4. What should Samson have done in response to Delilah's constant pestering?

21. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?

5. Should Samson have known Delilah was going to divulge his secret?

22. Can you think of any factors in this account similar to those in the 21st century?

6. Besides giving in to Delilah's demands, what was Samson's core problem?

23. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?

7. After his secret was out, why did he still think he had his original strength?

24. Is there anything in this account that seems to contradict other truths in the Bible?

8. Should Samson have told Delilah the truth?

25. Have you thought up any ways he could have handled the situation better?

9. Was Samson responsible to win his Philistine women over to the God of Israel?

26. Had you been in Samson's place, how would you have handled the answers?

10. What do you think Samson was thinking when he realized his strength was gone?

27. Was Samson's problem on the surface level? at the root level?

11. Do you think Delilah felt bad for handing Samson over to the Philistines?

28. Where was his lying rooted?

12. Was Samson's problem with his mouth or with his decisions?

29. Has someone ever pestered you to the point you wanted to lie?

13. What was Samson's first lie? second lie? third lie?

30. Is there a proper motive to lie?

14. Can Samson's death be construed a suicide?

31. Is being constantly pestered a proper motive to lie?

15. Do you think God sent Delilah?

32. Have you ever been without time to prepare an answer?

16. How much money did Delilah get for turning Samson over to the Philistines?

33. Has a prior poor decision in life ever put you in a place to lie? Who was at fault?

17. How much of the issue was Samson's fault and how much was it Delilah's fault?

34. What should our response be to this story?

# 4. MICAIAH JOKES WITH AHAB (I Kings 22:1-28; II Chron 18:1-27)

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
ON THE TYPE OF LIE AND MOTIVE	In a "mocking and ironical a tone", <sup>4a</sup> the prophet Micaiah tells king Ahab a joking lie. Actually, could this even be classified as a lie? The commentators used a number of terms describing the situation, such as sarcasm, <sup>4b</sup> but not deceit.	Further, one author contests that just by his demeanor, <sup>4c</sup> all knew he was horsing around. So, he did not lie.
ON THE PLOT OF THE ACCOUNT	King Ahab wanted to return Remoth-Gilead, occupied by Syria, back to Israel. King Ahab consulted about four-hundred false prophets on the matter, with all of them giving him the assurance of victory. Apparently, Jehospahat, Ahab's counterpart, questioned the prophets' validity. Ahab, knowing Micaiah was of the Lord, called Micaiah. Micaiah joked with him about victory, and in his heart, Ahab knew he was not being true. Subsequently, Micaiah said that Israel would be without a king.	Samuel was the first known prophet after Moses. However, in that day, there were other true prophets. It was common to receive words from God, and it was common for a king to be accompanied by a prophet.
	In the process of receiving revelation on the future, Micaiah saw the scene in heaven. A lying spirit had volunteered to do the job. The main issue here was not whether God was righteous in sending a lying spirit, but that Ahab wanted to listen to the lies, and the false prophets being false was their fault. Basically, they were asking for it. To see God's justice in full detail, study the story of Pharaoh.	How could such a spirit be found in heaven? (See Job 2:1) God sending a strong delusion (II Th 2:11) will come after the truth will have been clearly declared.
ON TAKING THE INITIATIVE	Micaiah took the initiative to joke with Ahab. On a scale of 1-10, he gets a 0-1.	What Micaiah was thinking most likely was linked up to Ahab's character. King Ahab was not an upright man.
ON THE TIMING FACTOR	There was plenty of time for the prophet Micaiah to think through his spill.	
WAYS TO HANDLE THE MATTER	For whatever reason Micaiah chose to have fun with Ahab, who incidentally knew he was having fun with him. The truth came out, but Micaiah is not to be blamed.	The bigger plot, God's vengeance for Ahab's actions, did come to fruition.
ON THE REPERCUSSIONS	On the surface, there were no repercussions from God for Micaiah's joke.	Would God construe this a lie? No.
Before letting out a joke in a ministerial context, it would be best to think through the situation thoroughly. Every situation is different.		

<sup>4a</sup> Esword (Version 7.5, 2021) Albert Barnes, notes from I King 22:15.

<sup>4b</sup> MacArther, John, *The MacArther Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010), 508.

<sup>4c</sup> – – "DID MICAIAH SON OF IMLAH LIE?," N.D., <https://www.bibleserralta.com/DidProphetMicaiahLie.html> (accessed January 25, 2023).

# Questions Regarding Micaiah

Questions pertaining to Doctrine and Theology	Questions leaning towards application
1. Would joking around be considered a lie according to the Bible?	18. What point in this passage spoke to you the most?
2. Apply Proverbs 26:19 to this lesson.	19. Were there any surprises in this passage?
3. What kind of spirit offered to lie to the false prophets? (See cf's Job 1:6; 2:1.)	20. How would you apply this lesson to your own life?
4. Did God take the initiative to send a lying spirit? Is God just in sending a lying spirit?	21. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?
5. Is king Ahab to be blamed for the lying spirit to have been sent to the false prophets?	22. Are there any situations in the 21st century that are similar to king Ahab's situation?
6. Discuss the theology that is behind the strong delusion in II Thess 2:11.	23. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?
7. Does Satan have a place in heaven today? Has he been cast out?	24. Is there anything in this account that seems to contradict other truths in the Bible?
8. How can you spot a false prophet?	25. Have you ever joked around in a sticky situation?
9. Do you think Micaiah lied or joked around with king Ahab?	26. Do you think a minister should joke around in a serious situation?
10. Should Micaiah be punished for his actions?	27. When should joking be allowed in a church setting?
11. When is God just in sending a lying spirit?	28. Should joking be allowed in a church service?
12. What book, chapter, and verse introduces the mark of the beast?	29. Discuss the fine line between joking and lying.
13. Who spoke first in the garden of Eden? God or the serpent?	30. When an advisor is being consulted, is it okay to joke around?
14. What was Ahab's motive in seizing Micaiah?	31. Is joking in a ministry situation contingent on the church culture in that day?
15. Did king Ahab go through with the planned war? Who won?	32. Apply the principle of Proverbs 26:19 to the context of a church setting.
16. Did Ahab die?	33. Is it okay to lie to a convicted prisoner?
17. Should this account be included in a list of liars?	34. Is it okay to lie to a liar? Is it okay to lie to a good-for-nothing?

# 5. JESUS' SITUATION WITH THE FEAST OF BOOTHS (John 7:8)

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
ON THE TYPE OF LIE AND MOTIVE	Did Jesus lie? No. There are those, like Porphyry, <sup>5a</sup> who have accused him of such.	(See Numbers 23:19.)
ON THE PLOT OF THE ACCOUNT IN JOHN 7:8	At this point in Jesus' ministry, the Jews were already seeking to kill him. Even with Jesus being the Son of God, he took precautions. The Feast of Booths was about to take place, and probably due to a safety issue, Jesus delayed his arrival.	Jesus ran from persecution, but he never purposely invited persecution.
	Just as Samuel was in a situation when going to anoint David, Jesus was in a similar situation. Jesus decided simply to delay his departure and arrival times. The key words from the Greek are οὐπω (not yet) and οτι ο καιρος ο εμος ουπω πεπληρωται (for my time has not yet fully come). These words very clearly communicate a delay. Jesus never said that he was not going to the event.	Between Samuel's reasoning with the bull when anointing David and Jesus' use of words, Samuel's stretched the meaning of the words more. Both were sensitive ministry situations.
	Another issue is dealing with την εορτην ταυτην (this feast). But, seeing the "yet" in that sentence explains it. οὐπω is in the original twice, including the sentence with "this feast." So, Jesus simply delayed his departure for this feast.	This sentence, "I'm not going to this feast yet" does not communicate a lie.
ON INITIATIVE AND TIMING	Jesus took the initiative to say what was needed. There was time to think it out.	Jesus always had the right thing to say.
WAYS TO EXPLAIN THE SITUATION	Jesus handled the matter the way it was needed to be handled. He did not give his brothers a wrong reason; he gave no reason and did not have to. He was obviously concerned about safety. Then, when the time was right, he went alone.	He did think it through. And, Jesus did not change his mind, even though some might argue in that regard.
	The issues are textual, not behavioral. While there are issues with some of the manuscripts and some translations, the majority of the manuscripts get all the necessary words. It's up to the translators to translate this the right way.	
ON THE REPERCUSSIONS	The only repercussions have been people who have accused Jesus of lying.	The issue concerns the word "yet."

<sup>5a</sup> Esword (Version 7.5, 2021) John Gill, notes from John 7:8.

# Questions Regarding Jesus Telling the Truth

Questions pertaining to Doctrine and Theology	Questions leaning towards application
1. Where lies the main issue in this account?	18. What point in this passage spoke to you the most?
2. How would you have handled the situation?	19. Were there any surprises in this passage?
3. How do you explain the wording in John 7:8?	20. How would you apply this lesson to your own life?
4. Should this account be included in a list of liars?	21. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?
5. What are your thoughts on Samuel handling his situation? (I Sam 16:1-2)	22. Can you think of any situations in the 21st century similar to this one?
6. What are your overall thoughts on Jesus handling his situation here?	23. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?
7. Explain how an alleged contradiction in the Bible is not an example of God lying.	24. Is there anything in this account that seems to contradict other truths in the Bible?
8. Have you ever served the Lord in a restricted access country?	25. Have you ever changed your mind on a matter?
9. Regarding Jesus' answer, would you call it the prepared answer?	26. Have you ever made a commitment knowing you may change your mind?
10. Do you think Jesus gave this statement on a whim?	27. Is it okay for a believer to express surety knowing there may be a change of mind?
11. Can the Son of God change his mind?	28. If there is a possibility of a change in direction, should this be communicated?
12. While on earth, was it okay for Jesus to change his mind?	29. Discuss the fine line between purposely changing your mind and lying.
13. Were Jesus to change his mind, would this cast doubt on his deity?	30. Have you ever been accused of lying?
14. What was at stake? Jesus' safety or speaking the truth? or both?	31. Have you ever been falsely accused of lying?
15. When there is a change of mind, should the original audience be contacted?	32. Have you ever been in a crossfire between a rumor and a lie?
16. When there is a change of mind, when should the original audience be contacted?	33. How do rumors get started?
17. Discuss this account in light of Jesus' humanity.	34. Have you ever started a rumor?



## 6. CAIN LIES ABOUT ABEL'S WHEREABOUTS (Genesis 4:9)

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
ON THE TYPE OF LIE AND MOTIVE	Cain knew that he would be punished (Gen 4:13) for the murder of Abel. This lie is in the category of denial of sin. Cain lied because he didn't want to deal with his sin.	This is a lesson on Cain murdering Abel, but the lie gets us there.
ON THE PLOT OF THE ACCOUNT	Cain killed Abel, and then when God approached Cain about Abel's whereabouts, Cain denies he knows anything about it. God had obviously asked Cain where his brother was to give him a chance to confess his sin, <sup>6a</sup> thus averting the continued downward spiral in life. With Cain knowing he would be punished for it, it means that he was willing to take the consequences as long as Abel was off the scene. God himself tried to warn Cain what was in front of him if he did not take his spiritual life seriously. Cain would not listen, and thereby, his life took a turn for the worse and never fully recovered, proving he was never saved.	Lying and murdering apparently are related (John 8:44). After committing a big sin, the psyche changes. It makes you wonder about Cain's emotions and conscience the first time he ran into Adam and Eve after murdering Abel, knowing he was not coming back.
ON TAKING THE INITIATIVE	Even though Cain was being questioned on the matter, you can conclude that he took the initiative to lie about Abel because knew he'd be questioned. On a scale of 1-10, he gets a 5-6.	King David, one of the biggest sinners in the Bible, kept the commandments (I Kings 3:14). Once a sin has been committed, the next step pertains to acknowledging the sin and repenting.
ON THE TIMING FACTOR	Cain had plenty of time to think through what he would say when confronted. There are numerous stories in the Bible regarding repentance after sin, even big sins. There's nothing on Cain repenting at all. After the big sin, he could have decided the big sins had to come to a stop, but no repentance is indicated. God is very merciful, even to the biggest of sinners.	
WAYS TO HANDLE THE MATTER	The correct answer was to speak the truth, not lying and exacerbating the situation. Before his lie, Cain was already on a trajectory of a life filled with sin without confession and repentance.	Rather than allowing sins to explode into a chain of sins, just stop. Stop.
ON THE REPERCUSSIONS	Since Cain's lie was shrouded by a string of bigger sins, the actual repercussion of Cain's lie is not clear. What is clear is the punishment for murder affected Cain's life for the rest of his life.	Moses and Paul both murdered, but it did not destroy their lives.

The main issue regarding sin is the confessing and repenting that needs to take place afterwards. We can thank God that confession and repentance are available.

<sup>6a</sup> Esword (Version 7.5, 2021) David Guzik, notes from Genesis 4:9.

# Questions Regarding Cain's Lie on Abel's Whereabouts

## Questions pertaining to Doctrine and Theology

## Questions leaning towards application

1. What was Cain's core problem?

18. What point in this passage spoke to you the most?

2. Did God punish Cain for lying?

19. Were there any surprises in this passage?

3. Do you think Cain ever repented for murdering Abel? Why or why not?

20. How would you apply this lesson to your own life?

4. How did Cain murder Abel?

21. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?

5. Who was at fault more? Cain or Peter?

22. Can you think of any situations in the 21st century similar to Cain's account?

6. Was Peter's denial of knowing Jesus the same as Cain's lie?

23. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?

7. Discuss how God dealt with Cain one on one and the great opportunity Cain had.

24. Is there anything in this account that seems to contradict other truths in the Bible?

8. Was the absence of government an excuse for Cain's rampage of sin?

25. Have you ever lied to cover up a bigger sin?

9. Did the absence of government add to the temptation to murder and lie about it?

26. Is it ever right to lie to cover up a sin?

10. What were the steps involved prior to Cain's lie?

27. When is it okay to lie?

11. Why does God not employ his sovereignty to stop people from sinning?

28. What aspects of Cain's story of lying are applicable to New Testament Christians?

12. What are the chances of Cain being successful in running from his sin?

29. Has God ever stopped you from lying?

13. Did the absence of prisons have an effect on Cain's rampage on sin?

30. Have you ever heard a sermon on a sin you were planning on committing?

14. Discuss the futility of running from God.

31. Should we judge an unsaved person based on how much they lie?

15. What prevelant New Testament concepts are present in Cain's account of lying?

32. What should our response be to this story?

16. We have thousands of years behind us. Cain didn't. Discuss this factor.

33. Have you ever murdered someone in your heart?

17. Had Cain truly repented, would his punishment have been diminished?

34. What is the difference between murder in your heart and murder in real life?

[See Proverbs 28:13.]

# 7. PETER DENIES KNOWING JESUS (Mat 26:69-75)

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
ON THE TYPE OF LIE AND MOTIVE	In denying the Lord, Peter produced a lie of denial, but he wasn't covering up any sin. He was most certainly trying to avoid the same death as Jesus or something similar.	The Holy Spirit had not come yet, but this was not an excuse.
ON THE PLOT OF THE ACCOUNT	When Jesus was in front of the high priest, scribes and elders, Peter was questioned three times on whether he knew Jesus. Each time he never hesitated to out right lie. It ended up being a major regret. Thankfully, God is a God of second and third chances.	An ice storm will expose weak trees. Had Peter not been in the vicinity during Jesus' trial, he would not have denied the Lord three times. Exposure of weaknesses should be welcomed, thereby allowing us to work on them.
	Peter's manner of death is one awesome inspiration! Due to weakness and fear, <sup>7a</sup> Peter had vehemently denied Jesus three times only to die the same way as the Lord and demanding to have his cross set upside down because he was not worthy to die the same way as Jesus did.	
ON TAKING THE INITIATIVE	King David, a man who lived before Pentecost, kept the commandments (1 Kings 11:34), proving victory was possible before Pentecost. However, Peter's boldness later on came from his own growth, seeing Jesus in his new body and from the ushering in of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.	Peter did not take the initiative, but he did not hesitate to lie once tempted. On a scale of 1-10, he gets a 3-5.
ON THE TIMING FACTOR	While there was little time to think about an answer during round one, he did have time to think about it before rounds two and three. <sup>7b</sup> Further, the rooster crowed not only once, but twice.	A lack of time for round one to think it out was no excuse for Peter.
ON WAYS TO HANDLE THE MATTER	The correct response was to answer in the affirmative. After denying Jesus the first time, he should have stopped denying him. Or, after round one, he could have left the scene as to keep from being questioned again. Or, when questioned, could he simply have not answered?	Hiding a sin or denying a sin makes it worse (Proverbs 28:13). This is why he failed three times.
ON THE REPERCUSSIONS	Bitterly weeping over his sin was one repercussion. Jesus asking Peter three times whether he loved him was another repercussion (John 21:15-17) and probably the main one. Further, his denial of Jesus may have been the driving force in having his cross turned upside down at his death. After committing a big sin, in trying to make it up, the perpetrator often goes overboard in the opposite direction.	

If you've sinned a similar sin, there's no need to punish yourself forever. With God being the God of second and third chances, confess, repent and move on.

<sup>7a</sup> -- "What was the reason behind Peter's denial of Jesus?" N.D., <https://www.gotquestions.org/Peters-denial.html> (accessed January 25, 2023).

<sup>7b</sup> Esword (Version 7.5, 2021) Adam Clarke, notes from Matthew 26:72. "A liar has always some suspicion that his testimony is not credited, for he is conscious to his own falsity, and is therefore naturally led to support his assertions by oaths."

# Questions Regarding Peter Denying Knowing Jesus

## Questions pertaining to Doctrine and Theology

## Questions leaning towards application

1. At the core, what was Peter's main problem?

18. What point in this passage spoke to you the most?

2. Was the Holy Spirit not having been given the main factor in the matter?

19. Were there any surprises in this passage?

3. Can you put Cain's denial of his sin and Peter's denial of the Lord in the same corner?

20. How would you apply this lesson to your own life?

4. What are your thoughts on Peter's manner of death?

21. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?

5. Do you think Peter feeling bad for denying Jesus affected his manner of death?

22. Can you think of any situations in the 21st century similar to Peter's situation?

6. What was Peter thinking when denying the Lord the second and third time?

23. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?

7. Discuss the intensity of the sin in rounds two and three.

24. Is there anything in this account that seems to contradict other truths in the Bible?

8. Other than Jesus' three questions, how do you think God punished Peter for lying?

25. Are you a Peter? How do you think you would have handled his situation?

9. Any thoughts on Peter's first sight of the Lord when he got to heaven?

26. When do you feel you failed the Lord the most?

10. Do you think Peter dwelled on his sin after the fact?

27. Are you grateful that God is a God of second chances?

11. Discuss Peter's ministry at Pentecost in light of his denial of Jesus weeks earlier.

28. How has God used sin in your life to work out something good?

12. What do you think Peter was afraid of when denying the Lord the first time?

29. Do you dwell on your big sins?

13. How do you think Peter could have handled the situation?

30. Do you dwell on your small sins?

14. How could king David keep the commandments before Pentecost?

31. Have you ever denied the Lord?

15. Discuss some differences of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the OT and the NT.

32. Have you ever been tempted to deny the Lord?

16. Discuss Romans 8:28 as it relates to Peter's denial of the Lord.

33. Have you progressed in your walk with the Lord since your biggest sins?

17. Discuss Peter's sin in light of Proverbs 28:13.

34. How do you go from sinning a big sin to growing in Christ?

# 8. AARON LIES ABOUT THE GOLDEN CALF (Exodus 32)

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
ON THE TYPE OF LIE AND MOTIVE	This type of lie is a mix between a lie of protection and a lie to cover up sin. After realizing that he had been caught, he simply tried to diminish the degree of the sin by lying. Further, since this is very much an account regarding making and worshipping idols, it seems as if Aaron's lie got lost in the shuffle. A necessary verse on his punishment getting diminished is Deut 9:20.	Since being Aaron didn't die, it's clear Aaron repented of his sin and lie (Exo 32:25-26).
ON THE PLOT OF THE ACCOUNT	The children of Israel were between receiving the ten commandments orally and in written format. While Moses was on Mount Sinai, the people got restless and wanted gods made for them to worship. Aaron relinquished and did as they wanted him to do. After Moses' return and confrontation of their actions, Aaron said that he threw the gold into the fire and out came a calf (Exo 32:24), an obvious lie. If there was an award for a humorous lie, Aaron would get first place.	The image of the golden calf was probably a reflection of the god Hathor. <sup>8a</sup> Further, Aaron's own two sons dying for offering strange fire proves God is not guilty of nepotism.
ON TAKING THE INITIATIVE	Aaron was not between a rock and a hard spot, but his actions had caught up with him. Aaron did not take the initiative in this lie, but he was most certainly at fault for making the golden calf and for the lie. Israel was still in the process of being established. Had Aaron run into this same temptation some years later, he probably would have resisted. On a scale of 1-10, he gets a 4-5.	With Aaron's weakness as a leader coming out in the scenario of the golden calf, it's best that Moses remained Israel's head of state.
ON THE TIMING FACTOR	Aaron had time to think out what he would say. Since Moses was the head of state of this newly formed nation, Moses was certainly going to return and find the golden calf. Aaron had time.	The ten commandments not having been in writing yet was a small factor.
WAYS TO HANDLE THE MATTER	While Aaron obviously did repent of his deeds (Exo 32:25-26), he should have decided to repent earlier and not try to cover up or even sugar coat any of his sin. If you've sinned, own up to it.	Aaron didn't simply rely on being the brother of the nation's head of state.
ON THE REPERCUSSIONS	There were repercussions to making the golden calf. Moses ground up the calf, scattered the pieces on the water, and made them drink from it. God no doubt also added his punishment. As for the direct effect of the lie, that isn't clear.	Aaron went on to serve as the high priest for Israel for around forty years, which says a lot.

Sin will keep you from the Word of God. The Word of God will keep you from sin.

<sup>8a</sup> – "Aaron and the Golden Calf," February 22, 2019, <https://thebiblestudy.co.uk/study/aaron-and-the-golden-calf/> (accessed September 20, 2022).

# Questions Regarding Aaron's Lie about the Golden Calf

## Questions pertaining to Doctrine and Theology

## Questions leaning towards application

1. What was Aaron thinking?

18. What point in this passage spoke to you the most?

2. What is at the core of this account?

19. Were there any surprises in this passage?

3. Is this story primarily about a lie? capitulating? being weak? worshipping false gods?

20. How would you apply this lesson to your own life?

4. Did Aaron have an issue with boldness?

21. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?

5. Was Israel's (the nation) young age a factor in Aaron's sin and lie?

22. Can you think of any situations in the 21st century similar to Aaron's situation?

6. What was Aaron's goal in making the golden calf?

23. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?

7. What was Aaron's goal in lying about where the golden calf came from?

24. Is there anything in this account that seems to contradict other truths in the Bible?

8. Why was Aaron not included in those that died for their sin? (See Exo 32:25-26.)

25. Have you ever lied because of a weak disposition?

9. Was God or Moses guilty of nepotism?

26. Have you ever felt like you could not stand up to the truth?

10. What roles do confession and repentance play in this account?

27. How often do you pray for boldness? What should our response be to this story?

11. Where did Aaron's biggest problem lie?

28. What are your weaknesses? What kind of situation would reveal your weaknesses?

12. Did Aaron engage in real repentance?

29. What is your biggest temptation? What makes you angry?

13. What attribute of God was manifested in this account?

30. How important is it that we have a copy of the Bible in written format?

14. The ten commandments had only been issued orally. Was this a factor?

31. How important is it that we read through the Bible every year?

15. Had the ten commandments been in writing, would Aaron have made the calf?

32. How many times have you read through the Bible?

16. After receiving the ten commandments in writing, did they still sin?

33. By the time you reach your 70s or 80s, what should that number be?

17. Had Moses been there in person, how would this account have transpired?

34. Regarding your reading through the whole bible, who holds you accountable?

A committed Christian should be reading their Bible from cover to cover at least once a year, with full-time ministers reading their Bible two to three times a year.

# 9. GEHAZI'S LIE FOR UNJUST GAIN (II Kings 5:15-27)

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
ON THE TYPE OF LIE AND MOTIVE	Gehazi's lie was a lie for unjust gain with a motive of covetousness.	Was it worth it? Not at all.
ON THE PLOT OF THE ACCOUNT	The prophet Elisha helped Naaman, a leper, get healed of leprosy. After following instructions and getting healed, Naaman offered gifts of monetary value to Elisha, which was refused. Gehazi saw an opportunity to use his role as a public servant <sup>1</sup> to attain monetary gain unjustly, and it worked. When Elisha confronted Gehazi, he lied a second time to cover up the first lie. The end result was horrendous.	Accepting good advice is a good thing. After receiving instruction on how to get healed, Naaman flew into a rage, but his servants advised him to listen. He did and got healed of leprosy.
ON TAKING THE INITIATIVE	Yes, Gehazi took the initiative to lie for unjust gain. There were no difficult dispositions or unfair situations to deal with. On a scale of 1-10, he gets a 7-8.	Jesus said that praying decreases the chances of running into temptation.
ON THE TIMING FACTOR	Did Gehazi have time to think it out? This question serves better when the liar is in a difficult situation. Gehazi could have easily decided not to deceive Naaman. On his own, Gehazi decided to get some monetary gain for the miracle. The punishment will be indicative of the level of knowledge that was available.	Had Naaman not offered monetary goods for the miracle, Gehazi would not have been tempted, but Gehazi's weakness would still have been there.
WAYS TO HANDLE THE MATTER	In this case, the main issue wasn't on what to say to Naaman. The main issue was the condition of Gahazi's spiritual state before running into temptation.	Having a strong prayer life will decrease the chances of being tempted.
ON THE REPERCUSSIONS	The consequences for lying were just awful. Gehazi lost Elisha's respect for him, he couldn't be Elisha's assistant anymore, and he would suffer from leprosy for the rest of his life, effective immediately. However, since Gehazi's name shows up in chapter 8 in connection with the Shunammite, there is a possibility that Gehazi got healed. In chapter 4, the account starts with Shunammite not having a son, and in chapter 8, an account of her son's healing is brought up. Gehazi's greed takes place in chapter 5, but there is no way of piecing the plot together in such a way as to be 100% sure of this conclusion.	

Not only was Gehazi in the ministry, but he was also working for a prophet. Since he had access to more knowledge, the repercussions were going to be more severe.

<sup>4</sup> Rodney W. Francis, "The Prophet Elisha's Servant ~ Gehazi" No date, <https://www.gospel.org.nz/index.php/articles/articles-by-rodney/231-the-prophet-elisha-s-servant-gehazi>; content originally came from the book DISCOVERING THE GOD FACTOR (accessed June 25, 2022).

# Questions Regarding Gehazi's Greed

## Questions pertaining to Doctrine and Theology

## Questions leaning towards application

1. What is the core of this story about?

18. How are you doing with regards to greed and covetousness?

2. Was the issue with greed a sign there were other problems?

19. What is your biggest spiritual problem? How to tackle it?

3. How do you think Elisha handled his side?

20. Have you ever lied to cover up a prior lie? prior sin?

4. Should Naaman have suspected any deceit?

21. Do you give your tithe regularly?

5. What do you think happened with the silver and changes of clothes?

22. Do you give your tithe right after getting your paycheck?

6. What was the core of Gehazi's problem?

23. Things happen. Weaknesses get exposed. Where does your weakness lie?

7. How should Gehazi tackle his spiritual problem?

24. Have you ever been fired from a job only to be rehired later?

8. Should Naaman have been informed of the deceit?

25. Have you ever committed Gehazi's sin? in what setting?

9. Should the silver and the changes of clothes have been returned?

26. How would you apply this lesson to your own life?

10. After the principle is returned, should anything else be added? (Leviticus 6:1-7)

27. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?

11. Should a remedy like this be called penance?

28. Is there anything in this account that seems to contradict other truths in the Bible?

12. How public should the remedy and restoration be?

29. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?

13. Discuss the righteousness of God regarding Gehazi's punishment?

30. What point in this passage spoke to you the most?

14. How does the Shunammite's story help us lay out the timing of Gehazi's story?

31. Were there any surprises in this passage?

15. From the account in II Kings 4, 5 and 8, do you think Gehazi got healed?

32. Have you ever been cheated? Did they own up to it?

16. Had Gehazi repented for real, should Elisha have taken him back as his assistant?

33. Can you blame your sin on a certain disposition or on a turn of events?

17. Name another story where a punishment was diminished because of repentance.

34. If you have ever been cheated, did you seek your own vengeance?



# 10. SAUL'S SUICIDE AND THE AMALEKITE (I Sam 31:1-13 & II Sam 1:2-16)

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
ON THE TYPE OF LIE AND MOTIVE	The Amalekite lying about killing Saul was most likely a lie to attain unjust gain. Since there are two accounts regarding Saul's death, the correct version needs to be proven.	For a cross reference on the young man's motive, see II Sam 4:10.
ON THE PLOT OF THE ACCOUNT	All of God's Word is inspired, including the account of the words and actions of evil men, but that does not mean God approved of the words and actions. Saul took his own life by falling on his sword (I Sam 31:4). However, another account surfaced. An Amalekite claimed he took Saul's life, which is an obvious lie. See NOTES for a more in-depth explanation on this.	The inspired account says, yes, this is what the Amalekite said he did. The inspired account never claimed his account was true. I Samuel 31:1-13, the inspired account's version, says Saul's death was suicide via a sword. Moreover, the devil is quoted in the scriptures. The inspired account says, yes, the devil said so and so, but his words are not endorsed as truth and doctrine for us to live by.
	Let's look at some of the arguments. <sup>1</sup> It is very unlikely Saul asked an uncircumcised man to kill him (I Sam 31:4). Had the Philistines been close behind (2 Sam 1:6), as the Amalekite said they were, they would have probably stripped Saul the day of his death and not the day after as the Bible says (I Sam 31:8). Further, had they been that close, it's unlikely the Amalekite would have been stripping the dead of their possessions in broad daylight.	
	Had Saul killed all the Amalekites as ordered (I Sam 15:1-3; I Sam 28:17-19), rather than only slaughtering those from Havilah to Shur (I Sam 15:7), the Amalekite in I Samuel 1 would not have been. So, David also had to kill Amalekites (I Sam 27:8-9; 30:17).	
TAKING THE INITIATIVE	With a motive of covetousness, the Amalekite took the initiative to lie about what he did.	On a scale of 1-10, he gets a 7-8.
ON THE TIMING FACTOR	The Amalekite had plenty of time to think about the lie, which he used to polish his lie.	He could have decided not to lie.
ON THE REPERCUSSIONS	Willful, planned out lies do carry greater consequences than the lesser sin of lying under duress or lying when backed up in a corner. In this case, it cost the young man his life.	This completely pagan youth knew all about Israel's religious practices.

<sup>1</sup> Lacey, Troy "How Did King Saul Die?" February 22, 2019, <https://answersingenesis.org/contradictions-in-the-bible/how-did-king-saul-die/> (accessed August 29, 2022).

# Questions Regarding Saul's Suicide & the Amalekite's Lie

Questions pertaining to Doctrine and Theology	Questions leaning towards application
1. How do you think Saul died?	18. What point in this passage spoke to you the most?
2. What was the Amalekite thinking?	19. Were there any surprises in this passage?
3. Did Samson commit suicide? If not, how would you explain his death?	20. How would you apply this lesson to your own life?
4. Can you put Saul and Samson in the same corner?	21. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?
5. Was David correct in having the Amalekite put away? (Num 35:30)	22. Can you think of any situations in the 21st century similar to Saul in his day?
6. How would you argue against someone who says the Amalekite did not lie?	23. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?
7. If the Amalekite did not lie, how would you explain the account in I Samuel 31:1-13?	24. Is there anything in this account that seems to contradict other truths in the Bible?
8. Discuss this account in light of Old Testament theology.	25. Has suicide ever been a temptation for you?
9. Are there any New Testament theologies prevalent in this account?	26. Can a Christian commit suicide and still go to heaven?
10. Did this situation have anything to do with Saul's earlier actions (I Sam 28:17-19)?	27. Is suicide murder? Can a Christian murder? (see I John 3:15)
11. Discuss Saul's death in light of God's providence (I Sam 28:17-19).	28. Have you witnessed a believer lying to attain unjust gain?
12. Do you think the Amalekite was a resident alien in Israel?	29. Under certain circumstances, can a Christian lie to attain unjust gain?
13. Would this have changed how the situation should have been handled?	30. What lesson can we learn from the Amalekite?
14. Saul received less mercy. Was this due to him being a Benjamite (Gen 49:10)?	31. How should Christians view reward?
15. What is the meaning of the scepter not departing from Judah until Shiloh come?	32. Can a believer serve simply for the gain of a reward?
16. Do you think Saul went to heaven? The medium probably did not die for her sin.	33. Should a believer keep the attaining of a reward as an important aspect in life?
17. If you argue that Saul went to heaven, what is the basis?	34. What should our response be to this story?

# 11. THE MALICIOUS LIE AND NABOTH'S VINEYARD (I Kings 21:1-29)

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
TYPE AND MOTIVE	There were a string of sins involved in this account, of which one was the malicious lie executed with the intent to attain unjust gain. Other than the very, deadly malicious lie, covetousness, theft, murder, envy, false accusation and just blatant disregard for God laws were involved in this account.	The vineyard was Naboth's, giving him the right to keep it. Even the king was subject to the law of God. <sup>11a</sup>
ON THE PLOT OF THE ACCOUNT	King Ahab wanted a vineyard that was not for sale. After his wife, Jezebel, found out about the matter, she concocted a plan to get rid of Naboth, as in kill him, and thereafter the vineyard would be Ahab's. The plan was to call a public fast, and Naboth would also be participating. During the event, two good-for-nothings would falsely accuse Naboth, resulting in him and most likely also his sons (II Kings 9:26) being stoned. Killing his sons would have helped secure the vineyard. Afterward, Jezebel reminded Ahab that he that Naboth's vineyard was free for the taking.	Moreover, with Ahab having access to Micaiah, the real prophet who would only prophesy evil concerning Ahab, he should have known all about the consequences of a string of sins.
ON THE INITIATIVE AND TIMING	While Jezebel was the instigator, king Ahab most certainly did not stop the event. Ahab and Jezebel both were initiators in this account. Interesting how Jezebel knew that two witnesses were required.	Ahab, an Israelite, knew all about the law of Moses and the consequences of not adhering to them, and he had plenty of time to undo Jezebel's plan.
	On a scale of 1-10, Jezebel gets a 10, with Ahab getting a 9.	
WAYS TO HANDLE THE MATTER	King Ahab could very easily have gotten all the measurements, the types of plants, the type of fence and such and had an exact replica built, with the adjacent houses included in the blueprint.	Ahab's wickedness was less than Jezebel's, but he wouldn't stop her. So, he was just as guilty as her. Incidentally, Jezebel's death was a shade more humiliating than Ahab's.
	Even when the plan was being carried out, Ahab could easily have gotten in the way of the plan.	
	King Ahab's bigger mistake was marrying a Zidonian, a worshipper of Baal.	
ON THE REPERCUSSIONS	Considering the fact that they only got a vineyard, and temporary at that, Ahab and Jezebel paid a hefty price. The price paid wasn't only that they would both lose their lives, and but even their manner of death would be humiliating (I Kings 21:19, 23; 22:38; II Kings 9:30-37). Also, all of Ahab's sons (II Kings 9:24-27), seventy of them, were killed (I Kings 21:21; II Kings 10:1-7).	Once he did have the vineyard, it was not satisfying, and it's certainly unlikely this was the first time Jezebel played such an evil role.

<sup>1</sup> – – "The vineyard of Naboth and Queen Jezebel," N.D., <https://bibleview.org/en/bible/hebrews/nabothman/> (accessed January 25, 2023).



# Questions Regarding Ahab's and Jezebel's Lie

Questions pertaining to Doctrine and Theology	Questions leaning towards application
1. Did Jezebel, a Gentile, have less responsibility because she was a Gentile?	18. What point in this passage spoke to you the most?
2. Did Naboth have any fault in the matter? Did he have the right not to cooperate?	19. Were there any surprises in this passage?
3. Should the sons of Belial (worthless men) have been held accountable?	20. How would you apply this lesson to your own life?
4. Was Jezebel's death more humiliating than Ahab's (I Kings 22:37-38; II Kings 9:35)?	21. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?
5. Should Naboth have let Ahab purchase the vineyard?	22. Can you think of any situations in the 21st century similar to king Ahab's situation?
6. Who was most guilty in Naboth's death?	23. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?
7. Should John the Baptist have refrained from openly opposing Herod's marriage?	24. Is there anything in this account that seems to contradict other truths in the Bible?
8. Name some similarities between Naboth and John the Baptist.	25. Have you thought up of any ways Naboth could have handled the situation better?
9. What was king Ahab's core problem?	26. Have you thought up of any ways Ahab could have handled the situation better?
10. Why do you think Ahab married a Gentile who worshipped Baal?	27. Have you ever been tempted to employ the malicious lie?
11. After Jezebel approached Ahab with the plan, how should Ahab have responded?	28. Have you ever told a malicious lie? Was it satisfying?
12. Why did Ahab die for his sin? Because he was a Jew? Because he was saved?	29. Have you ever told a malicious lie after reaching adulthood?
13. Was Ahab's punishment too harsh? His sons were killed. (See II Kings 9:26; 10:7.)	30. Have you ever told a malicious lie after getting saved?
14. Apply Psalm 109:8-13 to this account with an emphasis on verse 13.	31. What kind of punishment should such a believer receive?
15. Who is the biggest villain in this account?	32. What should our response be to this story?
16. Who did the lying in this account? Who set up the liars?	33. Should we watch what we say in order to diminish persecution?
17. Of all the characters involved, who was/were the culprit(s) in Naboth's death?	34. How did Jesus handle persecution? How should we mimic him?

# 12. POTIPHAR'S WIFE (Gen 39:7-20)

TOPIC	EXPLANATION	NOTES
THE TYPE AND MOTIVE	Potiphar's wife's lie would most definitely fit in the category of the malicious lie.	She was angry for getting rejected.
ON THE PLOT OF THE ACCOUNT	Even though Joseph had been sold in slavery, things were going well for him career-wise. After getting the attention of his master, his master's wife began to pursue him for a physical relationship. He rejects her advances, infuriating her and ending up with her hurting him with a malicious lie. She accuses him of attempted rape, which angered Potiphar. Joseph landed in jail. Being such a character, Potiphar, her husband and the man she most likely was NOT in love with, <sup>12a</sup> would have been aware of her tendencies.	Had Joseph succumbed to the temptation, God would still have probably used him. The sin would have seriously damaged his testimony, as in the case of many of men.
TAKING THE INITIATIVE	Potiphar's wife most definitely took the initiative to lie about Joseph. In such a case, the perpetrator would have gotten the death penalty, but in Joseph's case, with Potiphar probably suspecting guilt on the part of his wife, may only have given him life in prison. <sup>12b</sup>	The death penalty would have been administered, but his boss was lenient. On a scale of 1-10, she gets a 9-10.
ON THE TIMING FACTOR	Potiphar's wife had time to think it out with her "evidence." With such wit on her part, it's clear she was used to employing all sorts of schemes, and as if Potiphar didn't know about her ways.	Had Joseph succumbed, Potiphar would have eventually found out.
HANDLING THE MATTER	An unsaved person in an unsaved society easily succumbs to temptation when it strikes.	Here is your textbook case on a liar.
ON THE REPERCUSSIONS	At that time, there were no written oracles of God. Further, Egypt had no official covenant with the LORD; however, it does seem the consequences would naturally come to light. They lost Joseph's service. Her willingness to lie would have surfaced in other areas in life. Further, she most definitely would have remembered her malicious lie after Joseph rose to power in Egypt.	Running was the best way to get away from the temptation, and going to jail got him away from this obvious problem situation.
	In terms of the aftermath, Joseph now goes to jail. However, it is in prison where he meets the cupbearer and interprets a dream for him. And even though the cupbearer initially forgets all about Joseph, the cupbearer did remember him at the most crucial time.	In the midst of such a sin, you cannot ask God to bless an affair.

There are a myriad of scenarios as to what could have happened had he succumbed to the temptation, but thankfully he did not, thus providing the world a story of victory.

<sup>12a</sup> Esword (Version 7.5, 2021) Adam Clarke, notes from Genesis 39:14.

<sup>12b</sup> Esword (Version 7.5, 2021) David Guzik, notes from Genesis 39:14.

# Questions Regarding Potiphar's Wife

Questions pertaining to Doctrine and Theology	Questions leaning towards application
1. Did Joseph make any errors during this time in his life? during the actual event?	18. What point in this passage spoke to you the most?
2. Should Joseph have recognized that he and she were the only ones in the house?	19. Were there any surprises in this passage?
3. Should Joseph purposely have made sure his article of clothing went with him?	20. How would you apply this lesson to your own life?
4. Was God working a larger plan in the process?	21. Do these truths contradict today's widely accepted values?
5. Discuss the providence of God in this scenario.	22. Discuss human rights in that day compared to our day?
6. About how old was Joseph at this time? Do we have proof?	23. In light of this passage, what changes should you make in your life?
7. Can Jasher be trusted on the length of Joseph's prison sentence? (Jasher 46:20)	24. Is there anything in this account that seems to contradict other truths in the Bible?
8. How close is the Apocrypha regarding the accuracy of Biblical narratives?	25. Have you ever taken part in a malicious lie? after getting saved?
9. Name one reason the Apocrypha is not inspired. (See I Maccabees 9:27.)	26. A child of God cannot murder (I John 3:15). What about the malicious lie?
10. How did Joseph handle this setback in his life?	27. How has a major setback in your life turned out for good?
11. How many times is Potiphar's wife mentioned after this account?	28. What are some applications a believer should take away from this story?
12. What do you think Potiphar's wife thought after Joseph rose in power in Egypt?	29. What should you do the next time you suffer a major setback?
13. Do you think Joseph thought about vengeance after rising to power in Egypt?	30. What should the attitude of a believer be in the midst of a setback like Joseph's?
14. Discuss Romans 8:28 in light of the actions of Potiphar's wife.	31. Had you been Joseph, would you have been tempted to execute vengeance?
15. After hearing his wife's lie, Potiphar gets angry. What was he angry at?	32. How would you handle a false accusation coupled with a punishment?
16. Do you think Potiphar suspected fault in his wife?	33. What sort of attitude should a child of God have after being falsely accused?
17. Did God need Potiphar's wife to execute his providence?	34. How should believers respond to being punished for something they didn't do?

# HONORABLE MENTIONS

Abraham lied about his wife two times (Genesis 12:11-20; 20:1-12).

Sarah lied about laughing (Genesis 18:9-15).

Isaac lied about his wife (Genesis 26:6-7).

Jacob lied about his identity (Genesis 27:18-24).

Joseph's brothers lied about Joseph's garment (Genesis 37:28-33).

After Jacob's death, Joseph's brother *probably* lied about what Jacob had said (Genesis 50:15-21).

Michal lied about David's whereabouts (I Sam 19:9-18).

David lied to Ahimelech about the reason he was there (I Sam 21:1-2).

A character lied to a man of God, a prophet (I Kings 13:18).

Men in front of Pilate told lies about Jesus (Luke 23:1-5).

Ananias and Sapphira lied about the price of their property (Acts 5:1-9).

Men lied about Stephen's message (Acts 6:11-14).

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