

The Ninth



TEN

A LOOK AT GOD'S
UNWAVERING COMMANDS

Exodus 20:16 & James 3:2-12

Exodus 20:16

“You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.”

JAMES 3:2-12

For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire!

JAMES 3:2-12

6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. 7 For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, 8 but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

JAMES 3:2-12

9 With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.”

Revelation 12:10

“Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.”

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“The Ninth Commandment illustrates clearly that the Decalogue aims at sustaining the life of the community. It is not a direct and general prohibition of lying, but concerns false charges brought against one’s ‘neighbour,’ that is, another member of the covenant community.”

J.G. McConville

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Deuteronomy 4:5-8

See, I have taught you statutes and rules, as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should do them in the land that you are entering to take possession of it. 6 Keep them and do them, for that will be your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'

Deuteronomy 4:5-8

7 For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? 8 And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?”

James 3:9

“With [the tongue] we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.
10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.”