



- 1 Samuel 30:15

Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master,
and I will take you down to this band.



- 1 Samuel 30:15 (ESV) 15 And David said to him, “Will you take me down to this band?” And he said, “Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this band.”
- Consider if this young Egyptian had encountered a Pharisee at the time of Jesus and asked for the same protection.

Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master,
and I will take you down to this band.



- If anyone swears by the temple

Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master,
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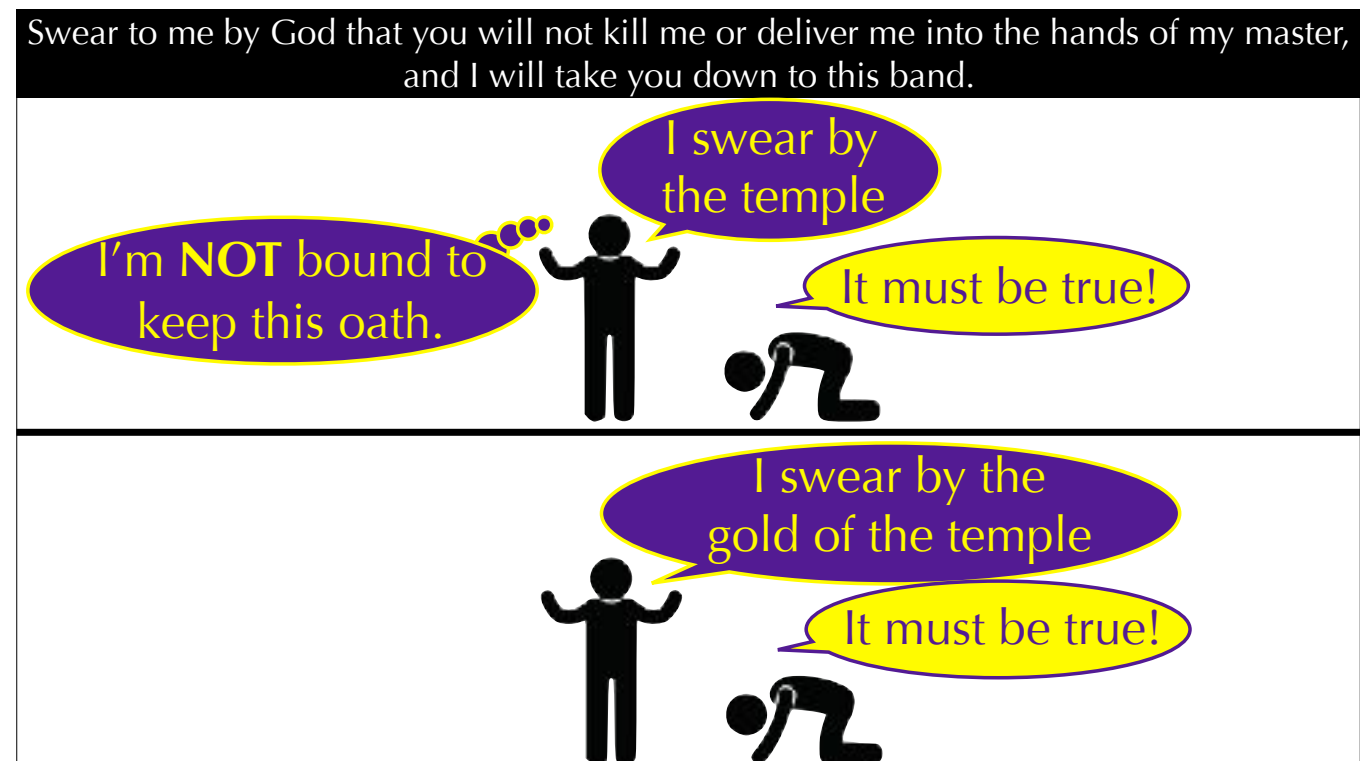


- if anyone swears by the gold of the temple

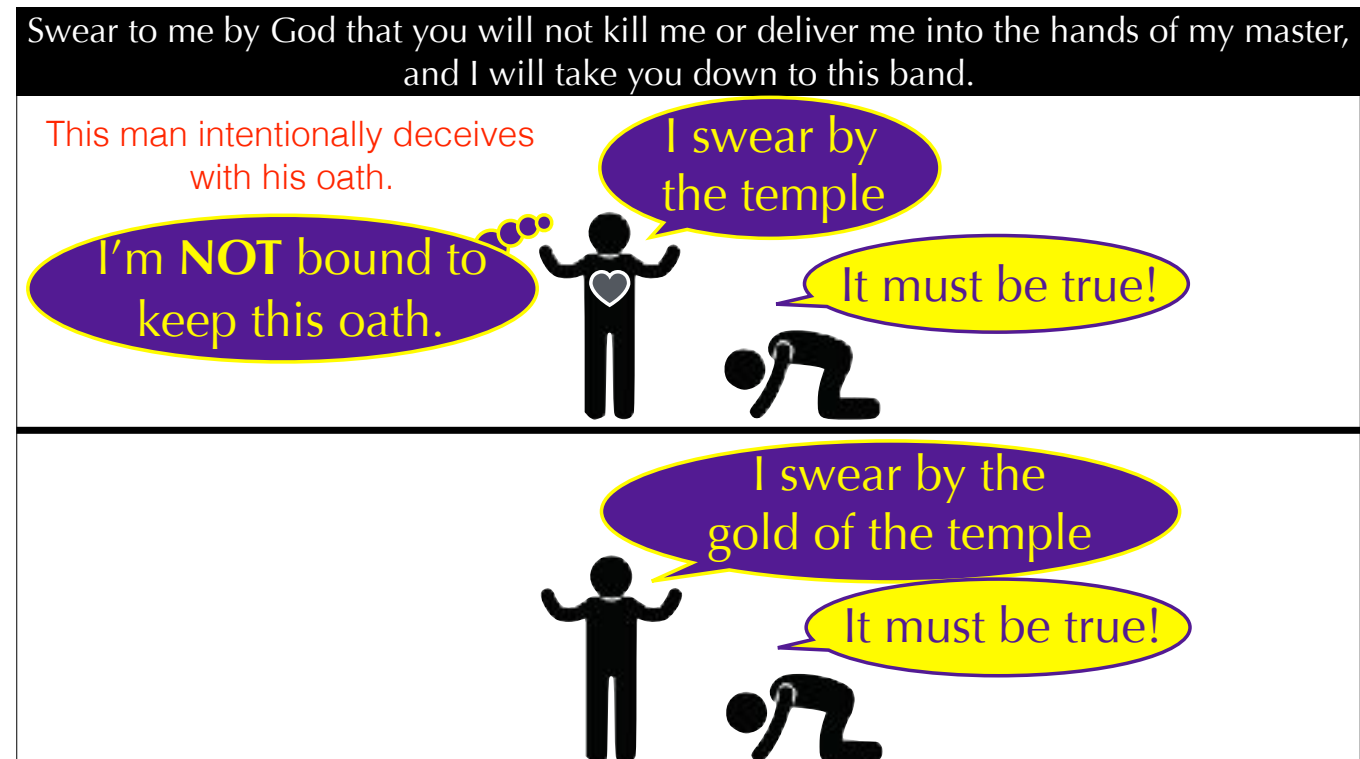
Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master,
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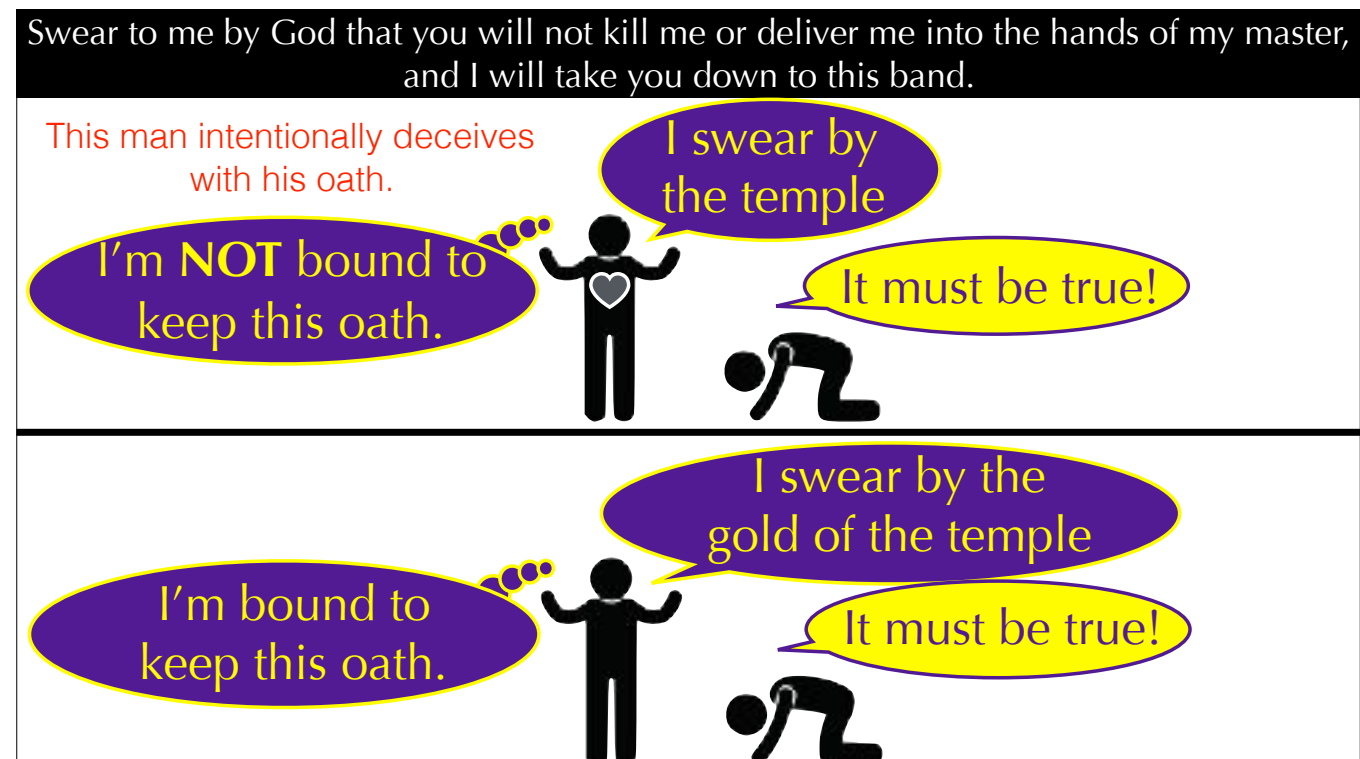
- Do you, as Egyptian, not knowing Jewish law... who would you believe?
- Both sound appropriate?
- Do you trust the Pharisee with your life?



- At heart, this man intends to deceive! Gives assurance that provides himself an “out” in case things change.



- At heart, this man intends to deceive! Gives assurance that provides himself an “out” in case things change.



- Matthew 23:16: but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.'

Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this band.

This man intentionally deceives with his oath.

I'm **NOT** bound to keep this oath.

I swear by the temple

It must be true!

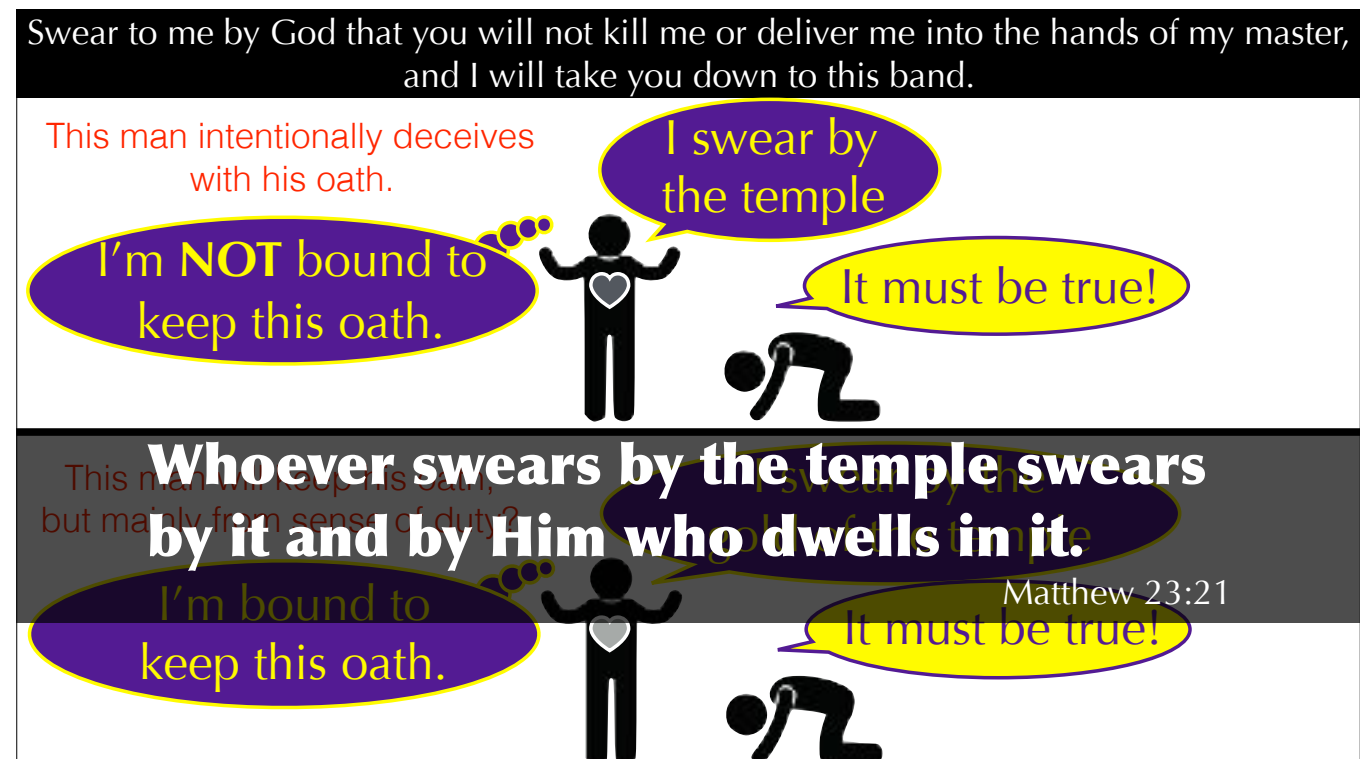
This man will keep his oath, but mainly from sense of duty?

I'm bound to keep this oath.

I swear by the gold of the temple

It must be true!

- This man may keep oath only because he feels obligated.
- Not necessarily because he is concerned about what is right, or his integrity.



- Matthew 23:21 And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it.



- How do we know when someone is telling us the truth?
 - In courts, lay hand on Bible “Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?”



- How do we know when a nation no longer has any real regard for the truth?
 - It's not just that they lie constantly, but that they are seeking to make it seem like they are telling the truth.
 - Because falsehood is rampant in such a society, they will go to great lengths to assure others that they are telling the truth.



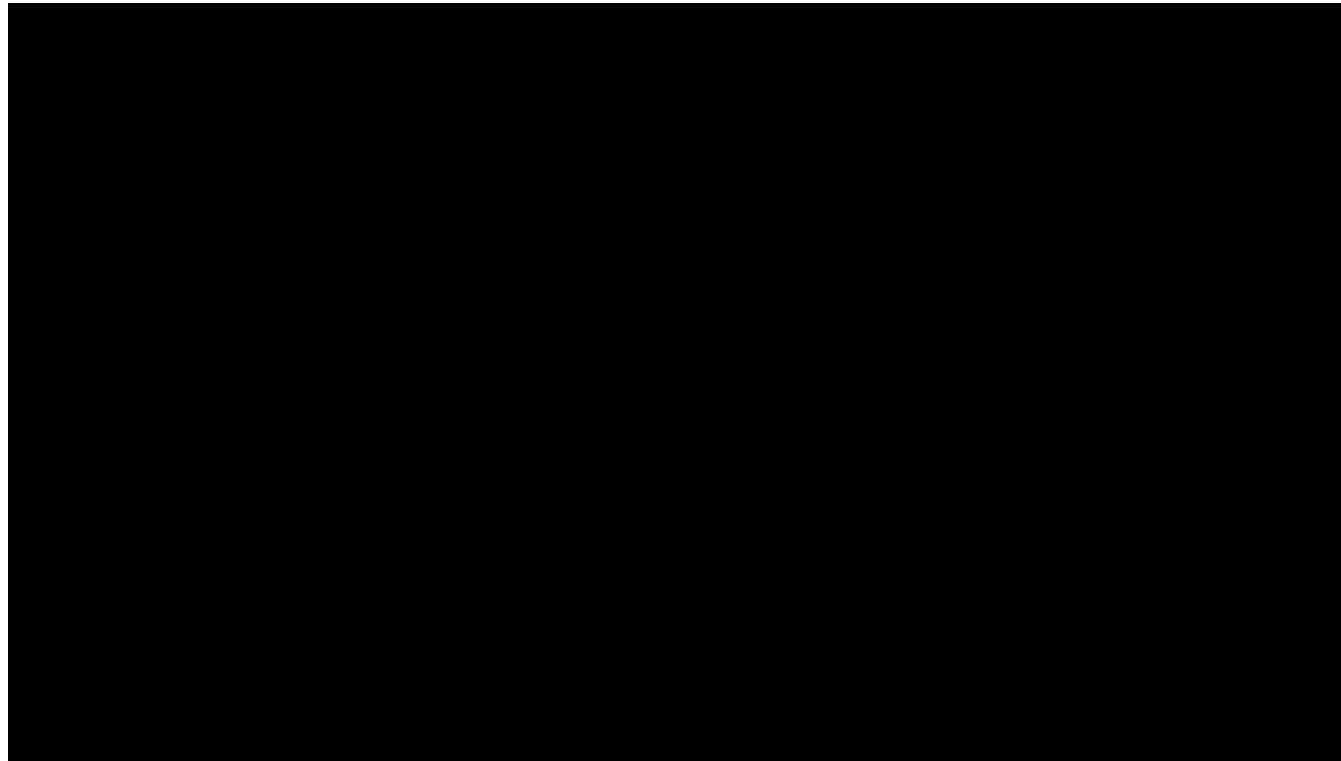
- The assumption will be that they are false, so using oaths of various kinds, they strive to give the illusion of truth.
- Often the presumption is that someone is hiding something, doing something for their own reasons (unrevealed); seeking what is best for them with little to no regard for the other.
- Have we reached that point in our society?



- What do you think of most of the commercials you hear and see?
 - There's nothing better ...
 - technically correct, but misleading.
 - It doesn't mean it's the best (most people hear that)
 - It means it's equal with others.

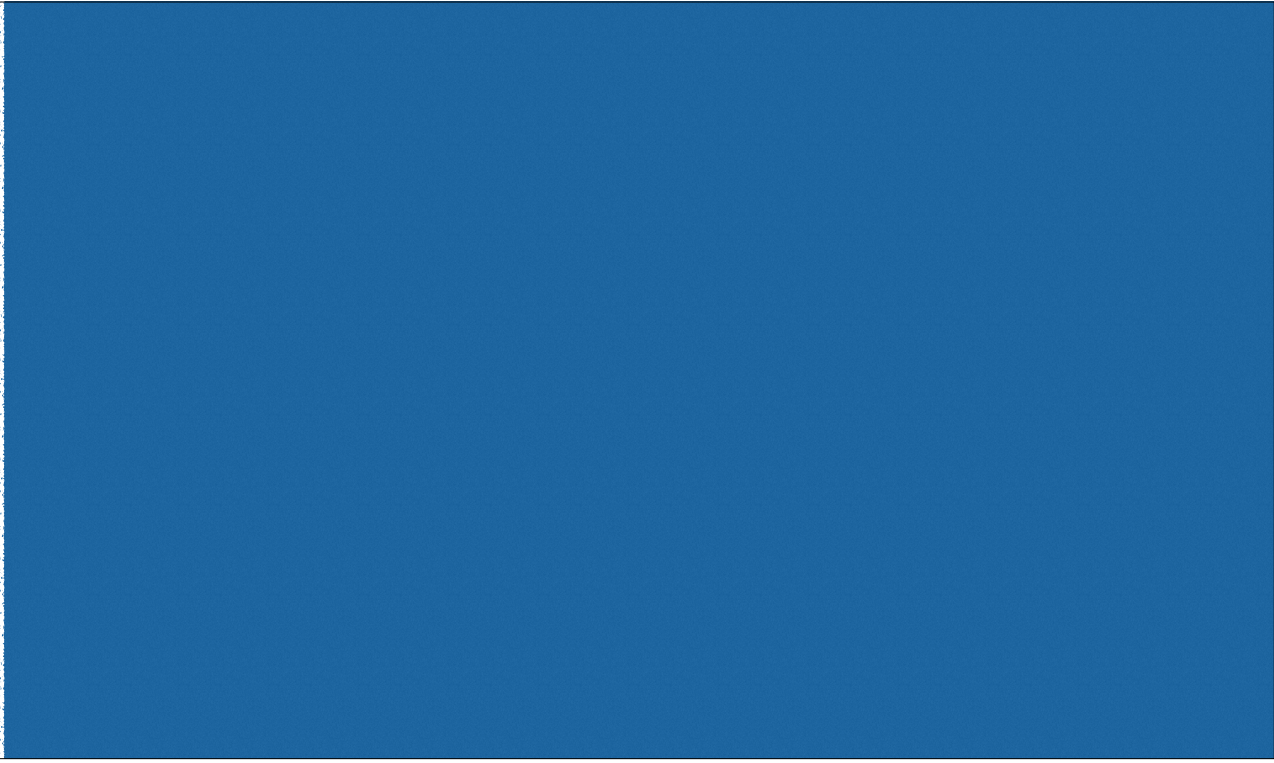


- Medicines are advertised with all kinds of statements of what they can do for you,
- and then an even longer and indiscernible and mumbled list of things it doesn't do or possible problems.



- Matthew 5:33-37 (ESV) 33 “Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ 34 But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, 35 or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. 36 And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. 37 Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.
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Exceeding Righteousness



Exceeding Righteousness

The Law
(as given to Moses)

→

**“You shall not swear by my name falsely,
and so profane the name of your God:
I am Jehovah.”**

Leviticus 19:12

- Purpose of Mosaic Law
 - Deuteronomy 6:13-15: It is the Lord your God you shall fear. Him you shall serve and **by his name you shall swear**. You shall not go after other gods, the gods of the peoples who are around you— for the Lord your God in your midst is a jealous God—lest the anger of the Lord your God be kindled against you, and he destroy you from off the face of the earth.

Exceeding Righteousness

The Law
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**“You shall not swear by my name falsely,
and so profane the name of your God:
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Leviticus 19:12

- Leviticus 19:11-12: “You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. **You shall not swear by my name falsely**, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.

Exceeding Righteousness

The Law
(as given to Moses)

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**“You shall not swear by my name falsely,
and so profane the name of your God:
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Leviticus 19:12

- Numbers 30:2: If a man vows a vow to the Lord, or swears an oath to bind himself by a pledge, **he shall not break his word. He shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.**

Exceeding Righteousness

The Law
(as given to Moses)

→

**“You shall not swear by my name falsely,
and so profane the name of your God:
I am Jehovah.”**

Leviticus 19:12

- Deuteronomy 23:21-23: “If you make a vow to the Lord your God, **you shall not delay fulfilling it**, for the Lord your God will surely require it of you, and you will be guilty of sin. But if you refrain from vowing, you will not be guilty of sin. You shall be careful to do what has passed your lips, for you have voluntarily vowed to the Lord your God what you have promised with your mouth.

Exceeding Righteousness

The Law
(as given to Moses) → **“You shall not swear by my name falsely,
and so profane the name of your God:
I am Jehovah.”**

Leviticus 19:12

- Law emphasized how serious taking an oath was:
 - use God’s name (don’t take in vain); fear God
 - pay what you vow -- don’t swear falsely.
 - oaths not to be used lightly or conversationally.



- Matthew 5:33: "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'



- Binding and Non-binding oaths - Mt. 23:16-22
 - Matthew 23:16-22: "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath.' You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred? And you say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gift that is on the altar, he is bound by his oath.' You blind men! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift sacred? So whoever swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. And whoever swears by the temple swears by it and by him who dwells in it. And whoever swears by heaven swears by the throne of God and by him who sits upon it."



- Resulted in:
 - Dishonesty -- a basic deceit in one's heart, attempting to "get away with" something, perhaps even defraud one's neighbor.
 - Frivolous swearing, taking an oath where no oath was necessary or proper. It had become far too common a custom to introduce a statement by saying, "By your life," or "by my head"



- Evasive swearing:
 - The jews divided oaths into two classes, those which were absolutely binding and those which were not.
 - The idea behind this was that, if God's name was used, God became a partner in the transaction;
 - whereas if God's name was not used, God had nothing to do with the transaction.
 - No man can keep God out of any transaction. God is already there.



- Lenski
 - a general permission to use all sorts of oaths and
 - then spent all their casuistic ingenuity on determining the degree of binding force of the different forms of oaths,
 - concluding that those which did not directly name God had no binding force.



- The Correct Heart:
 - Do not take an oath at all
 - a prohibition on all oaths?
 - Mt. 26:63-64: High Priest: I adjure you by the living God, that you tell us whether you are the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus: You have said.



- 2 Cor. 1.23: But I call God for a witness upon my soul, that to spare you I forbore to come unto Corinth.
- Heb. 6.13-16: God made promise to Abraham, since could swear by none greater, he swore by himself. (16) swear by greater, the oath is final for confirmation.



- Peter: Mt. 26.72,74: "And again he denied with an oath, I know not the man"; "Then began he to curse and swear, I know not the man."
 - why didn't they believe Peter after use of oath?
 - common + dishonesty (It came to easy?)



- Oaths must be restricted, but there are certain solemn, vital occasions when it is right, when it is not only legitimate, but actually adds a solemnity and an authority which nothing else can give.
 - Do we have the same problem as Pharisees?
 - Marriage vows taken lightly -- adultery and divorce.



- Yes or No
 - calls for simple honesty and truthfulness in all normal conversation
 - should be of such nature that men believe what we say without having to affirm the truth of what we say.
 - speaks of the basic nature of our heart: true or false
- comes from evil
 - an evil heart... deceive, cheat, hurt, oppress



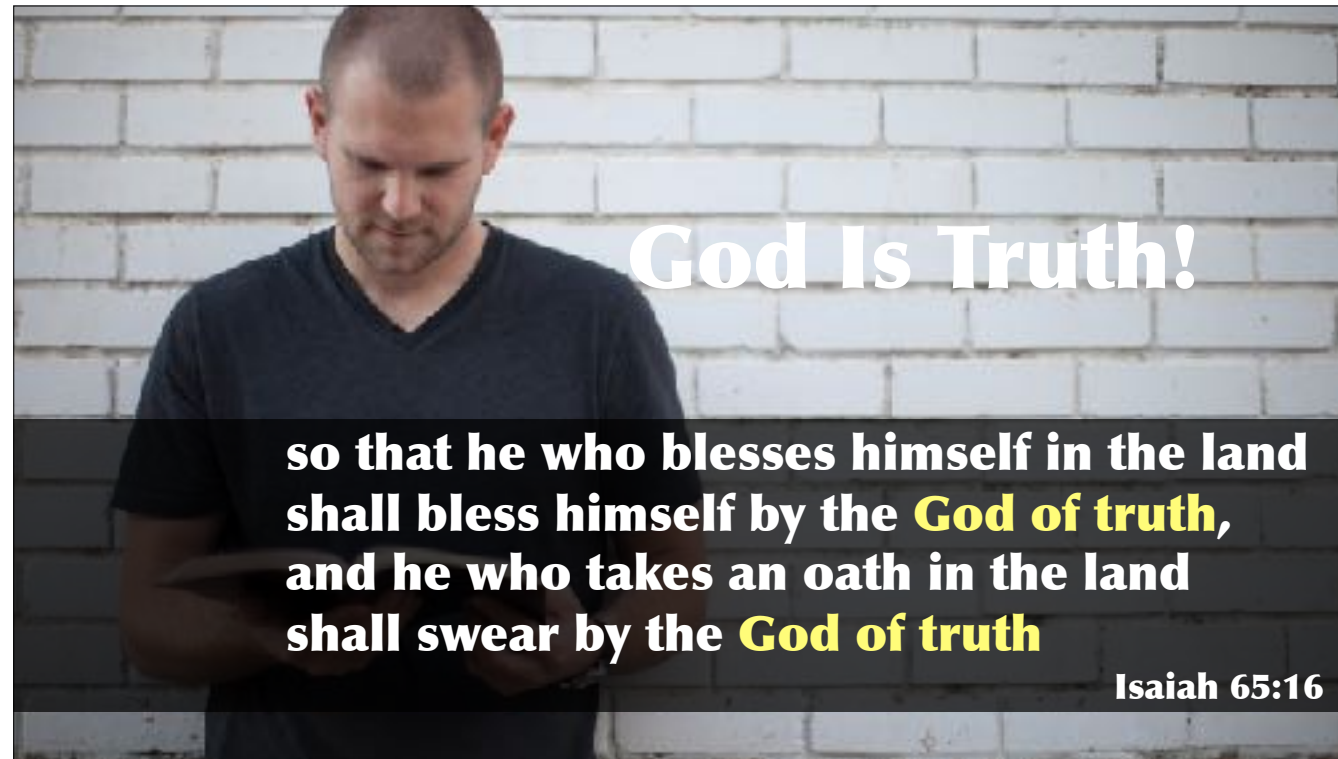
- Lenski:
 - By inserting oaths we imply that our statements are not truthful, that we really cannot be believed except under oath.
 - If this implication is true, then we are, indeed, liars, children of the devil, the father of lies and of liars (John 8:44),
 - if the implication is not true, we are liars when making it and thus relate ourselves to the devil.



- James 5:12: But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.



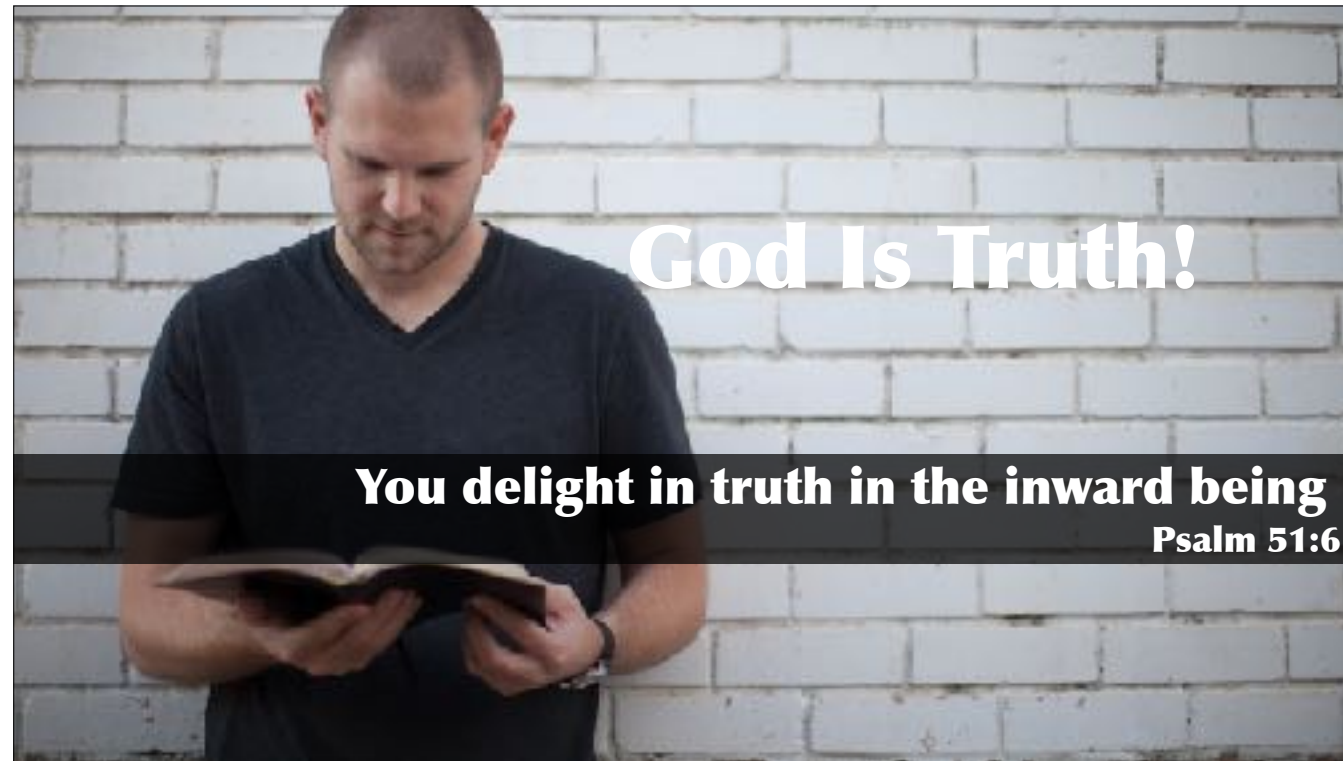
- If all that we get from this is that we should not take oaths,
 - Yes and No
 - We are as blind and self-deceived as the Pharisees
- What underlying principle is God teaching us about Himself?
 - So that we can be made in His image.
- God is truth....
 - And he desires that we be truthful too.



- Isaiah 65:16 (ESV) 16 so that he who blesses himself in the land shall bless himself by the **God of truth**, and he who takes an oath in the land shall swear by the **God of truth**; because the former troubles are forgotten and are hidden from my eyes.
- Titus 1:2: in hope of eternal life, which **God, who never lies**, promised before the ages began



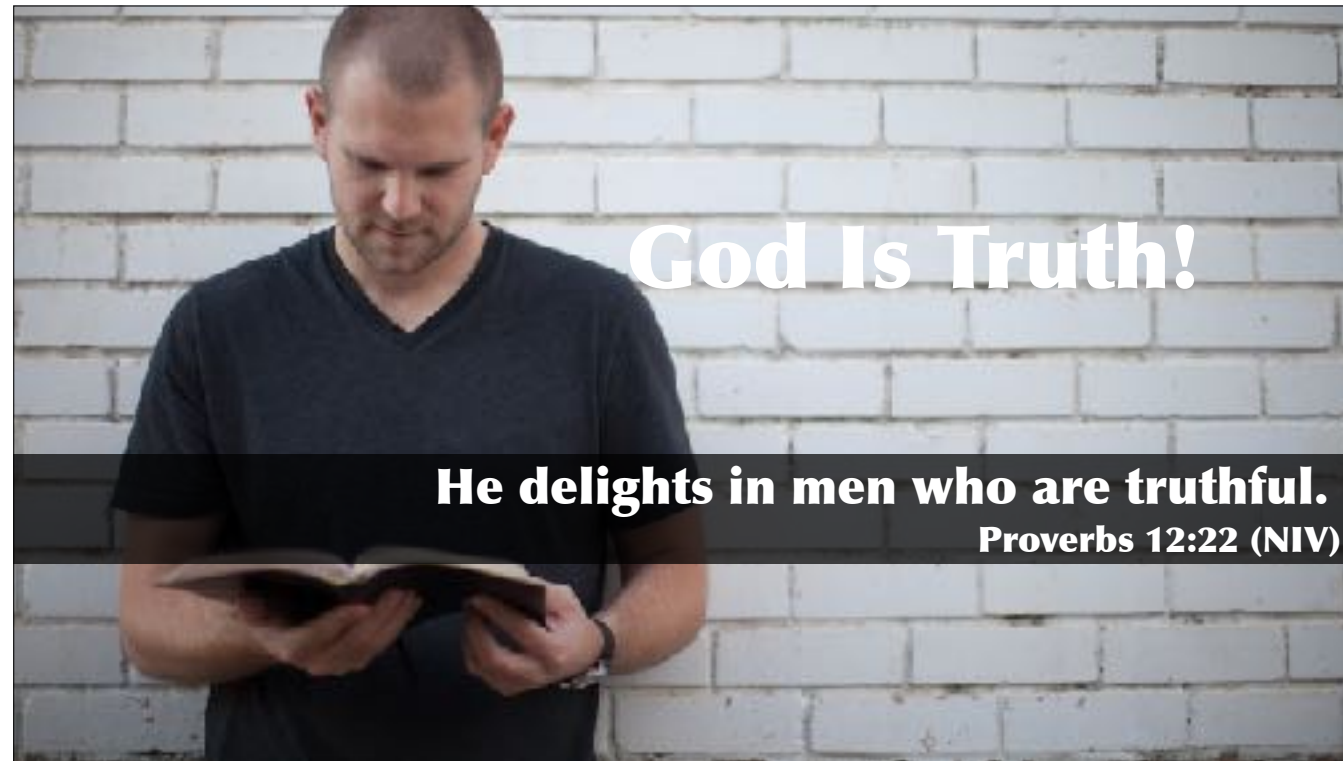
- Psalms 15:2: He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart



- Psalms 51:6: Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.



- Ephesians 4:25: Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.



- Proverbs 12:22 (NIV): The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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God Is Truth!

Matthew 5:33-37

Synopsis: Jesus' third example of true righteousness is the taking of oaths. The Scribes and Pharisees had made oath taking into an art of deceit. Jesus teaches that our answers shouldn't need oaths; a simple yes or no demonstrates the integrity of our heart. It further teaches us that our God is the God of Truth and he desires his children to be truthful in all things.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."