

Is It Ever Right To Lie?

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Joshua 2:3-6 – "So the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying, "Bring out the men who have come to you, who have entered your house, for they have come to search out all the country." Then the woman took the two men and hid them. So she said, 'Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And 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.'" (But 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.)"

I. The Question

Is it ever right to lie?

Some answer that it is always wrong to lie. If Christians are ever placed in Rahab's position, they should simply tell the truth and trust God to deliver them. This position will often attempt to bifurcate Rahab's action into a moral component (hiding the spies) and an immoral component (lying to the soldiers). This is necessary because of the favorable treatment she received from Joshua and the commendation she receives in Hebrews 11.

Others argue it is acceptable to lie to protect the innocent from death. They believe that sometimes it is necessary to lie and if Christians are ever placed in Rahab's position they should lie just like Rahab.

While it is commonly believed by many on both sides of this question that Rahab lied in the account given in Joshua 2, this brief essay will seek to demonstrate that Rahab did not lie and that both her speech and actions are in view in her commendation in Hebrews 11.

II. Lies Are Always Wrong

1) Lies are forbidden by the 9th commandment – You shall not bear false (Hebrew: sheqer) witness against your neighbor.

2) Satan is the father of lies. (John 8:44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.) If Satan is the Father of lies and speaks out his own character when he lies and if lies are forbidden in the 9th commandment, a lie (i.e. a false witness) can never be pleasing to the Lord, who cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

3) The 9th commandment deals with interactions with neighbors, not those who are seeking to harm us. Battlefield concealment from enemy combatants in a just war is not of the devil. In Joshua 8:2 God commanded Joshua to employ battlefield concealment to hide the truth from the enemy and in Psalm 83:3 God hides the righteous from the wicked. Since God both commands and practices concealment of the righteous from the wicked, battlefield concealment is a righteous action, not a necessary evil. Evil is never just and never necessary, unavoidable, or proper as a course of human action. This means it is not a violation of the 9th commandment (i.e. a lie or deception) when we hide

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the truth from enemies on the battlefield or send them on wild goose chases in the opposite direction of where they want to go.

III. Did Rahab Lie?

4) The Bible says that by faith Rahab did not perish with those who don't believe when she received the spies in peace. (Heb 11:31). This is a summary statement of the entire transaction described in Joshua 2 which included hiding the spies from the soldiers and then sending the soldiers on a wild goose chase. Both of these are acts of concealment. If the people of Jericho were not enemies whom God had commanded Israel to destroy, then both acts of concealment would have been sinful deception. If a child conceals forbidden candy from his parents, godly parents would recognize that action as deception (i.e. sinful concealment) regardless of whether the child said anything. Likewise with Rahab. Her concealment of the soldiers on the roof can't be morally divergent from her sending the soldiers another way. Both of those actions constitute concealment and are either both right or both wrong. Whether her actions were right or wrong depends on whether she was concealing the righteous from the wicked or the wicked from the righteous. If the spies were the enemies, then concealing them under flax on the roof of her house would have been unrighteous concealment (i.e. deception) just as much as verbally sending the soldiers "another way."

5) The Bible never says anywhere (Joshua or Hebrews) that Rahab did anything that was false (Hebrew: *sheqer*) or deceptive (Hebrew: *hâthal*) or involving lies (Hebrew: *kâzab*) or vain in the sense of false (Hebrew: *shav*). These are the words the Bible uses to describe actions that transgress the 9th commandment. For example, when Jacob accuses Laban of deception in changing his wages 10 times, he uses the word *hâthal* (Gen 31:7). When Moses accuses Pharaoh of deceit in not letting the children of Israel go after saying he would let them go, he uses the word *hâthal* (Ex 8:29). Delilah uses the same word in accusing Samson of deceiving her. She also uses *kâzab* in referring to Samson's actions. The Psalmist uses *kâzab* in Ps 116:11 when he says all men are liars.

The Old Testament uses *sheqer* over 100 times to describe the breaking of the 9th commandment. For example, in speaking of false witnesses, Deut 19:18 uses *sheqer*. It is also the word used in the 9th commandment itself. When it records that God put a lying spirit in the mouth of the false prophets it uses *sheqer* (1 Kings 22:23). In the many complaints that the Psalmist raises against those who have acted wickedly, the psalmist uses *sheqer*. Some of those actions include wrongfully rejoicing, hating wrongfully, trusting in vain (i.e. false) things, or dealing with him perversely without a cause. But none of these words are ever used to describe Rahab's actions in receiving the spies, nor are equivalent Greek words for falsehood used in Hebrews 11. It does say that in hiding the spies she acted by faith.

The word translated "hid" in the Joshua 2 account is the same word David uses to describe hiding the law of God in our heart so that we don't sin against him. This word (*tsâphan*) simply means to hide something. It is used to describe God hiding us in his pavilion, in the secret of his tabernacle (Psalm 27:5), Moses' mother hiding him in her home the first three months of his life, God storing up (*tsâphan*) goodness for those that fear him, and God hiding his people from evil conspirators (Psalm 31:20; 83:3). In following God's example of hiding the righteous from the wicked, Rahab was not transgressing any commandment; according to Hebrews 11, she was acting in faith.

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IV. Does Scripture Only Commend Rahab's Concealment of the Spies?

Some positions try to separate her supposed "lie" from her faithful receiving of the spies. But her sending the soldiers another way and hiding the spies were all part of and, inseparable from, receiving the spies in peace.

6) Rahab's choice was between hiding the Israelites from the soldiers or revealing the Israelites to the soldiers. Passivity in failing to hide the Israelites, such as not answering when asked if she was hiding the spies, is a less heinous form of revealing the Israelites to the soldiers because silence in a just cause is breaking the 9th commandment (WLC Question 145; 2 Tim 4:6; Acts 5:3, 8-9; Lev 5:1; De 13:8) just like speaking a lie. In other words, there are only two basic courses of actions. She is either for the Israelites or she is against them (Mark 9:40). There is no neutrality. If, by faith, she is for the Israelites, then she is against Jericho and Jericho's soldiers. If, by faith, she believes God's word and is against the soldiers, then the 9th commandment requires her to hide God's spies from the soldiers and use her ability to speak to preserve the soldiers from discovery. Some would argue that she should have hid the spies and simply been silent in the face of questioning by the soldiers. But this fails to grasp the facts of the situation. Silence in the face of questions concerning the spies seen entering her house would have been a tacit admission the spies might still be with her. It would have been seen as not cooperating with the soldiers and endangered her own life as well as the spies.

Deuteronomy 13:8 requires that we don't conceal someone worthy of death. To conceal such a person is to support their wickedness. To fail to reveal such a person is to passively support their wickedness. Passive support is wrong no less than active support. Applied to Rahab's situation, it implies failing to conceal the righteous from the wicked is to passively support the wicked and not the righteous. This is to disobey the 9th commandment as it is expressed by application in Deuteronomy 13:8 as much as concealing the wicked from the righteous. To physically conceal the spies but remain mute when asked where they are is to fail to conceal the righteous from the wicked by a tacit admission that they are still present. Certainly one should seek to do everything possible to avoid being asked in the first place. But if those efforts fail, we should do all we can to conceal the righteous from the wicked.

This should not be seen as mandating misdirection. It is certainly admitted that there is room for judgment regarding which plan is most likely to hide the righteous from the wicked. In some situations, silence may be the best option to maintain the concealment and protect the righteous from the wicked. But when all these factors are properly considered, the right course of action is that which will best conceal the righteous from the evil desires of the wicked.

7) Deception must be defined in terms of the righteous and the unrighteous. God himself hides the righteous from the unrighteous. That's not falsehood or deception because God is Truth and cannot lie. Obadiah hid the righteous from the wicked, an action that is cited in 1 Kings 18:3-4 as proof that he feared God greatly. Even though his actions hid the truth from King Ahab, nowhere does scripture describe his actions as false or deceptive. A false or deceptive action is sin. Sinful actions are neither evidence of faith nor of fearing God greatly. On the other hand, to hide the wicked from the righteous is wrong according to Deuteronomy 13:8 and therefore is deception. Rahab's faith in receiving the spies in peace is commended in Hebrews 11 because by her actions and words she concealed the righteous from the wicked.

Appendix A: Hebrew Words for Hide

V. Hebrew Words for Hide

צָפַן (tsâphan)

BDB

1) to hide, treasure, treasure or store up

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to hide, treasure, treasure up

1a2) to lie hidden, lurk

1b) (Niphal) to be hidden, be stored up

1c) (Hiphil) to hide, hide from discovery

Exodus 2:2 – (Moses' mother hid him at his birth) And the woman conceived, and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid (tsâphan – 3fs Qal imperfect with vaw consecutive and 3ms pronominal suffix) him three months. (Describes a righteous action favorably mentioned in Hebrews 11 in that the righteous are being hidden from the wicked.)

Exodus 2:3 – And when she could no longer hide (tsâphan – Hiphil infinitive construct with 3ms suffix) him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. (Describes a righteous action favorably mentioned in Hebrews 11 in that the righteous are being hidden from the wicked.)

Joshua 2:4 – (Rahab receiving the spies.) And the woman took the two men, and hid (tsâphan– 3fs Qal imperfect with vaw consecutive and 3ms pronominal suffix) them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were: (Describes a righteous action favorably mentioned in Hebrews 11 in that the righteous are being hidden from the wicked.)

Job 10:13 – And these things hast thou hid (tsâphan – 2ms Qal perfect) in thine heart: I know that this is with thee. (God hiding either his mercies to Job or the memory of them in his heart.)

Job 14:13 – O that thou would hide (tsâphan– 2ms Hiphil imperfect) me in the grave, that thou would keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou would appoint me a set time, and remember me! (Job requesting God to hide him or cause him to be hidden.)

Job 15:20 – The wicked man travaileth with pain all his days, and the number of years is hidden (tsâphan) to the oppressor.

Job 17:4 – For thou hast hid (tsâphan) their heart from understanding: therefore shalt thou not exalt them.

Job 20:26 – All darkness shall be hid in his secret places: (tsâphan) a fire not blown shall consume him; it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.

Job 21:19 – God layeth up (tsâphan) his iniquity for his children: he rewardeth him, and he shall know it.

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Job 23:12 – Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed (tsâphan) the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Job 24:1 – Why, seeing times are not hidden (tsâphan) from the Almighty, do they that know him not see his days?

Psalms 10:8 – He sits in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set (tsâphan– 3mp Qal imperfect) against the poor. (This describes a wicked hiding. However the sin is not in the mere hiding, but in the purpose for which they are hidden. These are murderers who are hiding their evil intentions. Rahad was hiding the righteous to save them from the evil intentions of the wicked.)

Psalms 17:14 – From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid (tsâphan) treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes.

Psalms 27:5 – For in the time of trouble he shall hide (tsâphan) me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Psalms 31:19 – Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up (tsâphan) for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

Psalms 31:20 – Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly (tsâphan) in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

Psalms 56:6 – They gather themselves together, they hide (tsâphan) themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.

Psalms 83:3 – They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. (tsâphan)

Psalms 119:11 – Thy word have I hid (tsâphan) in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Proverbs 1:11 – If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily (tsâphan) for the innocent without cause:

Proverbs 1:18 – And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily (tsâphan) for their own lives.

Proverbs 2:1 – My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide (tsâphan) my commandments with thee;

Proverbs 2:7 – He layeth up (tsâphan) sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

Proverbs 7:1 – My son, keep my words, and lay up (tsâphan) my commandments with thee.

Proverbs 10:14 – Wise men lay up (tsâphan) knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

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Proverbs 13:22 – A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up (tsâphan) for the just.

Proverbs 27:16 – Whosoever hideth (tsâphan) her hideth (tsâphan) the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, which bewrayeth itself.

Song of Solomon 7:13 – The mandrakes give a smell, and at our gates are all manner of pleasant fruits, new and old, which I have laid up (tsâphan) for thee, O my beloved.

Jeremiah 16:17 – For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid (tsâphan) from mine eyes.

Ezekiel 7:22 – My face will I turn also from them, and they shall pollute my secret (tsâphan) place: for the robbers shall enter into it, and defile it.

Hosea 13:12 – The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; his sin is hid. (tsâphan)

כָּחַד (kâchad)

Strong's:

to *secrete*, by act or word; hence (intensively) to *destroy*: - conceal, cut down (off), desolate, hide.

BDB

1) to hide, conceal, cut off, cut down, make desolate, kick

1a) (Niphal)

1a1) to be hidden

1a2) to be effaced, be destroyed, be cut off

1b) (Piel) to cover, hide

1c) (Hiphil)

1c1) to hide

1c2) to efface, annihilate

Genesis 47:18 – (Egyptians when their money ran out in the great famine.) When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, We will not hide (kachad) it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not ought left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands:

Exodus 9:15 – For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off (kachad) from the earth.

Exodus 23:23 – For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off. (kachad)

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Joshua 7:19 – (Joshua urging Achan not to lie in regard to his sin.) And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide (kachad) it not from me.

1 Samuel 3:17 – (Eli urging Samuel not to hide what God had told him.) And he said, What is the thing that the LORD hath said unto thee? I pray thee hide (kachad) it not from me: God do so to thee, and more also, if thou hide (kachad) anything from me of all the things that he said unto thee.

1 Samuel 3:18 – And Samuel told him every whit, and hid (kachad) nothing from him. And he said, It is the LORD: let him do what seemeth him good.

2 Samuel 14:18 – (David urging the old woman Joab sent not to hide the matter of her son) Then the king answered and said unto the woman, Hide (kachad) not from me, I pray thee, the thing that I shall ask thee. And the woman said, Let my lord the king now speak.

2 Samuel 18:13 – Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood against mine own life: for there is no matter hid (kachad) from the king, and thou thyself would have set thyself against me.

1 Kings 13:34 – And this thing became sin unto the house of Jeroboam, even to cut it off,(kachad) and to destroy it from off the face of the earth.

2 Chronicles 32:21 – And the LORD sent an angel, which cut off (kachad) all the mighty men of valour, and the leaders and captains in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned with shame of face to his own land. And when he was come into the house of his god, they that came forth of his own bowels slew him there with the sword.

Job 4:7 – Remember, I pray thee, whoever perished, being innocent? or where were the righteous cut off? (kachad)

Job 6:10 – Then should I yet have comfort; yea, I would harden myself in sorrow: let him not spare; for I have not concealed (kachad) the words of the Holy One.

Job 15:18 – Which wise men have told from their fathers, and have not hid (kachad) it:

Job 15:28 – And he dwelleth in desolate (kachad) cities, and in houses which no man inhabiteth, which are ready to become heaps.

Job 20:12 – Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, though he hide (kachad) it under his tongue;

Job 22:20 – Whereas our substance is not cut down,(kachad) but the remnant of them the fire consumeth.

Job 27:11 – I will teach you by the hand of God: that which is with the Almighty will I not conceal.(kachad)

Psalms 40:10 – I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed (kachad) thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

Psalms 69:5 – O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid (kachad) from thee.

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Psalms 78:4 – We will not hide (kachad) them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

Psalms 83:4 – They have said, Come, and let us cut them off (kachad) from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.

Psalms 139:15 – My substance was not hid (kachad) from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Isaiah 3:9 – The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide (kachad) it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

Jeremiah 38:14 – Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took Jeremiah the prophet unto him into the third entry that is in the house of the LORD: and the king said unto Jeremiah, I will ask thee a thing; hide (kachad) nothing from me.

Jeremiah 38:25 – But if the princes hear that I have talked with thee, and they come unto thee, and say unto thee, Declare unto us now what thou hast said unto the king, hide(kachad) it not from us, and we will not put thee to death; also what the king said unto thee:

Jeremiah 50:2 – Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, and conceal (kachad) not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces.

Hosea 5:3 – I know Ephraim, and Israel is not hid (kachad) from me: for now, O Ephraim, thou committest whoredom, and Israel is defiled.

Zechariah 11:8 – Three shepherds also I cut off (kachad) in one month; and my soul lothed them, and their soul also abhorred me.

Zechariah 11:9 – Then said I, I will not feed you: that that dieth, let it die; and that that is to be cut off,(kachad) let it be cut off; (kachad) and let the rest eat every one the flesh of another.

Zechariah 11:16 – For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, which shall not visit those that be cut off, (kachad) neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces.

סָתַר (sâthar)

BDB:

1) to hide, conceal

1a) (Niphal)

1a1) to hide oneself

1a2) to be hidden, be concealed

1b) (Piel) to hide carefully

1c) (Pual) to be hidden carefully, be concealed

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1d) (Hiphil) to conceal, hide

1e) (Hithpael) to hide oneself carefully

Hide Deu_7:20, Deu_31:17-18 (2), Deu_32:20, 1Sa_20:2, 1Sa_20:5, 1Sa_23:19 (2), 1Sa_26:1, 1Ki_17:3, Job_13:20, Job_34:22, Psa_13:1, Psa_17:8, Psa_27:5, Psa_27:9, Psa_30:7, Psa_31:20, Psa_51:9, Psa_64:1-2 (2), Psa_69:17, Psa_89:46, Psa_102:2, Psa_119:19, Psa_143:7, Pro_28:28, Isa_16:3, Isa_29:15, Jer_23:24, Jer_36:19, Eze_39:29, Mic_3:4

Gen_4:14, Exo_3:6, 1Sa_20:24, 2Ki_11:2, 2Ch_22:11, Job_3:10, Job_3:23, Psa_19:6, Psa_22:24, Psa_38:9, Psa_55:12, Isa_28:15, Isa_29:14, Isa_40:27, Isa_49:2, Isa_50:6, Isa_53:3, Isa_54:8, Isa_57:17, Isa_59:2, Isa_64:7, Jer_16:16-17 (2), Jer_33:5, Jer_36:26, Eze_39:23-24 (2), Hos_13:14, Zep_2:3 (2)

Psa_44:24 (2), Psa_88:14, Psa_104:29, Isa_45:15

Job_34:29, Psa_10:11, Pro_22:3, Pro_27:12, Isa_8:17

Secret - Deu_29:29, Job_14:13, Psa_19:12, Pro_27:5

Close - Num_5:13, Job_28:21

Kept - Num_5:13, Job_28:21

Absent - Gen_31:49

Conceal - Pro_25:2

כִּסֶּה kâsâh

BDB Definition:

1) to cover, conceal, hide

1a) (Qal) conceal, covered (participle)

1b) (Niphal) to be covered

1c) (Piel)

1c1) to cover, clothe

1c2) to cover, conceal

1c3) to cover (for protection

1c4) to cover over, spread over

1c5) to cover, overwhelm

1d) (Pual)

1d1) to be covered

1d2) to be clothed

1e) (Hithpael) to cover oneself, clothe oneself

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Gen 18 – God asks about hiding the Judgement of Sodom from Abraham. Waters covered mountain in flood, and covering of clothes.

תָּמַן (tâman)

BDB Definition:

1) to hide, conceal, bury

1a) (Qal)

1a1) to hide

1a2) hiding, concealing, secretly laying (participle)

1a3) darkness (participle)

1b) (Niphal) to hide oneself

1c) (Hiphil) to hide

Genesis 35:4 – And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hand, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid (tâman) them under the oak which was by Shechem.

Exodus 2:12 – And he looked this way and that way, and when he saw that there was no man, he slew the Egyptian, and hid (tâman) him in the sand.

Deuteronomy 33:19 – They shall call the people unto the mountain; there they shall offer sacrifices of righteousness: for they shall suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasures hid (tâman) in the sand.

Joshua 2:6 – But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid (tâman) them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

Joshua 7:21 – When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid (tâman) in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.

Joshua 7:22 – So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid (tâman) in his tent, and the silver under it.² Kings 7:8 – And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid (tâman) it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid (tâman) it.

Job 3:16 – Or as a hidden (tâman) untimely birth I had not been; as infants which never saw light. Job 18:10 – The snare is laid (tâman) for him in the ground, and a trap for him in the way.

Job 20:26 – All darkness shall be hid (tâman) in his secret places: a fire not blown shall consume him; it shall go ill with him that is left in his tabernacle.

Job 31:33 – If I covered my transgressions as Adam, by hiding (tâman) mine iniquity in my bosom.

Job 40:13 – Hide (tâman) them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret. (tâman)

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Psalms 9:15 – The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid (ṭâman) is their own foot taken.

Psalms 31:4 – Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily (ṭâman) for me: for thou art my strength.

Psalms 35:7 – For without cause have they hid (ṭâman) for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul.

Psalms 35:8 – Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid (ṭâman) catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall.

Psalms 64:5 – They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; (ṭâman – they say, Who shall see them?)

Psalms 140:5 – The proud have hid (ṭâman) a snare for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set gins for me. Selah.

Psalms 142:3 – When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid (ṭâman) a snare for me.

Proverbs 19:24 – A slothful man hideth (ṭâman) his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

Proverbs 26:15 – The slothful hides (ṭâman) his hand in his bosom; it grieves him to bring it again to his mouth.

Isaiah 2:10 – Enter into the rock, and hide (ṭâman) thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.

Jeremiah 13:4 – Take the girdle that thou hast got, which is upon thy loins, and arise, go to Euphrates, and hide (ṭâman) it there in a hole of the rock.

Jeremiah 13:5 – So I went, and hid (ṭâman) it by Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me.

Jeremiah 13:6 – And it came to pass after many days, that the LORD said unto me, Arise, go to Euphrates, and take the girdle from thence, which I commanded thee to hide (ṭâman) there.

Jeremiah 13:7 – Then I went to Euphrates, and digged, and took the girdle from the place where I had hid (ṭâman) it: and, behold, the girdle was marred, it was profitable for nothing.

Jeremiah 18:22 – Let a cry be heard from their houses, when thou shalt bring a troop suddenly upon them: for they have digged a pit to take me, and hid (ṭâman) snares for my feet.

Jeremiah 43:9 – Take great stones in thine hand, and hide (ṭâman) them in the clay in the brickkiln, which is at the entry of Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah;

Jeremiah 43:10 – And say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid; (ṭâman) and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them.

חָבַא (châbâ)

BDB Definition:

- 1) to withdraw, hide
- 1a) (Niphal) to hide oneself
- 1b) (Pual) to be forced into hiding
- 1c) (Hiphil) to hide
- 1d) (Hophal) to be hidden
- 1e) (Hithpael)
- 1e1) to hide oneself, draw back
- 1e2) to draw together, thicken, harden

Genesis 3:8 – And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves (châbâ) from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:10 – And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. (CHÂBÂ')

Genesis 31:27 – Wherefore didst thou flee away secretly, (châbâ) and steal away from me; and didst not tell me, that I might have sent thee away with mirth, and with songs, with tabret, and with harp?

Joshua 6:17 – And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid (châbâ) the messengers that we sent.

Joshua 6:25 – And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid (châbâ) the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

Joshua 10:16 – But these five kings fled, and hid themselves (châbâ) in a cave at Makkedah.

Joshua 10:17 – And it was told Joshua, saying, The five kings are found hid (châbâ) in a cave at Makkedah.

Joshua 10:27 – And it came to pass at the time of the going down of the sun, that Joshua commanded, and they took them down off the trees, and cast them into the cave wherein they had been hid, (châbâ) and laid great stones in the cave's mouth, which remain until this very day.

Judges 9:5 – And he went unto his father's house at Ophrah, and slew his brethren the sons of Jerubbaal, being threescore and ten persons, upon one stone: notwithstanding yet Jotham the youngest son of Jerubbaal was left; for he hid himself. (châbâ)

1 Samuel 10:22 – Therefore they enquired of the LORD further, if the man should yet come thither. And the LORD answered, Behold, he hath hid himself (châbâ) among the stuff.

Appendix A: Hebrew Words for Hide

1 Samuel 13:6 – When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves (châbâ) in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.

1 Samuel 14:11 – And both of them discovered themselves unto the garrison of the Philistines: and the Philistines said, Behold, the Hebrews come forth out of the holes where they had hid themselves. (châbâ)

1 Samuel 14:22 – Likewise all the men of Israel which had hid themselves (châbâ) in mount Ephraim, when they heard that the Philistines fled, even they also followed hard after them in the battle.

1 Samuel 19:2 – But Jonathan Saul's son delighted much in David: and Jonathan told David, saying, Saul my father seeketh to kill thee: now therefore, I pray thee, take heed to thyself until the morning, and abide in a secret place, and hide thyself: (châbâ)

1 Samuel 23:23 – See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hideth himself, (châbâ) and come ye again to me with the certainty, and I will go with you: and it shall come to pass, if he be in the land, that I will search him out throughout all the thousands of Judah.

2 Samuel 17:9 – Behold, he is hid (châbâ) now in some pit, or in some other place: and it will come to pass, when some of them be overthrown at the first, that whosoever heareth it will say, There is a slaughter among the people that follow Absalom.

1 Kings 18:4 – For it was so, when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that Obadiah took an hundred prophets, and hid (châbâ) them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.)

1 Kings 18:13 – Was it not told my lord what I did when Jezebel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid (châbâ) an hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

2 Kings 6:29 – So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid (châbâ) her son.

2 Kings 11:3 – And he was with her hid (châbâ) in the house of the LORD six years. And Athaliah did reign over the land.

1 Chronicles 21:20 – And Ornan turned back, and saw the angel; and his four sons with him hid themselves. (châbâ) Now Ornan was threshing wheat.

2 Chronicles 18:24 – And Micaiah said, Behold, thou shalt see on that day when thou shalt go into an inner chamber to hide thyself. (châbâ)

2 Chronicles 22:9 – And he sought Ahaziah: and they caught him, (for he was hid (châbâ) in Samaria,) and brought him to Jehu: and when they had slain him, they buried him: Because, said they, he is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with all his heart. So the house of Ahaziah had no power to keep still the kingdom.

2 Chronicles 22:12 – And he was with them hid (châbâ) in the house of God six years: and Athaliah reigned over the land.

Appendix A: Hebrew Words for Hide

Job 5:21 – Thou shalt be hid (châbâ) from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.

Job 24:4 – They turn the needy out of the way: the poor of the earth hide (châbâ) themselves together.

Job 29:8 – The young men saw me, and hid themselves: (châbâ) and the aged arose, and stood up.

Job 29:10 – The nobles held (châbâ) their peace, and their tongue cleaved to the roof of their mouth.

Job 38:30 – The waters are hid (châbâ) as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen.

Isaiah 42:22 – But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid (châbâ) in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore.

Isaiah 49:2 – And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid (châbâ) me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;

Daniel 10:7 – And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. (châbâ)

Amos 9:3 – And though they hide themselves (châbâ) in the top of Carmel, I will search and take them out thence; and though they be hid from my sight in the bottom of the sea, thence will I command the serpent, and he shall bite them:

Appendix B: Hebrew Words for Lie, Falsehood, and Deception

VI. Hebrew Words for Lie, Falsehood, and Deception

הָתַל hâthal

BDB

1) (Piel) to mock, deceive

2) (Pual) deceive

Genesis 31:7 – And your father hath deceived (hâthal) me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me.

Exodus 8:29 – And Moses said, Behold, I go out from thee, and I will intreat the LORD that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, to morrow: but let not Pharaoh deal deceitfully (hâthal) any more in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD.

Judges 16:10 – And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked (hâthal) me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound.

Judges 16:13 – And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked (hâthal) me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web.

Judges 16:15 – And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast mocked (hâthal) me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.

1 Kings 18:27 – And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked (hâthal) them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

Job 13:9 – Is it good that he should search you out? or as one man mocketh (hâthal) another, do ye so mock (hâthal) him?

Isaiah 44:20 – He feedeth on ashes: a deceived (hâthal) heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?

Jeremiah 9:5 – And they will deceive (hâthal) every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.

כָּזַב (kâzab)

BDB Definition:

1) to lie, tell a lie, be a liar, be found a liar, be in vain, fail

1a) (Qal) liar (participle)

1b) (Niphal) to be proven to be lying

1c) (Piel)

Appendix B: Hebrew Words for Lie, Falsehood, and Deception

1c1) to lie, tell a lie, tell a lie with, deceive

1c2) to disappoint, fail

1d) (Hiphil) to make a liar, prove to be a liar

Numbers 23:19 – God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Judges 16:13 – And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web.

2 Kings 4:16 – And he said, About this season, according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, thou man of God, do not lie unto thine handmaid.

Job 6:28 – Now therefore be content, look upon me; for it is evident unto you if I lie.

Job 24:25 – And if it be not so now, who will make me a liar, and make my speech nothing worth?

Job 34:6 – Should I lie against my right? my wound is incurable without transgression.

Job 41:9 – Behold, the hope of him is in vain: shall not one be cast down even at the sight of him?

Psalms 78:36 - Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues.

Psalms 89:35 – Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.

Psalms 116:11 – I said in my haste, All men are liars.

Proverbs 14:5 – A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

Proverbs 30:6 – Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Isaiah 57:11 – And of whom hast thou been afraid or feared, that thou hast lied, and hast not remembered me, nor laid it to thy heart? have not I held my peace even of old, and thou fearest me not?

Isaiah 58:11 – And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Ezekiel 13:19 – And will ye pollute me among my people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, to slay the souls that should not die, and to save the souls alive that should not live, by your lying to my people that hear your lies?

Micah 2:11 – If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood do lie, saying, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.

Habakkuk 2:3 – For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.

שֶׁקֶר (sheqer)

BDB Definition:

- 1) lie, deception, disappointment, falsehood
- 1a) deception (what deceives or disappoints or betrays one)
- 1b) deceit, fraud, wrong
- 1b1) fraudulently, wrongfully (as adverb)
- 1c) falsehood (injurious in testimony)
- 1c1) testify falsehood, false oath, swear falsely
- 1d) falsity (of false or self-deceived prophets)
- 1e) lie, falsehood (in general)
- 1e1) false tongue
- 1f) in vain

Exo 5:9 – Let there more work be laid upon the men, that they may labor therein; and let them not regard vain (sheqer) words.

Exo 20:16 – Thou shalt not bear false (sheqer) witness against thy neighbour.

Exo 23:7 – Keep thee far from a false matter; (sheqer) and the innocent and righteous slay thou not: for I will not justify the wicked.

Lev 6:3 – Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and swears falsely; (sheqer) in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein:

Lev 6:5 – Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; (sheqer) he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, *and* give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering.

Lev 19:12 – And ye shall not swear by my name falsely, (sheqer) neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I *am* the LORD.

Deu 19:18 – And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, *if* the witness *be* a false (sheqer) witness, *and* hath testified falsely (sheqer) against his brother;

1Sa 25:21 – Now David had said, Surely in vain (sheqer) have I kept all that this *fellow* hath in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that *pertained* unto him: and he hath requited me evil for good.

2Sa 18:13 – Otherwise I should have wrought falsehood (sheqer) against mine own life: for there is no matter hid from the king, and thou thyself wouldest have set thyself against *me*.

1Ki 22:22 – And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying (sheqer) spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade *him*, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

Appendix B: Hebrew Words for Lie, Falsehood, and Deception

1Ki 22:23 – Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying (sheqer) spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil concerning thee.

2Ki 9:12 – And they said, *It is false*; (sheqer) tell us now. And he said, Thus and thus spake he to me, saying, Thus saith the LORD, I have anointed thee king over Israel.

2Ch 18:21 – And he said, I will go out, and be a lying (sheqer) spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And *the LORD* said, Thou shalt entice *him*, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do *even so*.

2Ch 18:22 – Now therefore, behold, the LORD hath put a lying (sheqer) spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets, and the LORD hath spoken evil against thee.

Job 13:4 – But ye *are* forgers of lies, (sheqer) ye *are* all physicians of no value.

Job 36:4 – For truly my words *shall not be* false: (sheqer) he that is perfect in knowledge *is* with thee.

Psa 7:14 – Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. (sheqer)

Psa 27:12 – Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies: for false (sheqer) witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty.

Psa 31:18 – Let the lying (sheqer) lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.

Psa 33:17 – An horse *is* a vain thing (sheqer) for safety: neither shall he deliver *any* by his great strength.

Psa 35:19 – Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully (sheqer) rejoice over me: *neither* let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause.

Psa 38:19 – But mine enemies *are* lively, *and* they are strong: and they that hate me wrongfully (sheqer) are multiplied.

Psa 52:3 – Thou lovest evil more than good; *and* lying (sheqer) rather than to speak righteousness. Selah.

Psa 63:11 – But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies (sheqer) shall be stopped.

Psa 69:4 – They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, *being* mine enemies wrongfully, (sheqer) are mighty: then I restored *that* which I took not away.

Psa 101:7 – He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies (sheqer) shall not tarry in my sight.

Psa 109:2 – For the mouth of the wicked and the mouth of the deceitful are opened against me: they have spoken against me with a lying (sheqer) tongue.

Psa 119:29 – Remove from me the way of lying: (sheqer) and grant me thy law graciously.

Appendix B: Hebrew Words for Lie, Falsehood, and Deception

Psa 119:69 – The proud have forged a lie (sheqer) against me: *but* I will keep thy precepts with *my* whole heart.

Psa 119:78 – Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: (sheqer) *but* I will meditate in thy precepts.

Psa 119:86 – All thy commandments *are* faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; (sheqer) help thou me.

Psa 119:104 – Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false (sheqer) way.

Psa 119:118 – Thou hast trodden down all them that err from thy statutes: for their deceit *is* falsehood. (sheqer)

Psa 119:128 – Therefore I esteem all *thy* precepts *concerning* all *things to be* right; *and* I hate every false (sheqer) way.

Psa 119:163 – I hate and abhor lying: (sheqer) *but* thy law do I love.

Psa 120:2 – Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying (sheqer) lips, *and* from a deceitful tongue.

Psa 144:8 – Whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand *is* a right hand of falsehood. (sheqer)

Psa 144:11 – Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand *is* a right hand of falsehood: (sheqer)

Pro 6:17 – A proud look, a lying (sheqer) tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

Pro 6:19 – A false (sheqer) witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Pro 10:18 – He that hideth hatred *with* lying (sheqer) lips, and he that uttereth a slander, *is* a fool.

Pro 11:18 – The wicked worketh a deceitful (sheqer) work: but to him that soweth righteousness *shall be* a sure reward.

Pro 12:17 – *He that* speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false (sheqer) witness deceit.

Pro 12:19 – The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying (sheqer) tongue *is* but for a moment.

Pro 12:22 – Lying (sheqer) lips *are* abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly *are* his delight.

Pro 13:5 – A righteous *man* hateth lying: (sheqer) but a wicked *man* is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

Pro 14:5 – A faithful witness will not lie: but a false (sheqer) witness will utter lies.

Pro 17:4 – A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; *and* a liar (sheqer) giveth ear to a naughty tongue.

Pro 17:7 – Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying (sheqer) lips a prince.

Pro 19:5 – A false (sheqer) witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall not escape.

Appendix B: Hebrew Words for Lie, Falsehood, and Deception

Pro 19:9 – A false (sheqer) witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall perish.

Pro 20:17 – Bread of deceit (sheqer) *is* sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

Pro 21:6 – The getting of treasures by a lying (sheqer) tongue *is* a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

Pro 25:14 – Whoso boasteth himself of a false (sheqer) gift *is like* clouds and wind without rain.

Pro 25:18 – A man that beareth false (sheqer) witness against his neighbour *is* a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

Pro 26:28 – A lying (sheqer) tongue hateth *those that are* afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

Pro 29:12 – If a ruler hearken to lies, (sheqer) all his servants *are* wicked.

Pro 31:30 – Favour *is* deceitful, (sheqer) and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

Isa 9:15 – The ancient and honourable, he *is* the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, (sheqer) he *is* the tail.

Isa 28:15 – Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood (sheqer) have we hid ourselves:

Isa 32:7 – The instruments also of the churl *are* evil: he deviseth wicked devices to destroy the poor with lying (sheqer) words, even when the needy speaketh right.

Isa 44:20 – He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, *is there* not a lie (sheqer) in my right hand?

Isa 57:4 – Against whom do ye sport yourselves? against whom make ye a wide mouth, *and* draw out the tongue? *are* ye not children of transgression, a seed of falsehood (sheqer),

Isa 59:3 – For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, (sheqer) your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

Isa 59:13 – In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood (sheqer).

Jer 3:10 – And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, (sheqer) saith the LORD.

Jer 3:23 – Truly in vain (sheqer) *is* salvation *hoped for* from the hills, *and from* the multitude of mountains: truly in the LORD our God *is* the salvation of Israel.

Jer 5:2 – And though they say, The LORD liveth; surely they swear falsely (sheqer).

Appendix B: Hebrew Words for Lie, Falsehood, and Deception

Jer 5:31 – The prophets prophesy falsely, (sheqer) and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love *to have it* so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?

Jer 6:13 – For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one *is* given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. (sheqer)

Jer 7:4 – Trust ye not in lying (sheqer) words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, *are* these.

Jer 7:8 – Behold, ye trust in lying (sheqer) words, that cannot profit.

Jer 7:9 – Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, (sheqer) and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

Jer 8:8 – How do ye say, We *are* wise, and the law of the LORD *is* with us? Lo, certainly in vain (SHEQER) made he *it*; the pen of the scribes *is* in vain. (sheqer)

Jer 8:10 – Therefore will I give their wives unto others, *and* their fields to them that shall inherit *them*: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. (sheqer)

Jer 9:3 – And they bend their tongues *like* their bow *for* lies: (sheqer) but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.

Jer 9:5 – And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, (sheqer) *and* weary themselves to commit iniquity.

Jer 10:14 – Every man is brutish in *his* knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image *is* falsehood, (sheqer) and *there is* no breath in them.

Jer 13:25 – This *is* thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the LORD; because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood. (sheqer)

Jer 14:14 – Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies (sheqer) in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false (SHEQER) vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

Jer 16:19 – O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, (sheqer) vanity, and *things* wherein *there is* no profit.

Jer 20:6 – And thou, Pashur, and all that dwell in thine house shall go into captivity: and thou shalt come to Babylon, and there thou shalt die, and shalt be buried there, thou, and all thy friends, to whom thou hast prophesied lies. (sheqer)

Jer 23:14 – I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: (sheqer) they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

Appendix B: Hebrew Words for Lie, Falsehood, and Deception

Jer 23:25 – I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies (sheqer) in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed.

Jer 23:26 – How long shall *this* be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? (sheqer) yea, *they are* prophets of the deceit of their own heart;

Jer 23:32 – Behold, I *am* against them that prophesy false (sheqer) dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, (sheqer) and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.

Jer 27:10 – For they prophesy a lie (sheqer) unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish.

Jer 27:14 – Therefore hearken not unto the words of the prophets that speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie (sheqer) unto you.

Jer 27:15 – For I have not sent them, saith the LORD, yet they prophesy a lie (sheqer) in my name; that I might drive you out, and that ye might perish, ye, and the prophets that prophesy unto you.

Jer 27:16 – Also I spake to the priests and to all this people, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Hearken not to the words of your prophets that prophesy unto you, saying, Behold, the vessels of the LORD'S house shall now shortly be brought again from Babylon: for they prophesy a lie (sheqer) unto you.

Jer 28:15 – Then said the prophet Jeremiah unto Hananiah the prophet, Hear now, Hananiah; The LORD hath not sent thee; but thou makest this people to trust in a lie. (sheqer)

Jer 29:9 – For they prophesy falsely (sheqer) unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD.

Jer 29:21 – Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, of Ahab the son of Kolaiah, and of Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, which prophesy a lie (sheqer) unto you in my name; Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; and he shall slay them before your eyes;

Jer 29:23 – Because they have committed villany in Israel, and have committed adultery with their neighbours' wives, and have spoken lying (sheqer) words in my name, which I have not commanded them; even I know, and *am* a witness, saith the LORD.

Jer 29:31 – Send to all them of the captivity, saying, Thus saith the LORD concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite; Because that Shemaiah hath prophesied unto you, and I sent him not, and he caused you to trust in a lie: (sheqer)

Jer 37:14 – Then said Jeremiah, *It is* false; (sheqer) I fall not away to the Chaldeans. But he hearkened not to him: so Irijah took Jeremiah, and brought him to the princes.

Jer 40:16 – But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said unto Johanan the son of Kareah, Thou shalt not do this thing: for thou speakest falsely (sheqer) of Ishmael.

Jer 43:2 – Then spake Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men, saying unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsely: (sheqer) the LORD our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt to sojourn there:

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Jer 51:17 – Every man is brutish by *his* knowledge; every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image *is* falsehood, (sheqer) and *there is* no breath in them.

Eze 13:22 – Because with lies (sheqer) ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life:

Hos 7:1 – When I would have healed Israel, then the iniquity of Ephraim was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; (sheqer) and the thief cometh in, *and* the troop of robbers spoileth without.

Mic 2:11 – If a man walking in the spirit and falsehood (sheqer) do lie, *saying*, I will prophesy unto thee of wine and of strong drink; he shall even be the prophet of this people.

Mic 6:12 – For the rich men thereof are full of violence, and the inhabitants thereof have spoken lies, (sheqer) and their tongue *is* deceitful in their mouth.

Hab 2:18 – What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, (sheqer) that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?

Zec 5:4 – I will bring it forth, saith the LORD of hosts, and it shall enter into the house of the thief, and into the house of him that sweareth falsely (sheqer) by my name: and it shall remain in the midst of his house, and shall consume it with the timber thereof and the stones thereof.

Zec 8:17 – And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false (sheqer) oath: for all these *are things* that I hate, saith the LORD.

Zec 10:2 – For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, (sheqer) and have told false dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because *there was* no shepherd.

Zec 13:3 – And it shall come to pass, *that* when any shall yet prophesy, then his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies (sheqer) in the name of the LORD: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth.

Mal 3:5 – And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false (sheqer) swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in *his* wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger *from his right*, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

שָׁוֹר shâv

BDB Definition:

- 1) emptiness, vanity, falsehood
- 1a) emptiness, nothingness, vanity
- 1b) emptiness of speech, lying

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1c) worthlessness (of conduct)

(Exodus 20:7) Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; (shav) for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. (shav)

(Exodus 23:1) Thou shalt not raise a false (shav) report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

(Deuteronomy 5:11) Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain: (shav) for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. (shav) (

(Deuteronomy 5:20) Neither shalt thou bear false (shav) witness against thy neighbour.

(Job 7:3) So am I made to possess months of vanity, (shav) and wearisome nights are appointed to me.

(Job 11:11) For he knoweth vain (shav) men: he seeth wickedness also; will he not then consider it?

(Job 15:31) Let not him that is deceived trust in vanity: (shav) for vanity (shav) shall be his recompence.

(Job 31:5) If I have walked with vanity, (shav) or if my foot hath hastened to deceit;

(Job 35:13) Surely God will not hear vanity, (shav) neither will the Almighty regard it.

(Psalms 12:2) They speak vanity (shav) every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak.

(Psalms 24:4) He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, (shav) nor sworn deceitfully.

(Psalms 26:4) I have not sat with vain (shav) persons, neither will I go in with dissemblers.

(Psalms 31:6) I have hated them that regard lying (shav) vanities: but I trust in the LORD.

(Psalms 41:6) And if he come to see me, he speaketh vanity: (shav) his heart gathereth iniquity to itself; when he goeth abroad, he telleth it.

(Psalms 60:11) Give us help from trouble: for vain (shav) is the help of man.H

(Psalms 89:47) Remember how short my time is: wherefore hast thou made all men in vain? (shav)

(Psalms 108:12) Give us help from trouble: for vain (shav) is the help of man.H

(Psalms 119:37) Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; (shav) and quicken thou me in thy way.

(Psalms 127:1) A Song of degrees for Solomon. Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain (shav) that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain. (shav)

(Psalms 127:2) It is vain (shav) for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

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(Psalms 139:20) For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. (shav)

(Psalms 144:8) Whose mouth speaketh vanity, (shav) and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood.

(Psalms 144:11) Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, (shav) and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood:

(Proverbs 30:8) Remove far from me vanity (shav) and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

(Isaiah 1:13) Bring no more vain (shav) oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

(Isaiah 5:18) Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, (shav) and sin as it were with a cart rope:

(Isaiah 30:28) And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: (shav) and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err.

(Isaiah 59:4) None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; (shav) they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

(Jeremiah 2:30) In vain (shav) have I smitten your children; they received no correction: your own sword hath devoured your prophets, like a destroying lion.H

(Jeremiah 4:30) And when thou art spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain (shav) shalt thou make thyself fair; thy lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life.

(Jeremiah 6:29) The bellows are burned, the lead is consumed of the fire; the founder melteth in vain: (shav) for the wicked are not plucked away.

(Jeremiah 18:15) Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, (shav) and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from the ancient paths, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up;

(Jeremiah 46:11) Go up into Gilead, and take balm, O virgin, the daughter of Egypt: in vain (shav) shalt thou use many medicines; for thou shalt not be cured.

(Lamentations 2:14) Thy prophets have seen vain (shav) and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false (shav) burdens and causes of banishment.

(Ezekiel 12:24) For there shall be no more any vain (shav) vision nor flattering divination within the house of Israel.

(Ezekiel 13:6) They have seen vanity (shav) and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word.

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(Ezekiel 13:7) Have ye not seen a vain (shav) vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith it; albeit I have not spoken?

(Ezekiel 13:8) Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, (shav) and seen lies, therefore, behold, I am against you, saith the Lord GOD.

(Ezekiel 13:9) And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, (shav) and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord GOD.

(Ezekiel 13:23) Therefore ye shall see no more vanity, (shav) nor divine divinations: for I will deliver my people out of your hand: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

(Ezekiel 21:23) And it shall be unto them as a false (shav) divination in their sight, to them that have sworn oaths: but he will call to remembrance the iniquity, that they may be taken.

(Ezekiel 21:29) Whiles they see vanity (shav) unto thee, whiles they divine a lie unto thee, to bring thee upon the necks of them that are slain, of the wicked, whose day is come, when their iniquity shall have an end.

(Ezekiel 22:28) And her prophets have daubed them with untempered mortar, seeing vanity, (shav) and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken.

(Hosea 10:4) They have spoken words, swearing falsely (shav) in making a covenant: thus judgment springeth up as hemlock in the furrows of the field.

(Hosea 12:11) Is there iniquity in Gilead? surely they are vanity: (shav) they sacrifice bullocks in Gilgal; yea, their altars are as heaps in the furrows of the fields.

(Jonah 2:8) They that observe lying (shav) vanities forsake their own mercy.

(Zechariah 10:2) For the idols have spoken vanity, and the diviners have seen a lie, and have told false (shav) dreams; they comfort in vain: therefore they went their way as a flock, they were troubled, because there was no shepherd.

(Malachi 3:14) Ye have said, It is vain (shav) to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

תעע (tâ'a')

BDB Definition:

1) to deceive, misuse

1a) (Pilpel)

1a1) to be a mocker, mock

1a2) mocker (substantive)

1b) (Hithpalpel)

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1b1) to ridicule

1b2) mocking (participle)

Gen 27:12 My father peradventure will feel me, and I shall seem to him as a deceiver (tâ'a'); and I shall bring a curse upon me, and not a blessing.

2 Chronicles 36:16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused (tâ'a') his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

מִרְמָה (mirmâh)

BDB Definition:

1) deceit, treachery

(Genesis 27:35) But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully (mirmâh), and he has taken away your blessing."

(Genesis 34:13) The sons of Jacob answered Shechem and his father Hamor deceitfully (mirmâh), because he had defiled their sister Dinah.

(2 Kings 9:23) Then Joram reined about and fled, saying to Ahaziah, "Treachery (mirmâh), O Ahaziah!"

(Job 15:35) They conceive trouble and give birth to evil, and their womb prepares deceit. (mirmâh)"

(Job 31:5) "If I have walked with falsehood and my foot has hastened to deceit (mirmâh);

(Psalms 5:6) You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful (mirmâh) man.

(Psalms 10:7) His mouth is filled with cursing and deceit (mirmâh) and oppression; under his tongue are mischief and iniquity.

(Psalms 17:1) A Prayer of David. Hear a just cause, O LORD; attend to my cry! Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit! (mirmâh)

(Psalms 24:4) He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully (mirmâh).

(Psalms 34:13) Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit (mirmâh)t.

(Psalms 35:20) For they do not speak peace, but against those who are quiet in the land they devise words of deceit. (mirmâh)

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(Psalms 36:3) The words of his mouth are trouble and deceit (mirmâh); he has ceased to act wisely and do good.

(Psalms 38:12) Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek my hurt speak of ruin and meditate treachery (mirmâh) all day long.

(Psalms 43:1) Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful (mirmâh) and unjust man deliver me!

(Psalms 50:19) "You give your mouth free rein for evil, and your tongue frames deceit (mirmâh).

(Psalms 52:4) You love all words that devour, O deceitful (mirmâh) tongue.

(Psalms 55:11) ruin is in its midst; oppression and fraud (mirmâh) do not depart from its marketplace.

(Psalms 55:23) But you, O God, will cast them down into the pit of destruction; men of blood and treachery (mirmâh) shall not live out half their days. But I will trust in you.

(Psalms 109:2) For wicked and deceitful (mirmâh) mouths are opened against me, speaking against me with lying (sheqer) tongues.

(Proverbs 11:1) A false (mirmâh) balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight.

(Proverbs 12:5) The thoughts of the righteous are just; the counsels of the wicked are deceitful (mirmâh).

(Proverbs 12:17) Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit (mirmâh).

(Proverbs 12:20) Deceit (mirmâh) is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy.

(Proverbs 14:8) The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving (mirmâh).

(Proverbs 14:25) A truthful witness saves lives, but one who breathes out lies is deceitful (mirmâh).

(Proverbs 20:23) Unequal weights are an abomination to the LORD, and false (mirmâh) scales are not good.

(Proverbs 26:24) Whoever hates disguises himself with his lips and harbors deceit (mirmâh) in his heart;

(Isaiah 53:9) And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit (mirmâh) in his mouth.

(Jeremiah 5:27) Like a cage full of birds, their houses are full of deceit (mirmâh); therefore they have become great and rich;

(Jeremiah 9:6) Heaping oppression upon oppression, and deceit (mirmâh) upon deceit (mirmâh), they refuse to know me, declares the LORD.

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(Jeremiah 9:8) Their tongue is a deadly arrow; it speaks deceitfully (mirmâh); with his mouth each speaks peace to his neighbor, but in his heart he plans an ambush for him.

(Daniel 8:25) By his cunning he shall make deceit (mirmâh) prosper under his hand, and in his own mind he shall become great. Without warning he shall destroy many. And he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes, and he shall be broken--but by no human hand.

(Daniel 11:23) And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully (mirmâh), and he shall become strong with a small people.

(Hosea 11:12) Ephraim has surrounded me with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit (mirmâh), but Judah still walks with God and is faithful to the Holy One.

(Hosea 12:7) A merchant, in whose hands are false (mirmâh) balances, he loves to oppress.

(Amos 8:5) saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully ('âvath) with false (mirmâh) balances,

(Micah 6:11) Shall I acquit the man with wicked scales and with a bag of deceitful (mirmâh) weights?

(Zephaniah 1:9) On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud (mirmâh).

עָוָת ('âvath)

BDB Definition:

1) to be bent, be crooked, bend, make crooked, pervert

1a) (Piel)

1a1) to make crooked, falsify, pervert, subvert

1a2) to bend, make crooked

1b) (Pual) thing bent (participle)

1c) (Hithpael) to bend oneself

(Job 8:3) Does God pervert ('âvath) justice? Or does the Almighty pervert ('âvath) the right?

(Job 19:6) know then that God has put me in the wrong ('âvath) and closed his net about me.

(Job 34:12) Of a truth, God will not do wickedly, and the Almighty will not pervert ('âvath) justice.

(Psalms 119:78) Let the insolent be put to shame, because they have wronged ('âvath) me with falsehood; as for me, I will meditate on your precepts.

(Psalms 146:9) The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin ('âvath).

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(Ecclesiastes 1:15) What is crooked ('âvath) cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted.

(Ecclesiastes 7:13) Consider the work of God: who can make straight what he has made crooked ('âvath)?

(Ecclesiastes 12:3) in the day when the keepers of the house tremble, and the strong men are bent ('âvath), and the grinders cease because they are few, and those who look through the windows are dimmed,

(Lamentations 3:36) to subvert ('âvath) a man in his lawsuit, the Lord does not approve.

(Amos 8:5) saying, "When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully ('âvath) with false (mirmâh) balances,

חָמָאֵס (châmâs)

BDB Definition:

1) violence, wrong, cruelty, injustice

Usually translated violent, cruel, or unjust in the KJV, but used to describe false witnesses in the two places below.

(Psalms 35:11) False (châmâs) witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.

(Deuteronomy 19:16) If a false (châmâs) witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong;