

Proverbs 12:22, “Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.”

My mother used to teach us this phrase: “What a wicked web we weave when we practice to deceive.” My father taught us this phrase about a fool and a liar: “Give him enough rope and he will hang himself.”

A lying person may fool us at first, but over time their true nature will become clear.

The world attempts to justify lying by using terms such as “white lies” and saying “everybody lies.” But according to this verse, all lies are an abomination to the LORD.

To remember the reference, think about how lying chokes a person. At first they may feel as if they are getting away with wrong, but punishment always comes. Unfortunately, lying can ruin one’s reputation to such an extreme that it may take years to recover from its effects. Some may never trust a liar for as long as they live. A liar may never escape the sting associated with the reputation of lying. I think of the phrase my father taught about the rope. As the rope of deception winds around their necks and the lies are released from their lips, they are sealing their fate.

The reference for this verse is 12:22. I choose if I will be an honest person or a liar (that’s the first number, “1”). The “2”s are a picture of the rope of deception winding around my neck choking the life out of me.



Exodus 1:16-21 where it appears as if the midwives are justified for their lying to Pharaoh is not a stamp of approval by God for lying. God blessed these women not because of their lying but because they refused to kill the male children. We must remember that these women were part of a group of people who were oppressed and far from serving the Lord as taught by Moses. There is a good possibility that they did not even know all of God’s laws. Maybe they even thought it was okay to lie in this case. Maybe they even delayed their arriving to keep from having to follow Pharaoh’s command and to honestly say the child was already birthed before they arrived. Yet even though their means was not acceptable, their hearts were acceptable because they feared God. A strong Christian woman will not hide from fear of punishment by death for refusing to obey man’s laws rather than God’s laws.

John 8:44 tells us that Satan is the father of lies, “...When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

1 Kings 22:22 tells us that Satan uses his demonic angels to entice men to lie, "...I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets...." Note that God allows this temptation in order to prove man.

We will all be tempted to lie. But whether we lie or not is our choice. How do you live up to the testing?

I found it interesting that 1 Kings 22:22 has the same number pattern as Proverbs 12:22: "1" representing my choice whether to be honest or not and "2"s representing the choking effect of lying.

Psalms 101:7, "He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight." Liars in the home were cast out. Lying is a destructive force which tears down a family unit.

Proverbs 19:9, "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish." The word perish here is *'abad*. This word has the meaning of destroying by death. Lying lips can be deadly!

Proverbs 21:6, "The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death."

Psalms 52:4-5, "Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue. God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah." Remember that Selah means to think about or ponder over.

If we viewed lying through the same eyes of God, we would be more fearful to commit such abominations.

From the devil's viewpoint, the addictive sin of lying can be a great method for self-destruction. The devil may not be able to win back your soul from the mighty protective hands of our Lord, but he can attempt to plant seeds of self-destruction which promote God taking us out of this world before our time. Be assured that Satan is well versed in all the words of warning from God which state, if you do this I will remove you from the land of the living. These are Satan's arsenal of weapons he uses against us.

In Proverbs 19:22 it says it is better to be poor than be a liar.

Psalms 58:3 tells us we are born with the sinful nature of lying. The Psalmist in Chapter 120 prays for deliverance from a lying tongue. Psalm 120:2, "Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue."

Psalms 119:163 tells us how we should view the sin of lying, "I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love." Our children and others around us see how we truly feel about lying. May our witness be a pattern they desire to follow.

Hosea 4:1-2, "Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. By swearing, and lying, and killing, and stealing, and committing adultery, they break out, and blood toucheth blood."