

Lying to an Enemy

(Can be our Father's will under certain circumstances)

*(When quoting scriptures, from the Rotherham Emphasized Bible New Testament,
I will substitute the Hebrew word Yahshua for Jesus, Yahweh and Elohim for God and Anointed for Christ.)*

“The Japanese invaded Borneo in 1942. To escape capture, three Christian and Missionary Alliance missionaries, John Willfinger and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Leham, fled into the jungle to live with Christians of the Murut tribe. Willfinger, a bachelor linguist, was anticipating his upcoming furlough and seeing his fiancée again. The Lenhams were working on a Murut translation of the Bible.

In July the three missionaries learned that a group of Europeans had been captured by the Japanese. In response, they moved to another Murut village in the northern part of Borneo. There they learned that the three missionaries serving in eastern Borneo had been imprisoned by the Japanese.

Willfinger and the Lenhams assumed that the Japanese would find them. On September 19 a messenger brought a list of people for whom the Japanese were searching. The names of all three were on the list. The messenger warned that anyone harboring fugitives would be severely punished.

‘Stay,’ the Murut Christians pleaded. ‘We will take you where you cannot be found.’

The three missionaries discussed what they should do and finally came to a decision. They told their Murut hosts, ‘You would have to lie to the Japanese. We would rather surrender than cause you to be disobedient to God’s Word.’

...The Lenhams taking their precious Bible translations with them, set out for a Japanese post to the north. Several days later they walked into a Japanese prison camp and were immediately imprisoned...Willfinger surrendered to the Japanese and was executed.”¹

The title of the above story was called, “His religion was real.” Following religion instead of Christianity can lead to unnecessary death and hardship as it did with the above missionaries. Following the speed limit is obeying the law but speeding or breaking that law is allowed and expected when a person’s life is at stake. Yahweh can and is flexible on His commandments. King David had Uriah murdered and according to the Law of Moses, David should have been put to death but Yahweh spared his life by breaking His own

¹ The One Year Book of Christian History by E. Michael and Sharon Rusten, pg. 726

commandment.² Our Father's will for us is to walk by the spirit in love, which may include lying to an enemy. We must walk by the spirit and common sense as the saints listed below have done.

Pharaoh ordered Shiphrah and Puah, the Hebrew midwives during Moses time, "When ye act as midwives unto the Hebrew women, then shall ye look out for the sex,—If it is, a son, then shall ye kill it, But, if it is, a daughter, then shall it live" (Ex. 1:15). These women feared Yahweh "and did not as the king of Egypt spake unto them,—but suffered the male children to live" (Ex. 1:17). "Then called the king of Egypt for the midwives, and said to them—Wherefore have ye done this thing,—that ye should let the male children live? And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because, not like the Egyptian women, are the Hebrew women,—for they are, full of life, ere yet the midwife can come in unto them, they have given birth. So then Elohim dealt well with the midwives,—and the people multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty. And it came to pass, because the midwives feared Elohim, that he made for them households." (Ex. 1:18-20). Yahweh rewarded these women for disobeying and lying to Pharaoh!

Rahab was a hero and referenced in the Hall of Fame of Believers, Hebrews chapter eleven, even though she lied to protect the spies. "By faith, Rahab the harlot perished not with them who refused to yield, she having welcomed the spies with peace" (Heb. 11:31). Rahab lied to the King of Jericho. "So the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying,—Bring forth the men that are come in unto thee who have entered thy house, for, to search out all the land, have they come. And the woman took the two men and hid them,—and said: Even so, the men did come in unto me, but I knew not from whence they were; and it came to pass, as the gate was about to be shut in the darkness, that, the men, went out, I know not whither the men went,—pursue them quickly for ye shall overtake them. But, she, had taken them up to the roof,—and concealed them with the stalks of flax which she had laid in order for herself upon the roof" (Josh. 2:3-6). Joshua protected her family because Rahab protected the spies by lying to the King of Jericho.³

Elisha, Yahweh's prophet, deceived and lied to the Syrian soldiers. The King of Syria said, "Go, and see where he [Elisha] is, that I may send and take him...Therefore sent he thither—horses and chariots, and a strong force,—and they came in by night, and encompassed the city. And, when the attendant of the man of Elohim arose early and went forth, lo! a force surrounding the city, with horses and chariots...And, when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto Yahweh, and said—Smite, I beseech thee, this people, with sudden blindness. And he smote them with sudden blindness, according to the word of Elisha. Then Elisha said unto them—This, is not the way, neither is, this, the city,

² He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall surely be put to death. But he who hath not lain in wait, but, Elohim, hath occasioned him to come to his hand, then will I appoint for thee a place, whither he may flee. But, when a man shall act presumptuously against his neighbour to slay him with guile, from mine altar, shalt thou take him to die. Ex. 21:12-14

³ And it shall be, that, as for the city, devoted, shall it be and all that is therein unto Yahweh,—nevertheless, Rahab the harlot, shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers whom we sent. Josh. 6:17

follow me, that I may lead you unto the man, whom ye would secure! So he led them to Samaria. And it came to pass, when they had entered Samaria, that Elisha said, O Yahweh! open the eyes of these men, that they may see! And Yahweh opened their eyes, and they saw, and lo! they were in the midst of Samaria” (II Kg. 6:13-20)!

Jehu, Yahweh’s anointed King, lied to the prophets of Baal. “Then Jehu gathered together all the people, and said unto them,—Ahab, served Baal, a little,—Jehu, will serve him, much. Now, therefore, all the prophets of Baal, all his servants and all his priests, call ye for me; do not let, a man, be missing; for, a great sacrifice, have I, to Baal, no one that is missing, shall live. But, Jehu, acted, craftily, to the end he might destroy the servants of Baal. And Jehu said—Hallow ye a solemn festival unto Baal. And they made proclamation. And Jehu sent throughout all Israel, and all the servants of Baal came in, so that there was not left remaining a man, who had not come in,—and they entered the house of Baal, and the house of Baal was filled, from door to door. Then said he to him who was over the wardrobe chamber, Bring forth vestments for all the servants of Baal. And he brought forth for them the vestments. Then entered Jehu, with Jehonadab son of Rechab, into the house of Baal,—and he said unto the servants of Baal—Search ye and see, that there be not here, with you, any of the servants of Yahweh, none but the servants of Baal, alone. And, when they entered to offer sacrifices and ascending-offerings, Jehu, set him, outside, eighty men, and said—The man who shall escape, of the men whom I am bringing into your power, his own life, shall be for, his life. And it came to pass, as soon as he had made an end of offering the ascending-sacrifice, that Jehu said to the runners and to the officers—Enter, smite them, let not, a man, get out. So they smote them, with the edge of the sword,—and the runners and the officers cast them out, and then went as far as the city of the house of Baal, and brought forth the idolatrous pillars that were in the house of Baal, and then burned it; and they brake down the pillars of Baal,—and brake down the house of Baal, and appointed it for a sewer-house—until this day. Thus Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel” (II Kg. 10:18-28). “And Yahweh said unto Jehu: Because thou hast done well, by doing that which was right in mine eyes—according to all that was in my heart, hast done to the house of Ahab, sons, of thine, unto the fourth generation, shall sit upon the throne of Israel” (II Kg. 10:30).

Michal, David’s wife, saved his life by deceiving her father, Saul. “And Saul sent messengers unto David’s house, to watch him, and to put him to death, in the morning! And Michal his wife told David, saying, If thou do not deliver thyself to—night, tomorrow, art thou to be put to death. So Michal let down David, through the window, and he departed and fled, and escaped. And Michal took the household god, and put it in the bed, and, a fly-net of goat’s-hair, put she at its head,—and covered it with the clothes. And, when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said—He is, sick. So Saul sent messengers to see David, saying,—Bring him up in the bed unto me, that I may put him to death” (1 Sam. 19:11-15).

David, Yahweh's prophet, deceived Achish, king of Gath. "Then arose David, and fled, that day, from the face of Saul,—and came in unto Achish, king of Gath. And the servants of Achish said unto him, Is not, this, David, king of the land? Was it not, of this man, that they kept responding in the dances, saying, Saul, hath smitten his, thousands, but, David, his, tens of thousands? And David laid up these words in his heart,—and feared greatly, because of Achish king of Gath. So he feigned himself mad, in their sight, and raged in their hand,—and struck against the doors of the gate, and let his spittle run down upon his beard. Then said Achish unto his servants,—Lo! ye can see, a madman playing his pranks, wherefore should ye bring him in, unto me? Lacking of madmen, am I that ye should bring in this one to play his mad pranks, unto me? Shall, this, one enter my household? David therefore departed thence, and escaped, into the cave of Adullam" (I Sam. 22:10-23:1).

Jeremiah, Yahweh's prophet, lied to the princes. "Then said King Zedekiah unto Jeremiah: I am afraid of the Jews who have fallen away unto the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me, into their hand, and they maltreat me. But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver!—Hearken I pray thee unto the voice of Yahweh in what I am speaking unto thee, that it may be well with thee and thy soul live. But if thou art refusing to go forth, this, is the thing which Yahweh hath shewed me: behold, then, all the women that are left in the house of the king of Judah, brought forth unto the princes of the king of Babylon,—and, these very women, saying, The men thou wast wont to salute, have goaded thee on and prevailed upon thee,—Thy foot having sunk in the mire, they have turned away back. Yea thou shalt behold all thy wives and thy children brought forth unto the Chaldeans, and thou, shalt not escape out of their hand,—but by the hand of the king of Babylon, shalt thou be taken, and, this city, shall be burned with fire. Then said Zedekiah unto Jeremiah—Do not let, any man, know of these words, and thou shalt not die. But, when the princes hear that I have spoken with thee and they come in unto thee and say unto thee—Do tell us we pray thee what thou didst speak unto the king, do not hide it from us so will we not put thee to death,—and what spake the king unto, thee? Then shalt thou say unto them,—I was causing my supplication to fall prostrate before the king,—that he would not cause me to return to the house of Jonathan, to die there. Then came in all the princes unto Jeremiah and asked him, and he told them according to all these words which the king, had commanded,—so they turned in silence from him, for the matter, had not been reported" (Jer. 38:16-27).

Abraham, Yahweh's prophet, deceived Pharaoh. "Thus Abram brake up, again and again, towards the South. And it came to pass that there was a famine, in the land,—so Abram went down towards Egypt, to sojourn there, because grievous, was the famine in the land. And it came to pass when he had come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife: Behold! I beseech thee I know that a woman fair to look on, thou art: so will it come to pass when the Egyptians behold thee, that they will say, His wife, this! and will slay me while thee, they preserve alive. Say, I beseech thee that my sister, art thou,—to the end it may be well with me for thy sake, so shall my soul be preserved alive because of thee"

(Gen. 12:9-13). Abraham was never reproved for this deception but Pharaoh was contacted.⁴

Isaac also deceived Abimelech king of the Philistines. “So Isaac dwelt in Gerar. Then asked the men of the place as to his wife, and he said, My sister, is she,—For he feared to say My wife, lest *said he* the men of the place should slay me on account of Rebekah, for fair to look on, she is. And it came to pass when the days had lengthened out to him there, that Abimelech king of the Philistines, looked out through the lattice of a window,—and he beheld and lo! Isaac—laughing with Rebekah his wife. So Abimelech called for Isaac, and said, But to she is, thy wife! How then, saidst thou, She is, my sister? And Isaac said unto him, Because, I said, Lest I die on her account. Then, said, Abimelech, What is this thou hast done to us? A little more, and one of the people might have lien with thy wife, so shouldst thou have brought upon us, guilt. And Abimelech commanded all the people saying,—He that toucheth this man or his wife, shall surely be put to death And Isaac sowed in that land, and found in the same year, a hundredfold,—seeing that Yahweh had blessed him” (Gen. 26:6-12).

Naaman asked Yahweh’s permission to deceive his master and the request was granted. “Then said Naaman, Shall there not, then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant, two mules’ burden of earth? For thy servant will henceforth offer neither ascending-offering nor sacrifice to other gods, save only to Yahweh. In this thing, Yahweh grant forgiveness to thy servant,—When my lord entereth the house of Rimmon, to bow down therein, he leaning upon my hand, and so I bow down in the house of Rimmon, when he boweth down in the house of Rimmon, Yahweh, I pray, grant forgiveness to thy servant, in this thing. And he said unto him—Go and prosper” (II Kg. 5:17-19)!

Joseph deceived Pharaoh. “Then said Joseph unto his brethren and unto the house of his father, I must go up, and must tell Pharaoh—and must say unto him, My brethren, and the house of my father, who were in the land of Canaan, have come in unto me. Now, the men, are feeders of flocks, for men of cattle, they are,—and their flocks and their herds and all that they have, have they brought in. So shall it come to pass, when Pharaoh shall call for you,—and shall say—What is your occupation? Then shall ye say—Men of cattle, have thy servants been from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,—To the end ye may dwell in the land of Goshen, for an abomination to Egyptians, is every feeder of a flock” (Gen. 46:31-34).

There are exceptions to Father’s commandments as scriptures have shown. Yahweh’s will is communicated to us by His written Word and by the gift of holy spirit, which we have received from Him (I Cor. 2:12). Let us walk by the spirit instead of the letter of the law because it could save our life as in the case of the spies of Joshua!

⁴ And Yahweh plagued Pharaoh with great plagues, also his house,—for the matter of Sarai, wife of Abram. Gen. 12:17