

# Mark 14:56

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together.

## Analysis

---

**For many bare false witness against him** (πολλοὶ γὰρ ἐψευδομαρτύρουν κατ' αὐτοῦ, polloi gar epseudomartyroun kat' autou)—The compound verb ψευδομαρτυρέω (pseudomartyreo) means to bear false witness, directly violating the ninth commandment (Exodus 20:16). The imperfect tense suggests repeated, ongoing perjury. **But their witness agreed not together** (καὶ ἵσαι αἱ μαρτυρίαι οὐκ ἕσαν, kai isai hai martyria ouk ēsan)—literally, 'their testimonies were not equal/consistent.'

Deuteronomy 19:15 required testimonies to 'agree' (LXX: συνίστημι, synistēmi) for conviction. The Sanhedrin's own law condemned their proceedings. Even lies require coordination to succeed; the confusion of false testimony reveals divine Providence frustrating the council's schemes. Psalm 2:4 proves true: 'He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.'

## Historical Context

---

The Sanhedrin required unanimous agreement of at least two witnesses for capital cases. Even minor discrepancies in testimony invalidated it. The failure of false witnesses to synchronize their stories suggests hasty preparation—the arrest happened mere hours earlier (14:43-50). Professional false witnesses existed in the ancient world, but the urgency of this trial apparently prevented proper coaching.

## Related Passages

---

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

---

1. Why couldn't evil men coordinate their lies against the Truth incarnate?
2. How does this passage comfort Christians facing coordinated false accusations today?
3. What does the inability of lies to 'agree together' teach about the nature of truth versus falsehood?

## Interlinear Text

---

πολλοὶ γὰρ ἐψευδομαρτύρουν κατ' αὐτοῦ καὶ ἵσαι αἱ  
many For bare false witness against him but not G3588  
G4183 G1063 G5576 G2596 G846 G2532 G2470

μαρτυρίᾳ οὐκ ἤσαν  
their witness G3756 agreed  
G3141 G2258

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)