

# Proverbs 14:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.

## Analysis

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A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies. Ed emet matsil nefashot (עד אמת מציל נפשות, a witness of truth delivers souls). Natsal (נצל, deliver, rescue, save) shows truthful testimony can save lives—preventing wrongful execution, protecting the innocent. Veyafiyach kezavim mirmah (וַיַּפִּיחַ כְּזָבִים מִרְמָה, but one who breathes lies—deceit). False witnesses literally breathe out lies, destroying lives through deception. In legal systems depending on oral testimony, truthfulness meant life or death. Christ is the faithful and true witness (Revelation 3:14), whose testimony delivers souls eternally.

## Historical Context

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Mosaic Law required multiple witnesses for capital cases (Deuteronomy 17:6) and prescribed death for perjurers in capital cases (Deuteronomy 19:16-21). Naboth died through false witnesses (1 Kings 21:10-13). Jesus faced false testimony at His trial (Matthew 26:59-61). Stephen was martyred through false witnesses (Acts 6:13). The ninth commandment prohibits false witness (Exodus 20:16), recognizing its power to destroy lives.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. In what contexts might your testimony (words, reputation, witness) either deliver or harm others?
2. How does Christ as the true witness (Revelation 3:14) provide the ultimate model for truthful living?
3. What does it mean to be a faithful witness for Christ, delivering souls through gospel truth?

## Interlinear Text

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מַצִּיל	נַפְשׁוֹת	עֵד	אֱמֶת	וִידּוּעַ	כִּזְבוֹת
delivereth	souls	witness	A true	witness speaketh	lies
H5337	H5315	H5707	H571	H6315	H3577
מְרִמָּה:					
but a deceitful					
H4820					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Proverbs 14:5** (Witness): A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

**2 Peter 3:3** (Parallel theme): Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,