

The Bochim Trap

Text: Judges 2:1-7 And an angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said, I made you to go up out of Egypt, and have brought you unto the land which I swore unto your fathers; and I said, I will never break my covenant with you. 2 And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this? 3 Wherefore I also said, I will not drive them out from before you; but they shall be as thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare unto you. 4 And it came to pass, when the angel of the LORD spake these words unto all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voice, and wept. 5 And they called the name of that place Bochim: and they sacrificed there unto the LORD. 6 And when Joshua had let the people go, the children of Israel went every man unto his inheritance to possess the land. 7 And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.

I Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

II John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. **(DEFN. WROUGHT: worked or beaten into shape, created)**

NIV II John 1:8 Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully.

Introduction: Today, LET US LOOK AT THE BOCHIM (*boh-KEEM*) TRAP! BOCHIM TRAP? MOST CHRISTIANS HAVE NEVER HEARD OF SUCH A TRAP! What is it and why is it relevant to a modern-day Christian? THE BOCHIM TRAP IS VERY DANGEROUS! With the help of the HOLY SPIRIT, let us endeavor to explain what it is and how to avoid its snare so we can achieve greater success in our spiritual walk with God!

I. What was Bochim? *A place in Israel* - Bochim is mentioned exclusively in the Book of Judges (*please note OUR TEXT*) It is the location where the Angel of the Lord rebuked the Israelites for failing to fully obey God's command to drive out the Canaanites and for making covenants with them. In response to this divine rebuke, the **Israelites wept bitterly** and offered sacrifices, which is why the place was named Bochim, "**the place of weepers**". The site symbolizes a moment of collective sorrow, repentance, and spiritual reflection for the nation of Israel. (ref.: BING AI)

The Location of Bochim - The exact location of Bochim is uncertain. Scholars suggest it may have been near Bethel or Shiloh in the central hill country of Israel, possibly at the head of a valley between Gilgal and Shiloh. Its significance lies primarily in its theological and symbolic role, rather than its precise geography. (ref.: BING AI)

II. What Happened at Bochim? Bochim was a spiritual marker in which God identified Israel's failure to live up to His Plan for their lives. A place where He identified their need for Restoration and Refocusing. The weeping at Bochim illustrates:

- 1) *An Acknowledgment of disobedience to God's covenant.*
 - 2) *Communal repentance, showing that failures affected the entire community.*
 - 3) *Hope for renewal, as sincere sorrow can lead to reconciliation with God.*
 - 4) *Bochim emphasizes that moments of grief and contrition are essential for spiritual progress & growth.*
- In essence, Bochim means "weepers" and serves as a biblical symbol of sorrow, repentance, and the communal acknowledgment of sin. It reminds believers of the importance of obedience, humility, and the potential for spiritual restoration through heartfelt contrition.*

III. Why was the Angel so upset? Why did the Angel rebuke Israel?

****They were REBUKED for their Lack of Progress in FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSE & CALLING!**

To explain, let's examine: the Land Promised to Abraham vs the Possessed Land at the time of the meeting at Bochim:

The vast difference between the PROMISED LAND & the actual CONQUERED/POSSESSED LAND shows the LACK OF PROGRESS by the Israelites. This is the reason the Angel rebuked the people at Bochim!

Land Promised from God to Abraham:

Genesis 15:18-21 In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the **river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates**: *The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites.*

- 1. the river of Egypt (Nile River) to the Euphrates River – the distance from the Nile River to Euphrates River is 932 miles (approx.)** (ref.: GOOGLE AI) **(equal to the miles from Memphis to Brownsville, TX)**
- 2. the land occupied by 10 kingdoms. --- The 10 kingdom's land today includes: all of modern Israel, Palestine, and Lebanon, plus large portions of Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Saudia Arabia, as well as parts of Egypt.** (ref.: YOUTUBE-Got Questions)
- 3. Total area of land = 300,000 square miles** (ref.: GOOGLE AI) **or 1.1 times bigger than TX! or (TX plus South Carolina)**

The Land Possessed in Joshua's Day: 8,500 to 12,000 square miles (ref.: GOOGLE AI) **or a little smaller than the size of the State of Maryland (41st state by size) (Maryland's size = 12,407 mi²)**

The Promised Land = TEXAS/SOUTH CAROLINA COMBINED - The Possessed Land = MARYLAND

****note 1: Texas is about 21.65 times larger than Maryland**

****note 2: South Carolina is 2.58 times larger than Maryland in size!**

****note 3: Tennessee is 3.4 times larger than Maryland**

****note 4: Maryland is equal to 4.14% of 300,000 mi² (size of God's promise to Abraham)**

IV. All Israelites did not fail their assignment to conquer/claim their portion of the Promise Land!

*****Two Leaders were present at the gathering but exempt from the Rebuke & Failures of the others:**

(1). JOSHUA remained FAITHFUL – Joshua 24:13-15 And I (GOD) have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat. Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but **as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**

****STRICKEN IN AGE - Joshua 13:1,7** Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and **the LORD said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years**, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed.

(7) Now therefore divide this land for an inheritance unto the nine tribes, and the half tribe of Manasseh. **Joshua 23:14** And, behold, this day **I am going the way of all the earth:** and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.

(2). CALEB remained Faithful – Joshua 14:9-14 And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's forever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God. And now, behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, **these forty and five years.** even since the LORD spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: and now, lo, **I am this day fourscore and five years old.** As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in. **Now therefore give me this mountain,** whereof the LORD spake in that day; for

thou heardest in that day how the Anakims (*giants*) were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the LORD said. And Joshua blessed him, and gave unto Caleb the son of Jephunneh Hebron for an inheritance. Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenezite unto this day, **because that he wholly followed the LORD God of Israel.**

(3). Note 1: God always exempts the innocent! **Bible Example** - Rev. 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

(4). Note 2: Although Israel Disappointed God, they were not totally rejected. They were still GOD'S PEOPLE! **THE LESSON FOR US: THEY COULD HAVE HAD MUCH, MUCH MORE!**

Joshua 2:7 And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD, that he did for Israel.

V. What is the Bochim Trap? Why is it relevant to us?

Although the OT Bochim Trap is no longer called by the same name, similar traps are hidden throughout the road to heaven!

Today, they may be called by other names, such as “**QUICKSAND PITS**”, or “**TRIPPING HAZARDS**”, or “**SPIRITUAL HINDERANCES**”, but, **WHATEVER WE CALL THEM, they are just as dangerous. They are EXCLUSIVELY, Christian Traps.** Many Christians of the past have been snared! Many modern Christians are in imminent danger of falling victim to them on their way to heaven!

THE WARNING IS: Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. II John 1:8
GUARD YOUR CHRISTIAN WALK CAREFULLY SO YOU RECEIVE A FULL REWARD!

VI. Modern-day Bochim Traps – or -- QUICKSAND PITS OF FAILURE

THE SCRIPTURE INSTRUCTS US: ¹ *Quench not the Spirit. (I Thessalonians 5:19)*

² *Grieve not the holy Spirit of God, (Ephesians 4:30)* ³ *Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward (II John 1:8)*

(1). The Modern Trap of Apathy toward God! *A half-hearted pursuit of God's Will for our Life!*

DEFN of APATHY: a state of indifference, resulting in a distinct lack of passion, interest, or concern for one's surroundings, social situation, or personal goals. An apathetic individual simply, “doesn't care” and often lacks motivation to initiate tasks or engage in emotional response.

Matthew 22:37-38 *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment.*

(Franklin Graham - CBN dated 7/10/2026): “the devil is wanting to trap every believer, every Christian, and if he can just get them into APATHY, where they just don't care, then he wins”.

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God...

(2). The Trap of Modern-day Christian Compromises! **EVERYBODY IS DOING IT SO IT MUST BE OK? FOLLOWING CHRIST WITHOUT COMMITTING TO A CHURCH – WITHOUT SEPARATING FROM THE FALLEN WORLD – WITHOUT THE PURSUIT OF DISCIPLESHIP – ANOTHER GOSPEL!**

**** (OUR TEXT) Judges 2:2** *And ye shall make no league with the inhabitants of this land; ye shall throw down their altars: but ye have not obeyed my voice: why have ye done this?*

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Galatians 1:8-9 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God...

(3). The Trap of Following the Permissive Will of God vs God's Divine Will!

THE ENTANGLEMENT OF OTHER THINGS -- Human Pursuits that lead us from the path of God!

II Timothy 2:4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Hebrews 3:7-8 *Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:*

CARNAL CHRISTIAN is a term seldom used today but it still a term that describes a lot of Christians!

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God...

(4). The Trap of Substituting the Moving of the Holy Spirit with Professionalism & Polished Gimmicks!

REPLACING the Holy Spirit with PROGRAMS & ENTERTAINMENT! REPLACING THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH MANMADE CHOREOGRAPHIED MOVEMENT VS. DIVINE MOVEMENT!

Was this a practice in the Early Days of the New Testament Church? NO - It is modern Trap of Man!

THE ABSENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT CANNOT BE ADEQUATELY REPLACED BY PROFESSIONAL ENTERTAINMENT! God's People are being robbed by substituting God's Presence in our worship!

A PROFESSIONAL – CHOREOGRATED ENTERTAINMENT HOUR IS NOT ADEQUATE TO REPLACE THE MOVING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR CHURCH SERVICES!

I Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

(5). The Trap of Toning Down the Power of the Gospel by the Teaching of Men!

The Denominational Teaching of MEN Create a “Spiritual Glass Ceiling”!

Example 1: The Teaching on the Holy Spirit – Baptism after Salvation or Indwelling at Salvation

○ In over 40 years of ministry, I read and heard all of the arguments both ways on the subject. I studied it thoroughly and conclude that the Holy Spirit Baptism is a 2nd work of grace after salvation. This is based upon **Acts 8:14-17, Acts 19:1-6, & Acts 1:8.**

○ Those who teach otherwise generally point to: **Ephesians 1:13-14** In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

○ My personal explanation to **EPHESIANS 1:13-14** is: THESE ARE THE SAME FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST PAUL HAD ADDRESSED PREVIOUSLY IN EPHESIANS (*see ACTS 19:1-6*). They had already received the baptism in the Holy Spirit during their encounter with the Apostle Paul earlier!

No place in the new testament do I find that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit was only temporary or it stopped when the last apostle died! Without a scriptural foundation, we must not accept the teaching of men!

○ Regardless of whether you agree with me or not on the subject, please agree that **HOWEVER YOU RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY SPIRIT IS REAL TODAY and the GIFTS of the Holy Spirit are available to work in the church! If not, you have become bogged down under the teachings of men. If not, the door is closed to the working of the Holy Spirit in your life...**

I Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

Example 2: The Working of the Holy Spirit in the Believer and within the Church:

○ **Where in the SCRIPTURES (please give chapter and verse) do you find God has quit working miracles? Has God lost some of His Great Power? Has God suddenly become WEAKER than He was in the Bible Days? Is God's power limited only to heaven but not to earth? NO, NO! THIS IS THE TEACHING OF MAN AND LACKS A SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION!!!**

If He ever worked miracles (*scripture clearly shows that He did in the past*), HE CAN STILL WORK MIRACLES TODAY! To believe otherwise, please be reminded to, *Quench not the Spirit!*

○ Most of the *ERROREOUS TEACHINGS OF MAN as Doctrine TODAY* is (almost exclusively) based upon the following:

I Corinthians 13: 8-12 *Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.*

These Scriptures are taken out of context by Denominational Leaders & Teacher!

False truth is a trap and will ROB YOU OF GOD'S POWER IN YOUR LIFE!

I Corinthians 13 teaches about God's Love, NOT the arrival of SPIRITUAL PERFECTION!

If you believe that I Corinthians 13 is a foundation to state that the Holy Spirit no longer works in the church:

1. Please provide chapter & verse where *tongues have ceased*: *scripture cannot be found!*
2. Please provide chapter & verse where *knowledge has vanished away*: *scripture cannot be found!*
3. Please provide chapter & verse where *prophecies have failed*: *scripture cannot be found!*
4. Please provide chapter & verse where *we NO LONGER SEE DARKLY*: *scripture cannot be found!*
5. Please provide chapter & verse where *WE SEE FACE TO FACE*: *scripture cannot be found!*
6. Please provide where *that which is perfect is identifies as the BIBLE*: *scripture cannot be found!*

Closing the door to the Gifts of the Spirit robs you of its power to work in your life and the life of others!

In Fact, scripture teaches the believer to covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. I Corinthians 14:39; AND TO, ...desire spiritual gifts I Corinthians 14:1... *Quench not the Spirit.*

V. Closing: WHY DO WE NEED TO STAY AWAY FROM MODERN-DAY CHRISTIAN TRAPS?
JUDGEMENT DAY WILL REVEAL ALL THINGS. WE WILL SEE THE AREAS WE WERE BOGGED DOWN IN OUR JOURNEY. WE WILL SEE ALL OF THE TRAPS AND SNARES THAT WERE IN OUR PATH!

YET, ON THAT DAY, IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO ALTER OR CHANGE A THING. WE MUST CHOOSE CAREFULLY OUR PATH, NOW, WHILE THE CHOICE IS STILL OURS TO MAKE!

The Traps will slow down our progress in following and fulfilling the plan of God in our life!

God will be displeased with us as the Angel was displeased with Israel for their lack of progress in Bochim.

We may make it to heaven but will we RECEIVE A FULL REWARD?

II John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

I Corinthians 3:11-14 *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*

Wood, Hay, Stubble are not things we want on our record – these works will be burnt-up in the fire – *many of them were actually hidden traps that cost us a valuable portion of our inheritance!*