



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Deuteronomy 29:9-30:20
- Jonah 1-4
- II Peter 1-3

SCORCHED EARTH

- God is Angry
- Unforgivable Sin
- Time to Burn Bridges

Each week I enter in the same way. I sit to read and contemplate the weekly scriptures and on my heart is one burning desire. “Speak to me Father; show me what You want to teach Your children. Highlight the message in Your Word God.” And then I begin to read. I carefully examine each word, each sentence, each concept, all while asking and listening— “Are these the verses? Is this the message?”

I collect the verses and jot down ideas and themes and cross references that flood my mind. I think about what Y’shua might have taught on the subject and Paul, and the gospel writers, and Peter, and James, and the prophets, and David, and Solomon, etc. It’s a lengthy process; it takes many hours. And, it’s the same every week; it has been since Kingdom Embassy Ministries began in 2019... every week, until this week.

I began by opening the Bible and a blank document side-by-side. I do that every time. But the moment I did that this week, everything changed. Immediately, this overwhelming thought burst into my mind before I could read a single word of the Torah portion. It was like a loud angry scream intruding into my brain, as clear as if God was yelling in my ear. "Scorched earth!" I wrote it down at once, and then I paused to wrestle with what it means.

First I prayed; "Yahweh, is this the message? Is it possible you've already revealed what I will find in this week's reading, before I lay my eyes on a single word?" Even then I did not open the Bible. I sought instead to discover the meaning. "What does scorched earth mean?" I had some ideas swimming around in my head, but wanted to be certain. These were my thoughts. This is what I wrote down in my blank document before I did any additional research:

[1. to absolutely annihilate something, to burn it to the ground, leaving only a pile of ashes, like what God did to Sodom and Gomorrah. 2. what we do to others when we kill them with our words, hurt them so badly that they are too battered and bloodied to even mount any defense. 3. Examples: God went "scorched earth" on Sodom, or Jack went "scorched earth" on his ex-girlfriend.]

What I found upon researching was its literal meaning and a few other applications. We won't go into all the history behind it; I suggest you do a little searching for yourself and discover the horrors of it all.

[1. Scorched earth is used to describe a military policy in which all the houses, crops, factories, buildings, valuable goods, roads and infrastructure, etc., are utterly destroyed, so that your enemy cannot use them. Anything of any value is obliterated! 2. the act of taking every legal method you have at your disposal to cause maximum disruption to those around you without regard for potential social repercussions. 3. At the end of a relationship and knowing how much you despise the person, you ensure that there is never any hope of getting back together by letting everyone know what that person did to you.]

I wondered...is there any semblance of this concept in this week's Scripture reading? I wondered, but at the same time I didn't wonder; I was certain there would be. You come to trust God in these matters after years of hearing His voice and knowing His faithfulness. His word never returns void. Then, I opened the Word of God and this is what I read:

"The Lord would not spare him; for then the anger of the Lord and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the Lord would blot out his name from under heaven." (Deut. 29:20)

"The coming generation and the foreigner would say, when they see the plagues of that land and the sicknesses which the Lord has laid on it: 'The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew in His anger and His wrath.'" (Deut. 29:22-23)

Scorched earth... need I say more?

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

“The Lord would not spare him; for then the anger of the Lord and His **jealousy would burn** against that man, **and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him**, and the Lord would **blot out his name from under heaven.**” “...**see the plagues of that land and the sicknesses** which the Lord has laid on it: ‘**The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning;** it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the Lord overthrew **in His anger** and His wrath.’” Deuteronomy 29:20, 22-23 NKJV

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“For the time has come for **judgment to begin at the house of God...**” I Peter 4:17 NKJV

“knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any **private interpretation**, for **prophecy never came by the will of man**, but holy men of God spoke as they were **moved by the Holy Spirit.**” ...“and **turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes**, condemned them to destruction, **making them an example** to those who afterward would live ungodly;” ...“**Since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be** in holy conduct and godliness?” II Peter 1:20-21; 2:6; 3:11 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. In this portion, Moses invites the entire assembly of Israel to take on the covenant. He warns them that if they sin, they will go into exile, and he predicts that is precisely what they will do. But, he also says in the future they will repent and God will return them to the land of Israel. Keep in mind, he is prophesying that in the future they will go into exile, being taken from the land of promise, and yet, they have NOT even crossed into the land! This cannot be said any better than Yahweh's words in next week's portion: *"I know the inclination of their behavior today, even before I have brought them to the land of which I swore to give them."* (Deuteronomy 31:21)

Deuteronomy 29

2. **Confirmation of the Covenant:** keep the words of this covenant that you may prosper in all that you do.
3. Yahweh confirms His covenant of promise to establish a people for Himself and then reveals this prophetic declaration:
 - (a) *"I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone, but with him who stands here with us today before the LORD our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today."*
Deuteronomy 29:14-15 NKJV

4. This idea of the covenant extending into the future is beautifully confirmed in the New Testament by Y'shua and Paul:
- (a) **Y'shua at the Last Supper:** *"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."* John 17:20-21 NKJV
 - (b) **Paul to the Corinthian Church:** *"Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that **all our fathers** were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."* I Corinthians 10:1-4 NKJV
5. **Warning—you saw the paganism in Egypt:** don't let your heart turn toward other gods! If you do, you will inherit the curses written in this Book of the Law that Yahweh warned you about in Deuteronomy 28. (See Sermon: [Looking Good](#))
6. **And even worse, don't turn towards other gods and think this abominable thought:** *"and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I follow the*

dictates of my heart' — as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.” Deuteronomy 29:19 NKJV

7. What precedes this abomination in verse 18 is the warning to not turn your heart toward the worship of foreign gods which is the equivalent of swallowing a deadly poison (Again See Sermon: [Looking Good](#)); what follows in verse Deuteronomy 29:20 is why the poison results in death. And the two New Testament references here also seem to point to this unforgivable sin.

(a) *“The Lord **will never be willing to forgive them**; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. All the curses written in this book will fall on them, and the Lord **will blot out their names from under heaven.**” Deuteronomy 29:20 NIV*

1) *“Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, **but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.**” He said this because they were saying, “He has an impure spirit.”” Mark 3:28-30 NIV*

2) *“If you see any brother or sister commit a sin that does not lead to death, you should pray and God will give them life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. **There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that you should***

pray about that. *All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.*” 1 John 5:16-17 NIV

8. When the nations wonder why God’s chosen people are suffering the curses that were intended for the pagans, the answer is this: *“because they have forsaken the covenant and served other gods!”*
9. Then we have one of the most amazingly prophetic verses in the Torah, one vitally relevant for every Christian today. Consider why Yahweh has declared that He wills to reveal His secrets to His people: *“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, **that we may do all the words of this law.**”* Deuteronomy 29:29 NKJV

Deuteronomy 30

10. **The Blessings of Returning to God:** The people were warned in Deuteronomy 28 about the horrific curses that would befall anyone disobeying Yahweh’s commands. Israel WILL BE scattered into pagan nations for doing just that. But, Yahweh will bring them back from captivity.
11. He will circumcise their hearts and the hearts of their descendants who will then become obedient, and then He will turn the curses on their enemies.

12. Yahweh will rejoice over them again, if they obey His voice and keep His commandments and His statutes which are written in this Book of the Law.
13. **Life or Death:** These four verses might be the most relevant words of Moses if you desire a deeper understanding of Christian salvation (redemption). They are the bedrock of Paul's message in Romans 10:1-13, so commonly referred to in Christianity as the "Sinner's Prayer!"
- (a) *"For this commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it." Deuteronomy 30:11-14 NKJV*
14. **Choose Life:** Yahweh has set before you today life and good, death and evil, choose life! But if your heart turns and you worship other gods you shall perish. (Again See Sermon [Looking Good](#))
15. Yahweh calls heaven and earth as a witness against them if they do not obey. They have ZERO excuses! Paul reiterates this witness in Romans 1.

- (a) *“For since the creation of the world His **invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse**,”* Romans 1:20 NKJV

16. The previous two teachings on this portion: [The Spiritual Detective](#) & [Critical Roots Theory](#)

GOD IS ANGRY!

1. The ONE Thing God WILL NOT Tolerate

A. Defining Terms

(1) Scorched Earth

(a) My Thoughts

1. **War:** to absolutely annihilate something, to burn it to the ground, leaving only a pile of ashes, like what God did to Sodom and Gomorrah.

a) **Example:** God went “scorched earth” on Sodom.

2. **Relationships:** what we do to others when we kill them with our words, hurt them so badly that they are too bloodied to even offer a defense.

a) **Example:** Jack went “scorched earth” on his ex-girlfriend.

(b) Literal Definition

1. **War:** The term “scorched earth” started as a military term. During times of war, troops would destroy valuable goods – crops, buildings, routes in and out of towns – in order to make them unusable by enemy troops.
 - a) **Example:** carpet bombing: has its roots in the *scorched-earth warfare* practiced—extending the battlefield to the enemy’s infrastructure, by bombing every single thing as if you were laying a carpet to cover over a bare floor.
 2. **Law:** the act of taking every legal method you have at your disposal to cause maximum disruption to those around you without regard for potential social repercussions.
 3. **Relationships:** At the end of a relationship and knowing how much you despise the person you just left for everything they did to you, you ensure that there is never any hope of getting back together by letting everyone know what that person did to you.
- (2) Geo-political vs. Theo-political vs. Theo-ecclesiastical (The latter two being Dr. Jeff terms!)
- (a) Geo-political (Geo = Earth)

1. Nation against Nation and Worldview against Worldview
 - a) relating to politics, especially international relations, as influenced by geographical factors.
 - b) Geopolitics is a study of the influence of such factors as geography, economics, and demography on the politics and especially the foreign policy of a state.
 - c) ...and I would add religious factors that create either unity or division within intra-national or international relations
- (b) Theo-political (Theo = God)
 1. God's evaluation and judgment against the pagan world: there is judgement by fire coming to the earth, therefore what type of person ought you to be in conduct and godliness?
 - a) "Thus I establish My covenant with you: **Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood;** never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.'" Genesis 9:11 NKJV
 - b) "But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, **are reserved for fire**

until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." II Peter 3:7 NKJV

- c) "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and **the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.** Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,** looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which **the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?** Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." II Peter 3:10-13 NKJV

(c) Theo-ecclesiastical

1. God's evaluation and potential judgment of the Church: Judgment begins in the house of the Lord, so what type of person ought you to be in conduct and godliness?
 - a) "For the time has come for **judgment to begin at the house of God;** and if it begins with us first,

what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?”” I Peter 4:17-18 NKJV

b) Note: Willful Sin— *“Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*” Hebrews 10:30-31)

1) My concern today is not the scorched earth policy the enemy has for the earth. I am concerned with the scorched earth policy Yahweh has for those who call themselves the church! What type of person ought you to be in conduct and godliness?

2. Theo-political or Theo-ecclesiastical (Ministry from Jonah or to Jonah?)

a) “Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, **“Arise, go to Nineveh,** that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” **But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.** He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go

with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord."Jonah 1:1-3 NKJV

- 1) God's great concern in His relationship to Jonah was not His intention to destroy Nineveh (Theo-political), but rather His evaluation of Jonah (Theo-ecclesiastical).
 - 2) Jonah, go bring a message to those people or else they are toast. It's a good and necessary ministry.
 - 3) But, on full display was God's ministry to Jonah who would rather "flee the presence of the Lord than obey."
 - 4) "Jonah you have your priorities all wrong and thus you won't be effective for Me. Act like the man of God you say you are and go!"
3. God get's angry when you do your own thing
- a) **"But the Lord sent out a great wind on the sea,** and there was a mighty tempest on the sea, so that the ship was about to be broken up. ...So he said to them, "I am a Hebrew; and I fear the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land."" Jonah 1:4, 9 NKJV

4. Second Chances: don't get so focused on the world (Nineveh) that you miss that it was Jonah who had to change first! *"For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God..."* (I Peter 4:17)
 - a) **"Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, "Arise, go to Nineveh,** that great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you." So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, a three-day journey in extent." Jonah 3:1-3 NKJV
 - b) **"Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way;** and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it." Jonah 3:10 NKJV
5. Evangelism vs. Kingdom
 - a) Evangelism is the retail transaction (ministry to those outside the church—to the customers).
 - b) The Kingdom is the Business to Business (B to B) transaction (ministry to the church for the edification and maturing of itself—to the employees). See Ephesians 4:11-16
6. For Jonah, it was a business to business transaction.

- a) In other words, the primary theme in Jonah is God's ministry to Jonah and His anger and punishment toward Jonah for his disobedience. (... *judgment begins at the house of God.*" I Peter 4:17
- b) Of course the retail transaction (Jonah to the people) is the important sub-theme, showing God's mercy and forgiveness to a repentant people. But, who Jonah is supposed to be is what is primary on God's heart.

B. Verse-by-Verse into God's Anger

(1) Who is God talking to?

(a) As we approach the end of Deuteronomy and the people prepare to cross into the promised land, in this second telling of the law, we see that the law was not just for them—but for you too!

1. **“I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone, but with him who stands here with us today before the Lord our God, as well as with him who is not here with us today”** Deuteronomy 29:14-15

NKJV

(b) Y'shua, just as we see in Deuteronomy, is not only speaking to those present, but to you!

1. **“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;”** John 17:20 NKJV

(2) Where did they come from?

- (a) They came from exposure to every pagan influence and practice imaginable.

1. **“(for you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by, and you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them—wood and stone and silver and gold);”** Deuteronomy 29:16-17 NKJV

- (b) You also have come from exposure to every pagan influence and practice imaginable.

1. **“For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.”** I Peter 4:3 NKJV

(3) What is the warning?

- (a) Listen, you covenant people, don't you dare turn away from Yahweh, the one true God, to go serve idols!

1. **“so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of**

these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or **wormwood**;" Deuteronomy 29:18 NKJV

- (b) If you know who Yahweh is, and decide to go back to your past pollution, it will be worse than never having known in the first place!
 - 1. "For if, **after they have escaped** the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled in them and overcome**, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning." II Peter 2:20 NKJV
- (4) Rationalization makes things exponentially worse!
 - (a) You have been warned; It does not get any clearer than the promised curses of Deuteronomy 27:11-26 and 28:15-68. If you think you can do whatever you want in your own heart, regardless of sin, and get away with it, you are about as clear-eyed as man totally inebriated who swears he is sober!
 - 1. "and so it may not happen, **when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart**, saying, '**I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart**'—as though the drunkard could

be included with the sober.” Deuteronomy 29:19

NKJV

(b) Jeremiah has much to say on the matter... thinking you can have peace and walk according to the dictates of your own heart and that nothing evil will come upon you is a lie from the pit of hell! Behold, I will feed them with wormwood (poison / bitterness: a poisonous bitter herb that disrupts the central nervous system.)

1. “And the Lord said, “Because **they have forsaken My law** which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, **but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts** and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them,” therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “**Behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood,** and give them water of gall to drink. ”
Jeremiah 9:13-15 NKJV

2. ““Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets: ‘**Behold, I will feed them with wormwood,** And make them drink the water of gall; For from the prophets of Jerusalem Profaneness has gone out into all the land.’ ” Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets

who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; **They speak a vision of their own heart**, Not from the mouth of the Lord. They continually say to those who despise Me, '**The Lord has said, "You shall have peace" ';** And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, '**No evil shall come upon you.'** "" Jeremiah 23:15-17 NKJV

(c) Do you think you can totally disobey God and still be blessed. Y'shua doesn't think so! Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness. If you hear His words and do the opposite, you will fall!

1. "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not **prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?**' And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!**' ... **"But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them,** will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.""
Matthew 7:22-23, 26-27 NKJV

(5) God is angry!

(a) He will not spare those who insist they can do their own thing! Any warning which includes your “name being blotted out” is one that you ought not take lightly!

1. **“The Lord would not spare him; for then the anger of the Lord and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the Lord would blot out his name from under heaven.”** Deuteronomy 29:20

NKJV

(b) Ananias and Sapphira conspired to lie to the Holy Spirit of God, as if that is even possible. *“The Lord would not spare him; for then the anger of the Lord and His jealousy would burn against that man.”*

1. “But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, “Ananias, **why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? **Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to**

God.” Then **Ananias**, hearing these words, fell down and **breathed his last**. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried him out, and buried him. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?” She said, “Yes, for so much.” Then Peter said to her, “**How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?** Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” Then immediately **she fell down at his feet and breathed her last**. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.” Acts 5:1-11 NKJV

(c) Willful sin: The worst punishment is reserved for those who trample on the blood of Y’shua and willfully insult the Holy Spirit!

1. “For if **we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of

judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace [blaspheme of the Holy Spirit]?"** Hebrews 10:26-29 NKJV

(6) You will be excommunicated!

(a) You will be separated from the "tribe" because of your utter obstinance and insistence on doing your own thing!

1. **"And the Lord would separate** him from all the tribes of Israel **for adversity, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this Book of the Law,"** Deuteronomy 29:21 NKJV

(b) It does not get worse than this, to be handed over to the devil.

1. "This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, having

faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have **suffered shipwreck**, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, **whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme** [*insult the Spirit of grace*]." I Timothy 1:18-20 NKJV

(c) Reminder: We must be talking about non-believers as NOTHING can separate a Christian from God.

1. "[...no] **created thing, shall be able to separate us** from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:39 NKJV

(7) Plagues and Sickness Witness

(a) The plagues and sickness that result from your chronic disobedience are unavoidable.

1. "so that the coming generation of your children who rise up after you, and the foreigner who comes from a far land, would say, **when they see the plagues of that land and the sicknesses which the Lord has laid on it:**" Deuteronomy 29:22 NKJV

(b) Bad trees bear bad fruit; there's no avoiding that reality. Fake Christians bear bad fruits because their "land" is plagued with sickness—by their fruits you will know them.

1. ““Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, **every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.** A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. **Therefore by their fruits you will know them.**” Matthew 7:15-20 NKJV

(8) Scorched Earth

- (a) ...to absolutely annihilate something, to burn it to the ground, leaving only a pile of ashes, like what God did to Sodom and Gomorrah.
 1. ““**The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning;** it is not sown, **nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there,** like the **overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim,** which the Lord overthrew in His anger and His wrath.” Deuteronomy 29:23 NKJV
- (b) Scorched Earth—the prophetic word confirmed. This is what the Lord has warned me. We are in a dark place! I wish to shed light. Sodom and Gomorrah were just an example of what happens when we break our covenant

and go after “other gods,” doing whatever we wish according to our own heart, regardless of how sinful, and then claim God will bless us anyway!

1. “And so **we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place**, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that **no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation**, for prophecy **never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.**” II Peter 1:19-21 NKJV
2. “**For if God did not spare** the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment; and did not spare the ancient world, but saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly; **and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly;**” II Peter 2:4-6 NKJV

(9) Why has the Lord done this? Why has God turned the whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning? Why is God so angry!

(a) Because they have forsaken the covenant; because they served other gods and worshiped them!

1. ““All nations would say, ‘**Why has the Lord done so to this land? What does the heat of this great anger mean?**’ Then people would say: ‘**Because they have forsaken the covenant** of the Lord God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt; **for they went and served other gods and worshiped them**, gods that they did not know and that He had not given to them.” Deuteronomy 29:24-26 NKJV

(b) We consistently see what angers God: destructive heresies and blaspheme (serving and worshiping other gods).

1. “But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly **bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them**, and bring on themselves swift destruction. **And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the**

way of truth will be blasphemed *[there it is again—insulted the Spirit of Grace]*. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.” II Peter 2:1-3 NKJV

2. See: [Understanding the Sin that Leads to Death](#), [The Sin that Leads to Death-I John](#), [The Sin that Leads to Death-Exodus](#)

(10) Anger, Wrath, and Great Indignation

(a) This behavior (serving and worshiping other gods) is the ultimate insult to Yahweh and is what insights His anger, wrath and indignation.

1. **“Then the anger of the Lord was aroused against this land, to bring on it every curse that is written in this book.** And the Lord uprooted them from their land in anger, **in wrath, and in great indignation, and cast them into another land,** as it is this day.”

Deuteronomy 29:27-28 NKJV

(b) Scorched Earth! This entire message culminates (prophetically) with the literal scorching of the earth. *“The elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”*

But, what I am emphasizing today is you! Are you

contributing to the “works that are in the earth” that will bring the scorched earth in YOUR LIFE! Are you *“heeding the example to those who afterward would live ungodly?”* (II Peter 2:6) *“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,”* (II Peter 3:11)

1. **“But these, like natural brute beasts made to be caught and destroyed, speak evil of the things they do not understand, and will utterly perish in their own corruption,** and will receive the wages of unrighteousness, as those who count it pleasure to carouse in the daytime. They are spots and blemishes, carousing in their own deceptions while they feast with you, **having eyes full of adultery** and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a heart trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.” II Peter 2:12-14 NKJV
2. “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements **will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to**

be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be **dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?**

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells." II Peter 3:10-13 NKJV

(11) Mysteries

(a) God has revealed His deep mysteries for this single reason—that you would OBEY HIM! Don't contribute to the scorched earth policy! It is your legacy to search these things and to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

1. **"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."** Deuteronomy 29:29 NKJV
2. "It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, **But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.**" Proverbs 25:2 NKJV
3. "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, **the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory,**" I Corinthians 2:7 NKJV

4. “He answered and said to them, “**Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been given.”

Matthew 13:11 NKJV

Summary: GOD IS ANGRY!

1. The ONE Thing God WILL NOT Tolerate

A. Defining Terms

(1) Scorched Earth

(a) My Thoughts

1. **War:** to absolutely annihilate something, to burn it to the ground, leaving only a pile of ashes, like what God did to Sodom and Gomorrah.

a) **Example:** God went “scorched earth” on Sodom.

2. **Relationships:** what we do to others when we kill them with our words, hurt them so badly that they are too bloodied to even offer a defense.

a) **Example:** Jack went “scorched earth” on his ex-girlfriend.

(b) Literal Definition

1. **War:** The term “scorched earth” started as a military term. During times of war, troops would destroy valuable goods – crops, buildings, routes in and out

of towns – in order to make them unusable by enemy troops.

a) **Example:** carpet bombing: has its roots in the *scorched-earth warfare* practiced—extending the battlefield to the enemy's infrastructure, by bombing every single thing as if you were laying a carpet to cover over a bare floor.

2. **Law:** the act of taking every legal method you have at your disposal to cause maximum disruption to those around you without regard for potential social repercussions.

3. **Relationships:** At the end of a relationship and knowing how much you despise the person you just left for everything they did to you, you ensure that there is never any hope of getting back together by letting everyone know what that person did to you.

(2) Geo-political vs. Theo-political vs. Theo-ecclesiastical (The latter two being Dr. Jeff terms!)

(a) Geo-political (Geo = Earth)

1. Nation against Nation and Worldview against Worldview

a) relating to politics, especially international relations, as influenced by geographical factors.

- b) Geopolitics is a study of the influence of such factors as geography, economics, and demography on the politics and especially the foreign policy of a state.
- c) ...and I would add religious factors that create either unity or division within intra-national or international relations

(b) Theo-political (Theo = God)

- 1. God's evaluation and judgment against the pagan world: there is judgement by fire coming to the earth, therefore what type of person ought you to be in conduct and godliness?

(c) Theo-ecclesiastical

- 1. God's evaluation and potential judgment of the Church: Judgment begins in the house of the Lord, so what type of person ought you to be in conduct and godliness?

- a) My concern today is not the scorched earth policy the enemy has for the earth. I am concerned with the scorched earth policy Yahweh has for those who call themselves the church! What type of person ought you to be in conduct and godliness?

2. Theo-political or Theo-ecclesiastical (Ministry from Jonah or to Jonah?)
 - a) God's great concern in His relationship to Jonah was not His intention to destroy Nineveh (Theo-political), but rather His evaluation of Jonah (Theo-ecclesiastical).
 - b) Jonah, go bring a message to those people or else they are toast. It's a good and necessary ministry. But, on full display was God's ministry to Jonah who would rather "flee the presence of the Lord than obey."
 - c) "Jonah you have your priorities all wrong and thus you won't be effective for Me. Act like the man of God you say you are and go!"
3. God get's angry when you do your own thing
4. Second Chances: don't get so focused on the world (Nineveh) that you miss that it was Jonah who had to change first! *"For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God..."* (I Peter 4:17)
5. Evangelism vs. Kingdom
 - a) Evangelism is the retail transaction (ministry to those outside the church—to the customers).

- b) The Kingdom is the Business to Business (B to B) transaction (ministry to the church for the edification and maturing of itself—to the employees). See Ephesians 4:11-16
6. For Jonah, it was a business to business transaction.
- a) In other words, the primary theme in Jonah is God’s ministry to Jonah and His anger and punishment toward Jonah for his disobedience. (... *judgment begins at the house of God.*” I Peter 4:17
 - b) Of course the retail transaction (Jonah to the people) is the important sub-theme, showing God’s mercy and forgiveness to a repentant people. But, who Jonah is supposed to be is what is primary on God’s heart.

B. Verse-by-Verse into God’s Anger

- (1) Who is God talking to?
 - (a) As we approach the end of Deuteronomy and the people prepare to cross into the promised land, in this second telling of the law, we see that the law was not just for them—but for you too!
 - (b) Y’shua, just as we see in Deuteronomy, is not only speaking to those present, but to you!
- (2) Where did they come from?

- (a) They came from exposure to every pagan influence and practice imaginable.
 - (b) You also have come from exposure to every pagan influence and practice imaginable.
- (3) What is the warning?
- (a) Listen, you covenant people, don't you dare turn away from Yahweh, the one true God, to go serve idols!
 - (b) If you know who Yahweh is, and decide to go back to your past pollution, it will be worse than never having known in the first place!
- (4) Rationalization makes things exponentially worse!
- (a) You have been warned; It does not get any clearer than the promised curses of Deuteronomy 27:11-26 and 28:15-68. If you think you can do whatever you want in your own heart, regardless of sin, and get away with it, you are about as clear-eyed as man totally inebriated who swears he is sober!
 - (b) Jeremiah has much to say on the matter... thinking you can have peace and walk according to the dictates of your own heart and that nothing evil will come upon you is a lie from the pit of hell! Behold, I will feed them with wormwood (poison / bitterness: a poisonous bitter herb that disrupts the central nervous system.)

- (c) Do you think you can totally disobey God and still be blessed. Y'shua doesn't think so! Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness. If you hear His words and do the opposite, you will fall!
- (5) God is angry!
- (a) He will not spare those who insist they can do their own thing! Any warning which includes your "name being blotted out" is one that you ought not take lightly!
 - (b) Ananias and Sapphira conspired to lie to the Holy Spirit of God, as if that is even possible. *"The Lord would not spare him; for then the anger of the Lord and His jealousy would burn against that man."*
 - (c) Willful sin: The worst punishment is reserved for those who trample on the blood of Y'shua and willfully insult the Holy Spirit!
- (6) You will be excommunicated!
- (a) You will be separated from the "tribe" because of your utter obstinance and insistence on doing your own thing!
 - (b) It does not get worse than this, to be handed over to the devil.
 - (c) Reminder: We must be talking about non-believers as NOTHING can separate a Christian from God.

(7) Plagues and Sickness Witness

- (a) The plagues and sickness that result from your chronic disobedience are unavoidable.
- (b) Bad trees bear bad fruit; there's no avoiding that reality. Fake Christians bear bad fruits because their "land" is plagued with sickness—by their fruits you will know them.

(8) Scorched Earth

- (a) ...to absolutely annihilate something, to burn it to the ground, leaving only a pile of ashes, like what God did to Sodom and Gomorrah.
- (b) Scorched Earth—the prophetic word confirmed. This is what the Lord has warned me. We are in a dark place! I wish to shed light. Sodom and Gomorrah were just an example of what happens when we break our covenant and go after "other gods," doing whatever we wish according to our own heart, regardless of how sinful, and then claim God will bless us anyway!

(9) Why has the Lord done this? Why has God turned the whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning? Why is God so angry!

- (a) Because they have forsaken the covenant; because they served other gods and worshiped them!

- (b) We consistently see what angers God: destructive heresies and blaspheme (serving and worshiping other gods).

(10) Anger, Wrath, and Great Indignation

- (a) This behavior (serving and worshiping other gods) is the ultimate insult to Yahweh and is what insights His anger, wrath and indignation.

- (b) Scorched Earth! This entire message culminates (prophetically) with the literal scorching of the earth.

“The elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

But, what I am emphasizing today is you! Are you contributing to the “works that are in the earth” that will bring the scorched earth in YOUR LIFE! Are you

“heeding the example to those who afterward would live ungodly?” (II Peter 2:6) “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,” (II Peter 3:11)

(11) Mysteries

- (a) God has revealed His deep mysteries for this single reason—that you would OBEY HIM! Don’t contribute to the scorched earth policy! It is your legacy to search

these things and to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven.

UNFORGIVABLE SIN

2. A Sobering Review of Unforgivable Sin Excerpts from:

[Understanding the Sin that Leads to Death](#). Also see: [Darkness You Can Feel](#)

A. Heart Blindness and the Sin that Leads to Death

(1) I will bless myself anyway! I can go after other gods and Yahweh will bless me anyway...

(a) “so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, **whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations**, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; **and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, ‘I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart’— as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.” Deuteronomy 29:18-19 NKJV**

(2) The deception of thinking Yahweh will accept you even while you violate Him! (Having peace in your own heart about your choice to worship idols!)

- (a) **“You have wearied the LORD with your words; Yet you say, “In what way have we wearied Him? ” In that you say, “Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, And He delights in them,” Or, “Where is the God of justice?” Malachi 2:17 NKJV**
- (3) What happens if you follow the dictates of your own heart and go after other gods? God will be angry! God will not spare you; God will blot out your name; God will excommunicate you!
- (a) **“The LORD would not spare him [The NIV says it this way: “The Lord will never be willing to forgive them] for then the anger of the LORD and His jealousy would burn against that man, and every curse that is written in this book would settle on him, and the LORD would blot out his name from under heaven. And the LORD would separate him from all the tribes of Israel for adversity, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this Book of the Law,” Deuteronomy 29:20-21 NKJV**
- 1) What precedes this abomination in verse 18 is the warning to **not turn your heart toward the worship of foreign gods** which is the equivalent of swallowing a deadly poison; what follows here in verse 20 is

WHY the poison results in death. God will will be angry! (See section one above!)

B. What could you possibly do that Yahweh would never forgive?

(1) Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

(a) **John—Don't bother praying about that:** "If anyone sees his brother sinning a sin which does not lead to death, he will ask, and He will give him life for those who commit sin not leading to death. **There is sin leading to death. I do not say that he should pray about that.** All unrighteousness is sin, **and there is sin not leading to death.**" I John 5:16-17 NKJV

(b) **Matthew:** "He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.

"Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, **but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.** Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; **but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him,** either in this age or in the age to come." Matthew 12:30-32 NKJV

(c) **Paul—Grieving the Holy Spirit:** "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for

necessary edification, **that it may impart grace** to the hearers. **And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:29-32 NKJV

- (d) **Hebrews—Do no insult the Spirit of grace:** “For if we **sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth**, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. **Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of *two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment**, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and **insulted the Spirit of grace?** For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The LORD will judge His people.” It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Hebrews 10:26-31 NKJV

(e) Just pause to wrap your mind around how serious this is! *“The LORD would not spare him” “The Lord will never be willing to forgive them.”]*

1. There is sin leading to death and there is sin not leading to death.
2. Blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.
3. Whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him.
4. Paul calls it grieving the Holy Spirit of God!
5. Practically, it is achieved by willful sin (going after other Gods, including you being your own God, and claiming Yahweh will bless you anyway).
6. This is insulting to the Spirit of grace.
7. No worse punishment exists than what you get for this! *“The Lord will never be willing to forgive them.”*

(f) New Testament example in Section One: Ananias and Sapphira conspired to lie to the Holy Spirit of God.
(Acts 5:1-11)

1. *“Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?”*
2. *“Sapphira, how is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?”*

3. *“Of how much worse punishment for those who insult the Spirit of grace?” “The LORD will judge His people.” (Hebrews 10)*

C. Can a Christian commit the unforgivable sin? Look at these two categories of people:

- (1) Believers with bad doctrine and Non-believers who think they are believers AND NEVER WERE!

(a) **Believers with Bad Doctrine:**

1. *““Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. **Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven;** but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”*

Matthew 5:17-19 NKJV

(b) **Non-believers who think they are believers AND NEVER WERE:**

1. *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and **broad is the way that leads to destruction,** and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate*

and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. **“Beware of false prophets,** who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. **You will know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them. **“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.** Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then **I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”** Matthew 7:13-23 NKJV

- 2) **They were NEVER one of us!** “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went

out that they might be made manifest, that **none of them were of us.**" 1 John 2:19 NKJV

- 3) **They were NEVER "enlightened": "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame."**
Hebrews 6:4-6 NKJV

(c) Back to our question: Can a Christian commit the unforgivable sin?

1. Answer: No! Those who do so were never Christians in the first place!
2. Are you a truly a Christian? Have you had an authentic born-again encounter with Christ or are you living on a "confession of words" that had no heart conversion to support that confession?
3. NOW, TODAY, it is time to decide! God is angry and time is up!

D. Why has the Lord done this?

- (1) The Common Denominator: serving other gods and insisting that Yahweh will be okay with it!
- (a) “All nations would say, ‘Why has the LORD done so to this land? What does the heat of this great anger mean?’ Then people would say: ‘**Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD** God of their fathers, which He made with them when He brought them out of the land of Egypt; **for they went and served other gods and worshiped them**, gods that they did not know and that He had not given to them.’” Deuteronomy 29:24-26
- (b) Summary of the Sobering Truth:
1. There is a sin in which the heart of a rebellious people goes too far, even for Yahweh.
 2. That sin looks like this; “I can do whatever I want, even go after other gods, and even be warned that I am about to cross the point of no return, and still act as if Yahweh will bless me anyway.”
 3. There is a sin that Yahweh Himself considers unforgivable. And Y’shua, John and Paul all expose this sin in the New Testament—Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
 4. There are some who believe they are in the family of God but they are NOT: How do you recognize them?

Summary: UNFORGIVABLE SIN

2. A Sobering Review of Unforgivable Sin

A. Heart Blindness and the Sin that Leads to Death

- (1) I will bless myself anyway! I can go after other gods and Yahweh will bless me anyway...
- (2) The deception of thinking Yahweh will accept you even while you violate Him! (Having peace in your own heart about your choice to worship idols!)
- (3) What happens if you follow the dictates of your own heart and go after other gods? God will will be angry! God will not spare you; God will blot out your name; God will excommunicate you!
- (4) What precedes this abomination in verse 18 is the warning to **not turn your heart toward the worship of foreign gods** which is the equivalent of swallowing a deadly poison; what follows here in verse 20 is WHY the poison results in death. God will will be angry! **(See section one above!)**

B. What could you possibly do that Yahweh would never forgive?

- (1) Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit
 - (a) Just pause to wrap your mind around how serious this is! *“The LORD would not spare him” “The Lord will never be willing to forgive them.”*]

1. There is sin leading to death.
 2. Blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men.
 3. Whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him.
 4. Paul calls it grieving the Holy Spirit of God!
 5. Practically, it is achieved by willful sin (going after other Gods, including you being your own God, and claiming Yahweh will bless you anyway).
 6. This is insulting to the Spirit of grace.
 7. No worse punishment exists than what you get for this! *“The Lord will never be willing to forgive them.”*
- (b) New Testament example in Section One: Ananias and Sapphira conspired to lie to the Holy Spirit of God.
(Acts 5:1-11)
1. *“Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?”*
 2. *“Sapphira, how is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord?”*
 3. *“Of how much worse punishment for those who insult the Spirit of grace?” “The LORD will judge His people.”*

C. Can a Christian commit the unforgivable sin? Look at these two categories of people:

(1) Believers with bad doctrine and Non-believers who think they are believers AND NEVER WERE!

(a) **Believers with Bad Doctrine:**

(b) **Non-believers who think they are believers AND NEVER WERE:**

1) They were NEVER one of us!

2) They were NEVER “enlightened.”

(c) Back to our question: Can a Christian commit the unforgivable sin?

1. Answer: No! Those who do so were never Christians in the first place!

2. Are you a truly a Christian? Have you had an authentic born-again encounter with Christ or are you living on a “confession of words” that had no heart conversion to support that confession?

3. NOW, TODAY, it is time to decide! God is angry and time is up!

D. Why has the Lord done this?

(1) The Common Denominator: serving other gods and insisting that Yahweh will be okay with it!

(a) Summary of the Sobering Truth:

1. There is a sin in which the heart of a rebellious people goes too far, even for Yahweh.
2. That sin looks like this; “I can do whatever I want, even go after other gods, and even be warned that I am about to cross the point of no return, and still act as if Yahweh will bless me anyway.”
3. There is a sin that Yahweh Himself considers unforgivable. And Y’shua, John and Paul all expose this sin in the New Testament—Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.
4. There are some who believe they are in the family of God but they are NOT: How do you recognize them?

TIME TO BURN BRIDGES!

3. Better off being ignorant; but you are not ignorant...

A. There is nothing back there for you!

(1) Don’t Go Back!

(a) You have already invested enough of your time, energy and resources into your past pagan life. Don’t give it one more once of your attention!

1. **“For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in**

lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries." I Peter 4:3 NKJV

(2) Don't Forget

(a) If are willing to remember this ONE THING, you will be fruitful and abound in ALL THINGS! Your past sins are in the past. LEAVE THEM THERE!

1. "But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. **For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has **forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**" II Peter 1:5-9 NKJV

(3) Don't get entangled and overcome!

(a) You have ALREADY escaped the pollution of your past. Don't dip your toe back in that water. If you do, your next flirtation with sin will be worse for you than at any other time!

1. “For if, **after they have escaped** the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, **they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.**” II Peter 2:20 NKJV

(4) A true proverb

- (a) If you have truly tasted God’s righteousness, and you would rather continue in your own vomit, the outcome will be a personal scorched earth.

1. “For **it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn** from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “**A dog returns to his own vomit,**” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”” II Peter 2:21-22 NKJV

(5) It’s not possible!

- (a) If you “fall away” it is because you were never part of the fold in the first place!

1. “For **it is impossible** for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, **and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,** and have **tasted the good word of God and the powers of the**

age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, **since they crucify again** for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.” Hebrews 6:4-6 NKJV

(6) The Point of No Return

(a) At some point, your insistent rebellion will land you in situation in which there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins!

1. “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, **there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,** but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. Anyone who has rejected Moses’ law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?** For we know Him who said, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. And again, “The Lord will judge His people.” **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”** Hebrews 10:26-31 NKJV

(b) As the fire rained down and scorched the earth of Sodom and Gomorrah, there were two options. Look straight ahead into the future, or look back at a life of pollution and doing the will of the pagans (or your own will-SAME THING!). Lot's wife chose to look back and she was incinerated into a pile of mineral salts, about \$7.00 worth!

1. "So it came to pass, when they had brought them outside, that he said, **"Escape for your life! Do not look behind** you nor stay anywhere in the plain.

Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed."

Genesis 19:17 NKJV

2. "The sun had risen upon the earth when Lot entered Zoar. **Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah**, from the Lord out of the heavens. So He overthrew those cities, all the plain, all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. **But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.**" Genesis 19:23-26 NKJV

B. Make a Choice!

(1) Choose today whom you will serve!

(a) You have your old life back there (being incinerated) with all your sins and idols. And you have your new life

ahead of you with Yahweh! Choose! *“Therefore, **since all these things will be dissolved [scorched earth], what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness? [don’t get scorched!]**”* (II Peter 3:11)

1. **““Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. **Serve the Lord!** And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.””** Joshua 24:14-15 NKJV

(2) And while you are at it...

- (a) Help your friends join you. Do whatever you can to stop them from looking back!

1. **““Who is there even among you who would shut the doors, So that you would not kindle fire on My altar in vain? I have no pleasure in you,”** Says the Lord of hosts, **“Nor will I accept an offering from your hands.”** Malachi 1:10 NKJV

(3) It’s actually how you demonstrate true love for them...

(a) We all love to quote the wonderful Bible verse, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” But we never consider how the Bible teaches us to do so! Don’t stand by and watch them sin and do nothing about it. That would be the opposite of loving your brother!

1. “**You shall not hate your brother** in your heart. **You shall surely rebuke your neighbor**, and **not bear sin** because of him. You shall **not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge** against the children of your people, but **you shall love your neighbor as yourself**: I am the Lord.” Leviticus 19:17-18 NKJV

(4) All things considered...

(a) What manner of persons ought you to be?

1. “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved [scorched earth], what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness? **[don’t get scorched!]**” (II Peter 3:11)

(b) What things? A Scorched Earth!

1. “...and **the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it** will be burned up. ...because of which the **heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?**” II Peter 3:10, 12 NKJV

C. Time to Make a Choice! ONLY ONE QUESTION TODAY!

- (1) The following declaration is included in this study in lieu of the section on questions and discussion.
- (2) This declaration is your assignment.
- (3) Contemplate all you just studied and make a choice.
- (4) If you are ALL IN with God, then sign it.
- (5) If you are not willing to sign it, that says all you need to know!

Summary: TIME TO BURN BRIDGES!

3. Better off being ignorant; but you are not ignorant...

A. There is nothing back there for you!

- (1) Don't Go Back!
 - (a) You have already invested enough of your time, energy and resources into your past pagan life. Don't give it one more once of your attention!
- (2) Don't Forget
 - (a) If are willing to remember this ONE THING, you will be fruitful and abound in ALL THINGS! Your past sins are in the past. LEAVE THEM THERE!
- (3) Don't get entangled and overcome!
 - (a) You have ALREADY escaped the pollution of your past. Don't dip your toe back in that water. If you do, your

next flirtation with sin will be worse for you than at any other time!

(4) A true proverb

(a) If you have truly tasted God's righteousness, and you would rather continue in your own vomit, the outcome will be a personal scorched earth.

(5) It's not possible!

(a) If you "fall away" it is because you were never part of the fold in the first place!

(6) The Point of No Return

(a) At some point, your insistent rebellion will land you in a situation in which there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins!

(b) As the fire rained down and scorched the earth of Sodom and Gomorrah, there were two options. Look straight ahead into the future, or look back at a life of pollution and doing the will of the pagans (or your own will-SAME THING!). Lot's wife chose to look back and she was incinerated into a pile of mineral salts, about \$7.00 worth!

B. Make a Choice!

(1) Choose today whom you will serve!

- (a) You have your old life back there (being incinerated) with all your sins and idols. And you have your new life ahead of you with Yahweh! Choose! And while you are at it...
- (b) Help your friends join you. Do whatever you can to stop them from looking back!
- (2) It's actually how you demonstrate true love for them...
 - (a) We all love to quote the wonderful Bible verse, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*" But we never consider how the Bible teaches us to do so! Don't stand by and watch them sin and do nothing about it. That would be the opposite of loving your brother!
- (3) All things considered...
 - (a) What manner of persons ought you to be?
 - (b) What things? A Scorched Earth!

C. Time to Make a Choice! ONLY ONE QUESTION TODAY!

- (1) The following declaration is included in this study in lieu of the section on questions and discussion.
- (2) This declaration is your assignment.
- (3) Contemplate all you just studied and make a choice.
- (4) If you are ALL IN with God, then sign it.
- (5) If you are not willing to sign it, that says all you need to know!

Scorched Earth Declaration and Seal

You raised me up Yahweh, from the ashes. And for that I owe you my complete and uncompromising gratitude.

Today I declare I am available to You, to be Your mouth, Your hands, Your feet, Your every resource, even Your blood, if that's what it takes.

Even if I spend the rest of my days suffering to bring You glory, it could not touch the magnitude of my appreciation.

I can't even imagine what it will be like to enter into Your glorious presence and worship you forever, to dance before You, and to stand in awe of You.

I will spend every day of my life, from this day forward, pursuing what it takes to live a life worthy of such honor.

Initial & Sign if you agree...

No more compromise! _____

No more holding back! _____

No more regrets! _____

No more comparison! _____

No more options! _____

A seal of Affirmation in His Blood, this Date _____.

Name Printed: _____

Signed: _____ Seal:

