

~TRAP (336)

.. Figurative Or Illustrative Use

- **A means or device for catching an animal, usually having a snare or spring that, when triggered, seizes, imprisons, or kills the animal.**
- **As a rule, it is hidden, camouflaged, or disguised in some manner so as to deceive the victim, bait is often used. A number of different Hebrew words are rendered variously as, trap, snare, and net.**
- **Keep me from the clutches of the **trap** that they have laid for me and from the snares of those practicing what is hurtful. (Psalms 141:9)**
- **The wicked will fall into their own **nets** all together, while I, for my part, pass by. (Psalms 141:10)**
- **Though the Bible does not provide detailed descriptions of the kinds of animal **traps** and snares used in ancient times, passages such as,**
- **For he will indeed be let go into a **net** by his feet, and onto a network he will walk. (Job 18:8)**
- **A **trap** will seize him by the heel, a snare keeps hold upon him. (Job 18:9)**
- **A cord for him is hidden on the earth, and a **catching device** for him on his pathway. (Job 18:10)**
- **He keeps **lying in wait** in the **concealed place** like a lion in his covert. He keeps lying in wait to carry off some afflicted one by force. He carries off the afflicted one by force when he draws his net shut. (Psalms 10:9)**
- **The self-exalted ones have hidden a **trap** for me, and ropes they have spread out as a **net** at the side of the track. Snares they have set for me. (Psalms 140:5)**
- **Let a cry be heard out of their houses, when you bring upon them suddenly a marauder band. For they have excavated a pit to capture me, and **traps** they have hid for my feet. (Jeremiah**

18:22)

- Give a general idea of how some of these were employed. For information regarding their construction and use.

See Also BIRDCATCHER

See Also HUNTING AND FISHING

•• Figurative Or Illustrative Use

- As they bring captivity, harm, or death to animals caught in them, **snare**s and **traps** can represent causes of loss of freedom, or calamity, ruin, or death.
- Thus, after Moses announced the coming of a severe locust plague on Egypt, Pharaoh's servants asked; How long will this man prove to be as a **snare** to us?
- After that Pharaoh's servants said to him; How long will this man prove to be as a **snare** to us? Send the men away that they may serve Yehowah their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt has perished? (**Exodus 10:7**)
- The previous plagues had all come at the announcement of Moses, and therefore, he had proved to be as a **snare**, that is, a **cause of calamity or ruin to the Egyptians**.
- So that they would not fall into the **trap** of idolatry, Yehowah repeatedly warned the Israelites about allowing the Canaanites to remain in the Promised Land.
- You are not to conclude a covenant with them or their gods. (**Exodus 23:32**)
- They should not dwell in your land, that they may not cause you to sin against me. In case you should serve their gods, it would become a **snare** to you. (**Exodus 23:33**)
- Watch yourself that you do not conclude a covenant with the inhabitants of the land to which you are going, for fear it may prove itself a **snare** in your midst. (**Exodus 34:12**)
- And you must consume all the peoples whom Yehowah your God is giving to you. Your eye must not feel sorry for them, and you

must not serve their gods, because that will be a **snare** to you. (Deuteronomy 7:16)

- The graven images of their gods you should burn in the fire. You must not desire the silver and the gold upon them, nor indeed take it for yourself, for fear you may be **ensnared** by it, for it is a thing detestable to Yehowah your God. (Deuteronomy 7:25)
- You should positively know that Yehowah your God will not continue to dispossess these nations on your account, and they must become to you as a **trap** and as a **snare** and as a **scourge** on your flanks and as **thorns** in your eyes until you have perished off this good ground that Yehowah your God has given you. (Joshua 23:13)
- Idolatry was a **trap**, or an insidious cause of calamity, for the Israelites in that it resulted in their losing Yehowah's favor and protection and led to oppression and restraint at the hands of their enemies. It was also deceptive, was baited with the pretense of bringing benefits and pleasures.
- And for your part, you must not conclude a covenant with the inhabitants of this land. Their altars you should pull down. But you have not listened to my voice. Why have you done this? (Judges 2:2)
- So I, in turn, have said; I shall not drive them away from before you, and they must become **snare**s to you, and their gods will serve as a lure to you. (Judges 2:3)
- And the sons of Israel fell to doing what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah and serving the Baals. (Judges 2:11)
- Thus they abandoned Yehowah the God of their fathers who had brought them out of the land of Egypt and went following other gods from among the gods of the peoples who were all around them and they began bowing down to them, so that they offended Yehowah. (Judges 2:12)
- Thus they abandoned Yehowah and took up serving Baal and the Ashtoreth images. (Judges 2:13)
- At this Yehowah's anger blazed against Israel, so that he gave them into the hands of the pillagers, and they began to pillage

them, and he proceeded to sell them into the hand of their enemies round about, and they were no longer able to stand before their enemies. (**Judges 2:14**)

- Everywhere that they went out, the hand of Yehowah proved to be against them for calamity, just as Yehowah had spoken and just as Yehowah had sworn to them, and they got to be in very sore straits. (**Judges 2:15**)
- So Yehowah would raise up judges, and they would save them out of the hand of their pillagers. (**Judges 2:16**)
- And Gideon proceeded to make it into an ephod and to exhibit it in his city Ophrah, and all Israel began to have immoral intercourse with it there, so that it served as a snare to Gideon and to his household. (**Judges 8:27**)
- Similarly, King Saul used his daughter Michal in a scheme, saying; I shall give her to David that she may serve as a **snare** to him.
- And Gideon proceeded to make it into an ephod and to exhibit it in his city Ophrah, and all Israel began to have immoral intercourse with it there, so that it served as a snare to Gideon and to his household. (**Judges 8:27**)
- Saul secretly hoped that David would lose his life in the venturesome exploit needed to obtain a hundred foreskins of the Philistines to give to the king instead of **marriage money**.
- At that Saul said; This is what you men will say to David, The king has delight, not in marriage money, but in a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to avenge himself on the enemies of the king. But as for Saul, he had schemed to have David fall by the hand of the Philistines. (**1 Samuel 18:25**)
- Another feature of **traps** alluded to in figurative terms is the speed with which they can operate, catching one unawares. The fall of Babylon to the Medes and Persians, for example, came so suddenly and unexpectedly that it was as if Yehowah had sprung a **snare** or **trap** on her.
- I have laid a snare for you and you have also been caught, O Babylon, and you yourself did not know it. You were found and also taken hold of, for it was against Yehowah that you excited

yourself. (**Jeremiah 50:24**)

- But pay attention to yourselves that your hearts never become weighed down with overeating and heavy drinking and anxieties of life, and suddenly that day be instantly upon you (**Luke 21:34**)
- As a **snare**. For it will come in upon all those dwelling upon the face of all the earth. (**Luke 21:35**)
- An individual must carefully examine and be cautious about what he vows or guarantees to do so that he does not find himself **trapped** in a situation from which escape may be difficult or virtually impossible.
- My son, if you have gone surety for your fellowman, if you have given your handshake even to the stranger. (**Proverbs 6:1**)
- If you have been **ensnared** by the sayings of your mouth, if you have been caught by the sayings of your mouth. (**Proverbs 6:2**)
- Take this action then, my son, and deliver yourself, for you have come into the palm of your fellowman. Go humble yourself and storm your fellowman with importunities. (**Proverbs 6:3**)
- It is a snare when earthling man has rashly cried out; Holy! And after vows he is disposed to make examination. (**Proverbs 20:25**)
- **Companionship with a person given to fits of anger** can cause one to become just like him. This is a **snare**, for it leads to entanglement in quarrels, ruinous complications, and sin.
- Do not have companionship with anyone given to anger, and with a man having fits of rage you must not enter in. (**Proverbs 22:24**)
- That you may not get familiar with his paths and certainly take a snare for your soul. (**Proverbs 22:25**)
- Do not be misled. Bad associations spoil useful habits. (**1 Corinthians 15:33**)
- On the other hand, fear of God and striving to keep His way aids the wise one to avoid being enticed into wrongdoing, such as involvement with prostitutes, that might become a **trap** leading to death.

- The Law of the wise one is a source of life, to turn one away from the snares of death. (**Proverbs 13:14**)
- The fear of Yehowah is a well of life, to turn away from the snares of death. (**Proverbs 14:27**)
- For as a honeycomb the lips of a strange woman keep dripping, and her palate is smoother than oil. (**Proverbs 5:3**)
- But the aftereffect from her is as bitter as wormwood, it is as sharp as a two-edged sword. (**Proverbs 5:4**)
- Her feet are descending to death. Her very steps take hold on Sheol itself. (**Proverbs 5:5**)
- The path of life she does not contemplate. Her tracks have wandered she does not know where. (**Proverbs 5:6**)
- So now, O sons, listen to me and do not turn away from the sayings of my mouth. (**Proverbs 5:7**)
- Keep your way far off from alongside her, and do not get near to the entrance of her house. (**Proverbs 5:8**)
- She has misled him by the abundance of her persuasiveness. By the smoothness of her lips she seduces him. (**Proverbs 7:21**)
- All of a sudden he is going after her, like a bull that comes even to the slaughter, and just as if fettered for the discipline of a foolish man. (**Proverbs 7:22**)
- Until an arrow cleaves open his liver, just as a bird hastens into the **trap**, and he has not known that it involves his very soul. (**Proverbs 7:23**)
- In the **First Century C.E.**, some Christians, attracted by the allurement of riches, fell into a **snare** that brought spiritual ruin.
- However, those who are determined to be rich fall into temptation and a snare and many senseless and hurtful desires, which plunge men into destruction and ruin. (**1 Timothy 6:9**)
- For the love of money is a root of all sorts of injurious things, and

by reaching out for this love some have been led astray from the faith and have stabbed themselves all over with many pains. (**1 Timothy 6:10**)

- Others are said to have fallen into **the snare of the Devil**. Evidently this means that they had been misled and had deviated from the truth and thus had become victims of the Adversary.
- was urged to instruct such persons with mildness so that they might come to their senses and repent, thereby getting free from the Devil's **snare**.
- Further, turn down foolish and ignorant questionings, knowing they produce fights. (**2 Timothy 2:23**)
- But a slave of the Lord does not need to fight, but needs to be gentle toward all, qualified to teach, keeping himself restrained under evil. (**2 Timothy 2:24**)
- Instructing with mildness those not favorably disposed, as perhaps God may give them repentance leading to an accurate knowledge of truth. (**2 Timothy 2:25**)
- And they may come back to their proper senses out from the snare of the Devil, seeing that they have been caught alive by him for the will of that one. (**2 Timothy 2:26**)
- Just as I encouraged you to stay in Ephesus when I was about to go my way into Macedonia, so I do now, that you might command certain ones not to teach different doctrine. (**1 Timothy 1:3**)
- Nor to pay attention to false stories and to genealogies, which end up in nothing, but which furnish questions for research rather than a dispensing of anything by God in connection with faith. (**1 Timothy 1:4**)
- But shun foolish questionings and genealogies and strife and fights over the Law, for they are unprofitable and futile. (**Titus 3:9**)
- Though it is common for schemers to try to **trap an innocent person**, Yehowah can reverse things and rain down upon the wicked ones traps, fire and sulphur.

- He will rain down upon the wicked ones **traps**, fire and sulphur and a scorching wind, as the portion of their cup. (**Psalm 11:6**)
- He can **trap** them, **cutting off all means of escape**, and then execute judgment upon them.
- Now as for the times and the seasons, brothers, you need nothing to be written to you. (**1 Thessalonians 5:1**)
- For you yourselves know quite well that Yehowah's day is coming exactly as a thief in the night. (**1 Thessalonians 5:2**)
- Whenever it is that they are saying; Peace and security! Then sudden destruction is to be instantly upon them just as the pang of distress upon a pregnant woman, and **they will by no means escape**. (**1 Thessalonians 5:3**)