

Two Great Evils

Jeremiah 2:13

INTRODUCTION

1. About 600 years before Christ, the nation of Judah was facing difficult times...
 - a. The northern kingdom of Israel was history, taken into Assyrian captivity
 - b. **Manasseh** and his son **Amnon**, very wicked kings, had led the nation into idolatry
 - c. Young **Josiah**, son and grandson of such kings, struggled to do what was right

2. In the thirteenth year of Josiah's reign, God called a young priest to be His prophet...
 - a. His name was **Jeremiah** - **Jeremiah 1:1-2, 4-5**
 - b. A young man himself (about 20), he was hesitant to speak - **Jeremiah 1:6**
 - c. God did not accept his youth as an excuse - **Jeremiah 1:7-8**

3. In his first assignment as God's prophet, Jeremiah was sent with a message to...
 - a. Jerusalem, recalling their past faithfulness - **Jeremiah 2:1-3**
 - b. The house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel, bemoaning their apostasy into idolatry - **Jeremiah 2:4-11**

4. Calling for the heavens to look on in astonishment and great fear, as God accused His people of committing two great evils... - **Jeremiah 2:12-13**
 - a. **Forsaking their God, the fountain of living waters**
 - 1) "living water" was used to denote springs, fountains, running streams
 - 2) As opposed to stale and stagnant water
 - b. **Hewing for themselves broken cisterns that can hold no water**
 - 1) Cisterns were tanks for rain water, hewn (cut) out of stone
 - 2) At best, they could only offer stagnant water
 - 3) Broken with cracks, they could not even retain water

[Could we be guilty of similar evils today? To God's dismay and our own peril, very much so! To see how, let's examine closer the "Two Great Evils" spoken of in **Jeremiah 2:13...**]

I. FORSAKING THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS

A. ISRAEL FORSOOK HER FOUNTAIN...

1. God was Israel's fountain of living waters
 - a. Who delivered her from Egyptian bondage - **Jeremiah 2:6**
 - b. Who led her through the wilderness wanderings - **Jeremiah 2:6**
 - c. Who brought her into the land of milk and honey - **Jeremiah 2:7**
 2. Israel forgot her God
 - a. Beginning with her own priests and rulers - **Jeremiah 2:8**
 - b. From one generation to the next - **Jeremiah 2:9**
 - c. Unlike other nations that were true to their gods - **Jeremiah 2:10-11a**
- Israel had changed their Glory (God) into that which did not profit! - **Jeremiah 2:11b**

B. DARE WE FORSAKE OUR FOUNTAIN...?

1. We have our fountain of living waters
 - a. Of which Jesus promised during His ministry
 - 1) To the Samaritan woman - **John 4:13-14**
 - 2) To all who believe in Him - **John 7:37-39**
 - c. Of which Jesus later revealed to the apostle John
 - 1) Regarding our state between death and the resurrection - **Revelation 7:13-17**
 - 2) Regarding our eternal destiny in the New Jerusalem - **Revelation 22:1**
 2. Dare we forget our God?
 - a. Who through Jesus and His Spirit offers to us **in this life**:
 - 1) A fountain springing up into everlasting life? - **John 4:14**
 - 2) Rivers of living water flowing from our hearts? - **John 7:38**
 - b. Who through Jesus and His Spirit promises to us **after this life**:
 - 1) To lead us to living fountains of water? - **Revelation 7:17**
 - 2) A pure river of water of life, proceeding from the throne of God? - **Revelation 22:1**
- We face a very real possibility of departing from the living God! - **Hebrews 3:12-14**

[Forsaking our fountain of living water occurs when we substitute with it "broken cisterns" that promise but do not deliver. Consider what Judah had done...]

II. HEWING CISTERNS THAT HOLD NO WATER

A. ISRAEL HAD HER BROKEN CISTERNS...

1. False gods like Baal - **Jeremiah 2:8**
 2. False prophets who spoke in the name of Baal - **Jeremiah 2:8**
 3. False sense of prosperity, of which God forewarned - **Deuteronomy 8:11-17; cf. Jeremiah 2:6**
- **Israel foolishly left God for what were poor substitutes!**

B. ARE WE HEWING BROKEN CISTERNS...?

1. We can be guilty of going after false gods today - cf. **Ephesians 5:5; Colossians 3:5**
 - a. Such as materialism and immorality
 - b. Which is a form of idolatry
 2. We can be guilty of heeding false prophets (teachers) - cf. **2 Peter 2:1-3**
 - a. Who lead us into denominationalism or sectarianism
 - b. Contrary to Jesus' prayer and the unity of the Spirit - cf. **John 17:20-21; Ephesians 4:3-6**
 - c. Others who offer false hopes: e.g., new agers, false religions, get rich quick schemers
 3. We can be guilty of a false sense of prosperity - cf. **Revelation 3:17-18**
 - a. Believing we are spiritually secure
 - b. When we are in grave danger of falling - cf. **1 Corinthians 10:12**
- **We can be guilty of leaving God for a poor substitute of true religion!**

CONCLUSION

1. **Adam Clarke**, in his commentary, describes the two evils committed by Israel...
 - a. "First, they forsook God, the Fountain of life, light, prosperity, and happiness."
 - b. "Secondly, they hewed out broken cisterns; they joined themselves to idols, from whom they could receive neither temporal nor spiritual good! Their conduct was the excess of folly and blindness."
2. How much more would it be an excess of folly and blindness for us today...
 - a. To forsake God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, by neglecting our devotion and obedience to the Word of God!

- b. To spend more time drinking from "broken cisterns" (teachings and traditions of men), than from the fountain of living water (the living Word of God)

May the unfortunate example of Judah serve as a warning as to where get our "water", and may we ever be open to the wonderful invitation extended at the end of the book of Revelation:

"And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely." (Revelation 22:17)

Are you drinking from **"the water of life"**, or from **"broken cisterns that can hold no water"**...?

两件恶事

Two Great Evils

耶利米书 2:13

引论

1. 在基督降生 600 多年前，犹太国面临着重重困难时期
 - a. 北方以色列国已经成为了历史，被亚述人俘虏
 - b. **玛拿西** 和他的儿子**亚们**，这两位邪恶的国王，领着整个国家拜偶像
 - c. 年轻的**约西亚**，这样两个王的儿子和孙子，奋力去做正确的事
2. 约西亚在位第十三年，神呼召一位年轻的祭司作神的先知
 - a. 他的名字叫**耶利米** - **耶 1:1-2, 4-5**
 - b. 他本人也很年轻(大约 20 来岁)，他犹豫不知怎么说 - **耶 1:6**
 - c. 神并没有接受让他拿年轻作为理由 - **耶 1:7-8**
3. 耶利米作为神的先知接收到的第一个任务是被派去传讲信息
 - a. 给耶路撒冷，让他们想起他们以前的忠心 - **耶 2:1-3**
 - b. 给雅各家以及以色列家的各族，让他们为他们离弃了真道去拜偶像而哀哭 - **耶 2:4-11**
4. 他要诸天战栗恐惧地观看，因为神要指控他的百姓犯下了两件恶事 - **耶 2:12-13**
 - a. **离弃了他们的神，这活水的泉源**
 - 1) “活水”被用来指泉源，喷泉，流淌的溪水
 - 2) 与污浊不流动的水相对
 - b. **为他们自己凿出池子，是破裂不能存水的池子**
 - 1) 池子 (Cisterns) 是用来盛雨水的槽子，用石头凿成
 - 2) 它们最多也就是提供些污浊的水
 - 3) 因为有裂缝，他们连雨水都存不住

[我们今天也会犯下类似的罪行吗？令神伤心的是，令我们感到危险的是，我们真的可能在犯类似的罪行！要想看看究竟，首先还是来仔细察看一下**耶利米书 2:13** 中讲到的这“**两件恶事**”——]

I. 离弃活水的泉源

A. 以色列离弃了她的泉源

1. 神是以色列的活水之泉源
 - a. 他救她脱离埃及的捆绑 - **耶 2:6**

- b. 他带领她在旷野中行走 - 耶 2:6
- c. 他带她进入留着奶和蜜的地方 - 耶 2:7
- 2. 以色列忘记了她的神
 - a. 从她自己的祭司和首领们开始 - 耶 2:8
 - b. 一代接着一代 - 耶 2:9
 - c. 虽然偶像不是真神，但没有任何国家像她那样更换过它的神明 - 耶 2:10-11a
- 以色列将他们的荣耀（神）换了那无益的神！ - 耶 2:11b

B. 我们也敢离弃我们的泉源吗？

- 1. 我们有我们的活水泉源
 - a. 它是耶稣在传道时所应许的
 - 1) 给撒玛利亚那位妇人的应许 - 约 4:13-14
 - 2) 给所有信他之人的应许 - 约 7:37-39
 - c. 耶稣后来将它显明给使徒约翰
 - 1) 有关我们处于死亡与复活之间的状态 - 启 7:13-17
 - 2) 有关我们在新耶路撒冷的永恒归宿 - 启 22:1
- 2. 我们敢忘记我们的神吗？
 - a. 他藉着耶稣和圣灵在我们的今生为我们赐下了：
 - 1) 直涌到永生的泉源 - 约 4:14
 - 2) 从我们心中流出的活水的江河 - 约 7:38
 - b. 他藉着耶稣和圣灵为我们的来生的赐下应许：
 - 1) 要领我们到生命水的泉源 - 启 7:17
 - 2) 一道明亮的生命水的河，从上帝和羔羊的宝座流出来 - 启 22:1
- 我们面临着真实存在的可能，可能会离弃永生神！ - 来 3:12-14

[离弃了活水的泉源，用看似能装水其实却不能的“破裂池子”取而代之。想想犹太国都做了些什么——]

II. 凿那不能存水的池子

A. 以色列有她破裂的池子

- 1. 像巴力这样的假神 - 耶 2:8
- 2. 像以巴力的名说话的假先知们 - 耶 2:8
- 3. 对富足有着错误的认识，神对此有过预先警告 - 申 8:11-17； 参见. 耶 2:6
- 以色列糊涂地离开了神换上了糟糕的替代品！

B. 我们在凿破裂的池子吗？

- 1. 我们可能因跟从错误的神明而有罪 - 参见. 弗 5:5； 西 3:5
 - a. 比如实利主义与道德败坏

- b. 它们也是一种拜偶像的形式
 - 2. 我们可能因为留心听假先知（假教师）的话而有罪
 - 参见. **彼后 2:1-3**
 - a. 这些人引我们进入宗教派别
 - b. 与耶稣的祷告和圣灵的合一相违背
 - 参见. **约 17:20-21; 弗 4:3-6**
 - c. 其他一些给出错误盼望的人：例如，提倡新纪元运动者，虚假宗教，快速发财策划者
 - 3. 我们可能因为对富足有着错误的认识而有罪 - 参见. **启 3:17-18**
 - a. 相信我们在灵命上是安全的
 - b. 但可能我们正处于跌倒的极大危险中 - 参见. **林前 10:12**
- 我们可能因离开神换上了糟糕的宗教替代品而有罪！

结论

1. **Adam Clarke** 在他的评论中描述了以色列人犯下的两件恶事：
 - a. “第一，他们离弃了神，离弃了生命的泉源，光明，富足，和欢喜。”
 - b. “第二，他们凿破裂的池子；他们与偶像为伍，从偶像那里他们既得不到短暂的好处，更得不到属灵的好处！他们的行为太过愚昧糊涂了。”
2. 对于今天的我们而言，我们离愚昧糊涂究竟有多远呢？
 - a. 不在于我们对神的忠心，忽视对神话语的遵循，这就是在离弃神，离弃耶稣，离弃圣灵
 - b. 花更多的时间从“破裂的池子”（人的教导和传统）中取水喝，而不是从活水的泉源（永生神的话语）取来喝

犹太国有很多不幸的例子告诫着我们应该去哪里取“水”，但愿我们会愿意去接受《启示录》这卷书中最后给出的邀请：

“圣灵和新妇都说：‘来！’听见的人也该说：‘来！’口渴的人也当来；愿意的，都可以白白取生命的水喝。”（启 22:17）

你是在喝“生命的水”，还是在从“破裂不能存水的池子”取水喝呢？