

Broken Cisterns

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Jeremiah 2:11-13, "Hath a nation changed their gods, which are yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit. Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the Lord. For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

The Lord speaks here of broken cisterns. He is not talking of the underground tanks made for holding rainwater, but is giving a spiritual illustration. The nation had turned from the living God to worship man-made idols. This is why he said that they had forsaken the fountain of living waters. Just as in the physical world it is much better to have a fountain of living waters, rather than an underground tank for storing water. How much better in the spiritual

realm to have the source of life instead of a poor man-made copy?

God led his people and gave them victory over their enemies, fed them in the wilderness and blessed them. When they entered the promised land he continued to take care of them and yet they turned to the idols of other nations. These idols were the broken cisterns that he spoke of. A broken cistern was useless, just like the idols that they worshipped.

The idols were made by some man, and as such, they could only move when someone carried them, they could not speak, see, think, or do either good, or evil. **Psalms 115:4-8**, "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them."

These idols made the worshipper feel that he had something to trust in, but it was a material object, not a living god. It gave only a

false hope. Most of the so-called gods that I have heard about catered to the desires of the flesh. Satan enticed men into the worship of these to turn them from the true God. To many, then and now, it is more appealing to the flesh to do what one wants to do, instead of what God says to do.

Denominations that tell a person that he can do as he wants and still be alright with God offer the same type of hope. It may cause a person to trust in a way that man says is alright, but it is not of God. Anything that is not of God will not stand, but is doomed to fail. Anyone should know better than to think that they can undo God's word, or change it in any way. There are those who will accept it because it sounds good to the person who wants to go his own way.

Any place that you read in the bible will show that those who did what they wanted instead of obeying God suffered for their sins. Your way, my way, or any way that is not of God leads only to destruction. God's way is the only way that leads to life and heaven. A cistern, especially a broken one, doesn't begin to compare to the fountain of living waters.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

JACOB'S TOIL

LABAN, HAVING CAUGHT UP WITH JACOB, HAS NOW ACCUSED HIM OF STEALING HIS LITTLE GODS OF SILVER AND GOLD...

WHEREFORE HAST THOU STOLEN MY GODS?

SEARCH THOU MY TENTS! WITH WHOMSOEVER THOU FINDEST THY GODS - LET HIM NOT LIVE!

AND JACOB DOES NOT KNOW THAT RACHEL HAS TAKEN THE GODS OF HER FATHER AS A PART OF HER INHERITANCE...

WOULD I STEAL THY GODS?!

WHILE THEY YET SEARCH THE OTHER TENTS, I WILL HIDE THE GODS IN THE SADDLE OF MY CAMEL!

IN A SHORT WHILE...

THOU HAST SEARCHED MY TENT, AND LEAH'S TENT, AND THE TENTS OF THE SERVANTS AND FOUND NOT THY GODS!

THERE IS YET RACHEL'S TENT TO SEARCH!

THINKEST THOU TO FIND THY STOLEN GODS IN THE TENT OF THY DAUGHTER RACHEL?!

JOHN LEHTI

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