

“Forsaking the Fountain for the Cistern”
Jeremiah 2:9-13, (v. 13)

Introduction: As we come to the second chapter of Jeremiah, we notice that he is painting ten pictures that expose the sins of the nation of Israel. In doing this he gives a good illustration of the spiritual character and condition of the people in his day. Notice some of the problems of the nation:

1. An Unfaithful Wife 2:1-8
2. Broken Cisterns 2:9-13
3. A Plundered Slave 2:14-19
4. A Stubborn Animal 2:20
5. A Degenerate Vine 2:21
6. A Defiled Body 2:22
7. An Animal in the Desert 2:23-25
8. A Disgraced Thief 2:26-28
9. Children That Cannot Be Corrected 2:29-35
10. Prisoners of War 2:36-37

Body: In the picture found in verse thirteen we see the Israelites rejecting the fountain of God for the cisterns of the world. A cistern is an artificial reservoir or receptacle for holding water. Israel was abandoning a spring of fresh flowing water for a cracked muddy cistern that couldn't hold water. In the Holy Land, water is a valuable possession, and nobody would do a foolish thing like that. However, the Israelites were doing such a thing. In pointing this problem out to them, Jeremiah further describes the cistern. Notice:

- I. The Flavor of the Cistern
 - A. The water in the cistern tastes lousy. It is a brackish, stale, and bitter taste.
 - B. On the other hand, the fountain of water is tasteful and refreshing. You will not have a bad taste in your mouth after drinking from the well.
 - C. If you choose the world over the things of God you will wake up the next morning with a bad taste in your mouth. The world gives a bitter taste instead of a blessed taste.
- II. The Filthiness of the Cistern
 - A. The water from a cistern comes from a run-off of the ground or from the roof of a house. This makes cistern water filthy, for all the filth of the ground and roof are washed into the cistern.
 - B. As the water sits in the cistern, it breeds bacteria and fills the cistern with a host of harmful germs. Those who drink cistern water become sick in a hurry.
 - C. Fountain water, in contrast, is pure water.
 - D. Jeremiah 17:13- *“O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.”*

E. The fountain of living waters is cooling and refreshing, cleansing and fructifying; it quickens dead sinners, revives drooping saints, supports and maintains spiritual life, and issues out eternal life because it is perpetual and ever flowing.

III. The Failure of the Cistern 2:13

A. Cistern water does not last long, especially when it is broken. How like the world! It fails to satisfy. Its pleasures run out quickly.

B. Hebrews 11:25- *“Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season”*

C. The fountain water keeps bubbling up more and more water. Christ will always satisfy!

D. Psalms 16:11- *“Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”*

Conclusion: With all that the Lord has to offer His children, why do we seek the world for pleasure instead of the lovely Lord Jesus Christ? May we leave this world behind and pursue after the Lord with all our heart!