

Broken Cisterns

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Pastor Adam Tracht · AM Service

Text: [Jeremiah 2:1–13](#)

"They have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." — [Jeremiah 2:13](#)

Many of us are dying of thirst even though Jesus promises living water that never runs dry. In the days of Jeremiah, Israel had the very same problem — and it destroyed the nation. Today we look at how they got there, what they experienced, God's promise in the midst of it, how it relates to us, and how we get out of it.

1. THE DECEPTION OF BROKEN CISTERNS

Israel committed a two-part sin: they forsook God as their source of life and replaced Him with idols. The same God who brought them into a land they didn't earn, into houses they didn't build, was abandoned for false gods. They even continued worshipping in the temple, believing it would save them — all while practicing idolatry. When we seek life apart from God, we always come up empty.

"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." — [Jeremiah 2:13](#)

"...when thou shalt have eaten and be full; then beware lest thou forget the Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage." — [Deuteronomy 6:11–12](#)

"...the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger." — [Jeremiah 7:18](#)

"Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery... and come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name?" — [Jeremiah 7:9–10](#)

2. THE INVITATION OF THE LIVING WATER

The human heart is an idol factory — turning good things like career, relationships, and possessions into ultimate things. Even the good things leak. Money, success, entertainment, relationships, approval, popularity — none can satisfy. But God promises mercy and restoration to those who return to Him. Roughly 600 years after Jeremiah, Jesus Christ Himself stood beside a well as the Living Water, offering true life to all people, in all places, for all time.

"Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord." — [Jeremiah 3:12](#)

"If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the Lord, return unto me... Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns." — [Jeremiah 4:1–3](#)

3. THE JOURNEY BACK TO THE FOUNTAIN

Like the Samaritan woman at the well, many of us run from one broken cistern to the next – a new relationship, a new possession, a new achievement – searching for what only Jesus can provide. We must till up the hard ground in our hearts: dig up our idols, repent, and cast them out completely and permanently. Before pouring in new water from the spring, we must forsake the broken cistern – not mix the two together.

"Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: but whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." – [John 4:13-14](#)

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul." – [Psalm 23:1-3](#)

– **Conclusion** –

God is calling you back to Himself – to Jesus, the Fountain of Living Water.

"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me... streams of living water will flow from within him." – [John 7:37-38](#)

Will you cast off your idols? Will you return to the foot of the cross and be set free? Will you find your life in Him alone?

Personal Takeaways

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