

Life-Study of Jeremiah Summary – Messages 6 to 10

Israel's Sin Against Jehovah and Jehovah's Punishment Upon Israel

Jer 2:13 – For My people have committed two evils:/They have forsaken Me,/The fountain of living waters,/To hew out for themselves cisterns,/Broken cisterns,/Which hold no water.

The first evil of Israel was to **forsake Jehovah**, the fountain of living waters. Israel walked after vanity, and they themselves became vain; they **worshipped idols and as a result they made themselves nothing**. Israel also forgot Jehovah, who brought them up from Egypt through the wilderness of deserts and the shadow of death and brought them into the land of the fruited field. In forsaking Jehovah, the fountain of living waters, **God's people were like Jehovah's wife committing fornication with many lovers**. Such was the sinful condition of Israel.

Israel's second evil was the **hew out for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns**, which hold no water. The word about cisterns is a figure of speech portraying **Israel's toil in making something to replace God** as the fountain of living waters. Israel chose many idols, which are of no benefit, to replace the unique God, who is their glory.

Jer 3:12 – Go and proclaim these words to the north, and say,/Return, O Israel the apostate, declares Jehovah;/And I will not let My countenance fall toward you;/For I am merciful, declares Jehovah;/I will not keep *My anger* forever.

Jehovah sent His prophet to call to the north and ask Israel, His apostate wife, to **return and acknowledge her iniquity**. In asking Israel to return, Jehovah promised that He would not drop His countenance on her, to take her and bring her back to Zion, and to give her shepherds according to his own heart. A revival was also promised to Israel by Jehovah.

Chapter 5 of Jeremiah is Jehovah the Husband's further complaint against Israel the wife's wickednesses in detail. These details show that she not only broke the first four commandments as shown in chapters 2-4, but even the last five commandments of the law. **Not only the commandments but even the ordinances were not followed by Israel**. Even though they were sinful, they would not receive God's correction, they did not tremble before Jehovah.

Chapter 6 describes Jehovah the Husband's determination in correcting His wife. On the one hand, Jehovah would bring **evil, calamity**, upon Israel; on the other hand, He would set up **stumbling blocks** before the people in order to stumble them. Her actions were evil, and God's punishment was His reaction to these evil actions.

In chapters 7-10 we see Israel's hypocritical worship to Jehovah. Israel trusted in the house called by Jehovah's name, which had become a den of robbers in their eyes. **This indicates that their worship to God had altogether become a falsehood**. Israel's worship to Jehovah was also a worship in vanity and as hypocritical worshippers of God, Israel committed many evils. Israel was corrupt with God and with one another; they were corrupt in every way.

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