

BROKEN CISTERN

During the restoration of the temple, the lost Book of the Law (Deuteronomy) was discovered (2 Chron.34).

The Book of Deuteronomy was kept besides the Ark of the Covenant in the temple. Therefore it was also called the Book of the Covenant (2 Chron.34:30; 2 Kings 23:1-3).

Moses placed the Book of Deuteronomy there as a witness against national reversionism (Deut.31:24-26) read. Jeremiah will describe this national reversionism as BROKEN CISTERN in Jer.2:11-18.

The cistern (bor) was a receptacle for holding water. Water was collected and stored for the dry season in Judah (May-Sept). When the pit or well was nearly empty, the bottom could still be deep with mud.

Joseph was thrown into one by his brothers (Gen.37:22-24). Jeremiah was also thrown into one in Jer.38:6-13. Both men were rescued by the grace of God (*Psa.40:1-3 words of encouragement for us!*)

This lesson will study SIX aspects of Judah's national reversionism as the BROKEN CISTERN.

1. Jeremiah described Judah's national reversionism by two sins that brought the Fifth Curse of divine discipline upon the nation (Jer.2:11-18).

“For My people have committed two evils: they have *forsaken Me, the fountain of living water*, to hew for themselves cisterns, *BROKEN CISTERNS, that can hold no water.*” (2:13)

“Because they have forsaken the fountain of living water, even the Lord.” (Jer.17:13b)

Jesus used this same illustration with the Samaritan women at Jacob's well (John 4:7-14). “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you. ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you LIVING WATER. ” (4:10) “*But the water that I give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.*” (4:14b) (John 7:38-39; Isa.44:3; 55:1) Messianic.

Judah had forsaken the fountain of living water (Christ) and hew for themselves broken cisterns (idolatry/ substitutes for Christ/ reverse process reversionism) (Jer.2:27-28).

2. Jeremiah described Judah as a treacherous sister to Israel's faithlessness to divine discipline (Jer.3:6-11).

“And I saw that for all the adulteries of **faithless Israel**, I had sent her away and giving her a writ of divorce, yet **her treacherous sister Judah** did not fear; but she went and was a harlot also.” (3:8)

“And yet in spite of all this her treacherous sister *Judah did not return to Me with all her heart, but rather in deception, declares the Lord.*” (3:10).

3. The five curses of divine discipline (Book of Deuteronomy) upon the priest-nation was based on violation of the Theocracy Constitution (10 Commandments/ Ex.20).

This was especially true for the God side of the 10 Commandments (Ex.20:1-11) last week's lesson / Deut.28:14-15, 36, 45-47, 58-68).

“And do not turn aside from any of the words which I commanded you today, to the right or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them. But it shall come about, if you will not obey the Lord your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today, that all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.” (28:14-15)

“And you shall say to them, ‘this is the nation that did not obey the voice of the Lord their God or accept correction; **truth has perished** and has been cut off from their mouth.’” (Jer.7:28)

4. Divine discipline even the fifth curse was designed to purge the priest-nation of national reversionism (Jer.4:1-4,22; 5:14-31; 7:21-28; 17:5-11, 13; 32:36-44)

“Yet they did not listen or incline their ears, but stiffened their necks in order not to listen or take correction.” (Jer.17:23)

Jesus used this line during His ministry to a reversionistic nation – “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” (Matt.11:15) “He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.” (John 8:47)

“A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.” (Prov.29:1)

5. There is a point of no return from the fifth curse (Jer.2:26-27; 32:30-35; Hos.4:2,16; 2 Kings 23:26-27).

“Why should I pardon you? Your sons have forsaken Me and sworn by those who are not gods. When I had fed them to the full, they committed adultery and trooped to the harlot’s house. They are well-fed lusty horses, each one neighing after his neighbor’s wife. Shall I not punish these people, declares the Lord, and on a nation such as this shall I not avenge Myself?” (Jer.5:7-9)

“And the Lord said, ‘I will remove Judah also from My sight, as I have removed Israel. And I will cast off Jerusalem, this city which I have chosen, and the temple of which I said, ‘My name shall be there.’” (2 Kings 23:27)

6. The divine agency has the responsibility for the spiritual welfare of their nation (Matt.5:13-14, 16).

“Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God.” (Heb.3:12)

Ezekiel was warned of the difficulty of preaching the truth to a reversionistic people (Ezek.2:1-7). This was also demonstrated in the ministry of Jesus (Luke 13:34-35; 20:9-19; 21:20-24) and Stephen (Acts 7:51-8:3).

Jeremiah and Josiah were spared the horrors of the fifth curse of Judah because they never wavered in their faith of the Lord (Jer.39:15-18; 2 Kings 22:18-22).

THEY WERE NOT BROKEN CISTERNS BUT CISTERNS OF THE LIVING WATER OF CHRIST.