**Broken Cisterns**

**Intro.** Jer. 2:13 “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 was commissioned by God to prophecy in one of the bleakest periods of the Jews history. The Northern kingdom had been destroyed because of their sins, and now Judah was on the verge of being destroyed because of their wickedness. They had forsaken God and placed their trust in everything but Him, thus broken cisterns that could hold no water. What is it that you place your trust in.

I. **IDOLS**
   A. Judah had gone after many idols; Baal, Molock, etc.
      1. Exo. 20:2-5 “I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;”
      2. Jer. 16:20 “Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods?”
   B. We often want to make and worship idols.
      1. The cross.
      2. The building.

II. **LEADERS AND THEIR MILITARY MIGHT**
   A. Judah had placed their trust in many nations to deliver them.
      1. Assyria
      2. Egypt; Jer. 37:5-10 “Then Pharaoh’s army was come forth out of Egypt: and when the Chaldeans that besieged Jerusalem heard tidings of them, they departed from Jerusalem. Then came the word of the Lord unto the prophet Jeremiah saying, ‘Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say to the king of Judah, that sent you unto me to inquire of me; Behold, Pharaoh’s army, which is come forth to help you, shall return to Egypt into their own land. And the Chaldeans shall come again, and fight against this city, and take it, and burn it with fire. Thus saith the Lord; deceive not yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans shall surely depart from us: for they shall not depart. For though ye had smitten the whole army of the Chaldeans that fight against you, and there remained but wounded men among them, yet should they rise up every man in his tent, and burn this city with fire.’”
      3. Babylon and others.
   B. They needed to place their trust in God.
      1. Dan. 4:25 “That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.”
      2. Examples of God’s protection
         a. Joshua 6:
            (1) Upon coming to Jericho, God tells them to march around the city one time for six days and on the seventh day seven times.
(2) God caused the walls to fall down flat.

b. Judges 7:
(1) Fighting against the Midianites
(2) Israel had 32,000 men to fight, God said there were too many so told those who were afraid to leave so 22,000 left. Judges 7:2 “And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.”
(3) God said there were still too many, so Gideon gave the 10,000 a test which only 300 passed.
(4) God saved Israel with only the 300 men.

c. 2 Kin. 18-19
(1) Assyria under King Sennacherib had destroyed Samaria (Northern Kingdom) and had now come down to destroy Jerusalem (Southern Kingdom).
(2) In one night God caused 185,000 Assyrians to die and saved Jerusalem.

C. God still controls the world.
1. Rom. 13:1 “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.”
2. We need not put our trust in atomic bombs, missiles, etc.

III. MEN.
A. Jer. 17:5 “Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.” Psa. 146:3-4 “Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.”

B. We often place trust in man instead of God.
1. Councils, synods, and such like.
2. Elders
3. Preachers
4. The Bereans were noble because they did not trust man but searched the Scriptures; Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

IV. MONEY, MATERIAL POSSESSIONS.
A. Surely this has been a plague upon mankind for all generations.
1. Luke 12:16-21 “And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 17And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 18And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. 19And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 21So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”
2. Mat. 19:21-22 “Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.”
But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.”

3. Rev. 3:17 “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”

B. We cannot place trust in material possessions.
1. Mat. 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
2. Mat. 19:23-24 “Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. 24And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.”
3. Eph. 5:5 “For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”

Col. 3:5 “Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:”

V. SELF.
A. Today we pride ourselves in being self sufficient. “I have need of nothing.”
1. Gen. 3:5-6 “For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”
2. Consider the attitude of science.
B. Thus, God warns against pride.
1. Pro. 16:18 “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”
2. Mat. 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”
3. Jam. 4:6-7 “But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”
4. 1 Pet. 5:6 “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:”

VI. GOD.
A. Jer. 17:7 “Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.”
B. The source of living waters.
1. Jer. 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.”
2. Psa. 36:9 “For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.”
3. John 4:10, 13-14 “Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water... 13Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14But 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.”
4. John 6:35 “And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”

C. Our Rock, Strength
1. Deu. 32:4 “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”
2. 2 Sam. 22:3, 31-34 “The God of my rock; in him will I trust: He is my shield, and the Horn Of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.... 31 As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him. 32 For who is God, save the Lord? and who is a rock, save our God? 33 God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect. 34 He maketh my feet like hinds’ feet: and setteth me upon my high places.”
3. Psa. 18:2 “The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”

D. Our Refuge
1. A place of safety
2. Psa. 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”
3. Psa. 71:7 “I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge.”
4. Psa. 91:2 “I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”

E. God will not forsake us.
1. Deu. 31:6, 8 “Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the Lord thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.... 8 And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.”
2. Heb. 13:5 “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

Conclusion: In what or whom do you place your trust? Do you place your trust in broken cisterns or in the only one who can hold that trust, the only true God.