

Jeremiah: A Message of Two Evils

Scripture Focus: [Jeremiah 2:1-13](#)

...for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water. (Jeremiah 2:13)

In the opening verses of this chapter, as it will be elsewhere in the book, Jeremiah told those listening to the words for the first time and those of us reading them today, that this message was not his own. It came from the LORD. Jeremiah used phrases such as “the word of the LORD came to me saying...” and “thus says the LORD” to emphasize the point. To say so was a bold proclamation, but Jeremiah was telling the truth. God had placed God’s words in the mouth of Jeremiah.

What is found in Chapter 2 might be considered a “sampler” of the entire book since the topics surface time and time again. Yehweh has been faithful and loyal, whereas the children of Israel, God’s covenant people, have not.

Jeremiah 2:4-13 gives evidence of God’s faithfulness as well as the unfaithfulness and disobedience of God’s people. Look at the contrast. What do you see? (Note: “Baal” is the Canaanite word for “lord” and is used for the first time here.)

- What characterizes God’s faithfulness? What does it look like?
- What characterizes the disobedience of God’s people?
- Referring to verse 13, what are the two evils?
- What is the significance of contrasting “living water” with the metaphor of a cistern, one that will also leak? Who else spoke of living water and when was it brought up? ([John 4:10-14](#) & [7:37-39](#), [Revelation 7:16-17](#) & [21:6](#).)
- How might we be tempted to be disobedient and unfaithful to God? What are the false gods that might lure us away from our commitment to walk faithfully with and for Jesus Christ?