



# "Consider your ways."

*"...There is a way that leads to destruction (hell)...."*

## ***The Lord's Case against His People***

*Jeremiah 2:1-37 NLT*

***[1] The LORD gave me another message. He said, [2]***

*"Go and shout this message to Jerusalem. This is what the LORD says: 'I remember how eager you were to please me as a young bride long ago, how you loved me and followed me even through the barren wilderness. [3] In those days Israel was holy to the LORD, the first of his children. All who harmed his people were declared guilty, and disaster fell on them. I, the LORD, have spoken!'"*

***[13]*** *"For my people have done two evil things: They have abandoned me- the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all! [14]*

***[19]*** *Your wickedness will bring its own punishment. Your turning from me will shame you. You will see what an evil, bitter thing it is to abandon the LORD your God and not to fear him. I, the Lord, the LORD of Heaven's Armies, have spoken!*

***[20]*** *"Long ago I broke the yoke that oppressed you and tore away the chains of your slavery, but still you said, 'I will not serve you.' On every hill and under every green tree, you have prostituted yourselves by bowing down to idols.*

***[21] But I was the one who planted you, choosing a vine of the purest stock-the very best. How did you grow into this corrupt wild vine? [22] No amount of soap or lye can make you clean. I still see the stain of your guilt. I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!***

# Introduction

In the first chapter, we saw Jeremiah's impressive call and commission. God called him when he was young, probably about twenty years of age. We also know that king Josiah was twenty-or twenty-two years old when God called Jeremiah. So here we have two young men in the land of Israel, the young king and the young prophet.

Jeremiah made it clear that he felt incapable and unworthy of such a calling. He thought that he could not measure up to the office of a prophet, and he offered that as an excuse. God answered him that He would put His words into Jeremiah's mouth. He would be giving God's words, not his own.

**God knew the people had no good answer for their behavior, so here he presents his indictment against Judah. Even pagan nations did not switch out their idol gods for others, yet God's people have exchanged their Glory for useless idols (2:11).**

The Lord describes this ridiculous exchange as a double evil:

- **They had abandoned God, the fountain of living water, and**
- **They have dug cisterns for themselves—cracked cisterns that cannot hold water (2:13). Thirsty people trading a flowing fountain for empty holes.**

*Proverbs 14:12 - There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.*

Friend, we need to remember that there will never be a genuine revival until a real emphasis is placed upon the Word of God.

# Consider your ways

**We appreciate friends who remain true to their commitments and are disappointed with those who fail to keep their promises.**

God was pleased when his people obeyed him initially, and he became angry with them when they refused to keep their commitment to him.

- **Temptations distract us from God.** Think about your original commitment to obey God, and ask yourself if you remain truly devoted to him. *Matthew 26:41 - Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*" P- Luke 22:40 - And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." Ephesians 4: 27 - And give no opportunity to the devil.
  
- **The priests, leaders, and prophets did not ask God for advice:** They ignored their history, their law, their identity, and their purpose. If we have reached the point where we no longer seek God's teaching or direction, we have put up some idol in his place. *Matthew 7:15 - "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.* Matthew 24:24 - For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.
  
- **Spiritual cleansing must reach deep into the heart** - this is a job that God alone can do. We cannot ignore the effects of sin and hope they will go away. Your sin has caused a deep stain that only God can remove if you are willing to let him cleanse you. *1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
  
- **We can begin this process by admitting our sins to God,** asking for his forgiveness, and looking to him for the help we need. *Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*
  
- Let Your living water flow over my soul; Let your Holy Spirit come and take control; Of every situation that has troubled my mind; All my cares and burdens on to you I roll.