

ISRAEL'S TWO EVILS

By Keith Greer

"For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns-broken cisterns that can hold no water." {Jeremiah 2:13}

God's people had committed two grievous sins. First, **they had forsaken Him after God had brought them out of Egypt**. "So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Thus Israel saw the great work which the LORD had done in Egypt; so the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD and His servant Moses." {Exodus 14:30,31}. When they needed food and water God supplied their needs. Exodus 16:4; 17:6-8; Going into the land of promise, God gave them His guarantee of victory over the peoples of the land. "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you." {Joshua 1:5} What did they do in way of showing God their gratitude? They forsook Him! How? By leaving people in the land, making covenants with them, and inter marrying with them. All of which God commanded them not to do.

Second, they had turned to others gods to offer worship. To these they sought for strength, hope, and help. When they came to "quench their thirst at these", they found nothing but a false bottom bucket, which could hold no water"! Leaving the "Living waters," for something which could not compare to that which God was offering. " This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." {Joshua 1:8,9}

All advantages were truly on their side. God had put them in a position to live in a land that "flowed with milk and honey." What a position to be in! What did they do in return for all these gracious favors bestowed upon them by God? God sought only for them to obey Him and love Him. Such simple terms for such wonderful blessings. "That you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. Therefore hear, O Israel, and be careful to observe it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the LORD God of your fathers has promised you-'a land flowing with milk and honey.'" {Deuteronomy 6:2,3}

What is so sad about these lessons of old many of the Lord's people are making the same grievous mistakes. Let me explain.

How do many "forsake" God today? Brethren find time for everything under the sun, except for God: Sports, business, hobbies, and "self-indulgence". In the process, they have "forsaken Him". True, these things are not wrong. Yet, when they come before God, it makes them wrong! Matthew 6:33

Why so much division and apostasy in the church today? Brethren are turning to "others" for guidance in spiritual matters. When men quote men, theology, philosophy, opinions, and traditions, instead of truth, they are looking in "broken cisterns"!

Some years back I was preaching some meetings in the northwest. The church there is in pretty bad shape. Why? Preachers who won't preach truth, and others who will not "preach the whole counsel of God"! Many want "Book, chapter, and verse preaching". Honestly, I believe that is what God expects too! Let us not resurrect these "two evils" in our day and time. ***