



VISIONS  
OF FAITH

JEREMIAH

# You have to convince them that they are not living faith

People usually get argumentative and upset

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They like the life they create for themselves  
and they want to believe God is OK with it

That is where we find Israel at....  
comfortable in their sin





**Today we are going to "meet"  
the nation of Judah**

**What we are really going to do  
is meet their sins**

**How many people here  
struggle with sin?**

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**Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it:**

**Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”**

**Matthew 22:37-40**

**What if we could do the same for our sin?**





# The Two Sins of Israel

**“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”**

**Jeremiah 2:13**



# The Two Sins of Israel

These are metaphors for Judah's sins

Both have to do with water

They both start with an action

Then they both have a result statement

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# Forsaken me

**Forsaken: abandoned or deserted**

**Since God is the one speaking here,  
His problem is that Judah has abandoned  
and deserted him**

**God Remembers (Jeremiah 2:1-4)**

**What God remembers is even in their  
disobedience, when things got bad,  
they came running back to God**

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# Forsaken the spring of living water

A water spring is simply a natural hole in the earth from which water flows out onto the land

Many springs in the region are responsible for the bodies of fresh drinking water and wells



God is reminding them that when they chose to walk away from him they chose to walk away from there source of life

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# Applying to Us

When God handed out the 10 commandments, the first four had to do with our relationship with him

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When Jesus summarized the law in two statements again he started with our relationship with God

In our attempt to hang onto our actions we develop the attitude....

**"Who needs God?"**



# Forsaken me

He wants to remind them they  
(and us) abandoned God,  
not the other way around,  
God will remain faithful  
but at some point  
you have to choose to come back

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# Dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water

What is a cistern: a tank for storing water



Its the manmade solution to the God provided spring

The Action: Dug their own cisterns

One shovel of dirt did not make a cistern

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**It was there own cistern**

**God not consulted**

**God not considered**

**God forsaken: (Judges 10:13)**

**But you have forsaken me and served  
other gods, so I will no longer save you**

**The issue here is how they chose  
to deal with their  
Babylon problem**

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# The Alliance (v. 18)

Now why go to Egypt to drink water from the Nile? And why go to Assyria to drink water from the Euphrates?

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Instead of going to God they sought alliance the world

Its amazing what plans we come up with when we decide to go it alone.



# Eventually Assyria and Egypt fall to Babylon

Judah's plan did not hold water  
and they found themselves  
alone...

still they would not  
go back to God  
(Jeremiah 3:6-10)

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# Applying to Us

Problems come, battles are fought and we seek our answers as if there is no God

We may participate in some religious act to pay homage to some tradition

But the real life problems we dig

And watch our solutions break

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# **We continue to see our "kingdoms" fall**

**For this is what the Lord says: 'I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends; with your own eyes you will see them fall by the sword of their enemies. I will give all Judah into the hands of the king of Babylon, who will carry them away to Babylon or put them to the sword.'**

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**You know what the sad  
thing is, the voice of God  
(Jeremiah) called to  
Judah until the day it fell  
(Jeremiah 3:14-18)**

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# VISIONS OF FAITH

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**Two Sins, one choice**