

# Broken Cisterns

- God is The Fountain of All Spiritual Good
- But Some are Hewing Out  
Broken Cisterns Of Human Devices

As a reminder, The Bible informs us, that Israel turned from Jehovah God, to idols.

- [Ex.20:2-3](#) reads, “I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. <sup>3</sup> Thou shalt have **NO other gods before Me.**” ([Ex.20:2-3](#))

[2Kings 17:9-12](#) reads,

- “And the children of Israel, **DID SECRETLY** those things, that were **NOT right** against the Lord their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen, to the fenced city.  
<sup>10</sup> And they set them up images and groves, in every high hill, and under every green tree:  
<sup>11</sup> and there they burnt incense, in all the high places, **AS did the HEATHEN**, (whom the Lord carried away before them); and wrought **WICKED things**, to **PROVOKE the Lord to ANGER:**  
<sup>12</sup> for they **SERVED IDOLS**, whereof the Lord had said unto them, Ye shall **NOT do** this thing.”

God pictured disobedience of Israel, as one who turns his back on HIS Fountain, springing with pure water, and turning to a cistern (or reservoir) which was broken. Notice the passage...

- “Hath a nation **CHANGED** their gods, which are yet, **NO gods?** but My people have **CHANGED** their glory, for that which doth **NOT profit**.

<sup>12</sup> Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and Be **HORRIBLY AFRAID**,  
Be ye very desolate, saith the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> 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.**” ([Jer.2:11-13](#))

In a lesson entitled “*Broken Cisterns*”, let’s notice first, that...

## I. Jehovah God IS The Fountain

...of All Spiritual Good.

### A. God is The Fountain of Salvation

- “In that day, there shall be a **FOUNTAIN** opened to the house of David, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.” ([Zechariah 13:1](#))

**God Sends a pure stream of forgiveness.**

- Peter told the Jews, “Repent, **AND be baptized** every one of you, **IN the NAME** of Jesus Christ, for the **REMISSION** of sins, and ye shall receive the **GIFT** of the Holy Spirit.” ([Acts 2:38](#))

**If we sin after we have been baptized INTO Christ (Gal.3:26-27), we are to...**

- “**REPENT** therefore of this thy wickedness, and **PRAY** God, if perhaps the **THOUGHT** of thine heart, may be **FORGIVEN** thee.” ([Acts 8:22](#))

**Truly, God gives a Stream of Heavenly Joy.**

- “Whom having not seen, ye love; **IN** Whom, though now ye see Him not, yet **BELIEVING**, ye rejoice with **JOY unspeakable** and **FULL** of **GLORY.**” ([1Pet.1:8](#))

**God gives a Stream of Peace and Hope, as the Bible says,**

- “the **PEACE** of God, which **PASSETH** all understanding, shall **KEEP** your hearts and minds **THROUGH** Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.4:7](#))

- “which **HOPE** we have, as an anchor of the **SOUL**, both sure and stedfast,” ([Heb.6:19a](#))

## B. God is The Fountain of The Gospel

- “according to the **GLORIOUS** gospel, **OF** the **BLESSED** God, which was **COMMITTED** to my trust.” (Paul told Timothy in [1Tim.1:11](#))
- “All scripture, is **GIVEN** by inspiration of God, and **IS PROFITABLE** for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be perfect (or complete), throughly furnished, unto all good works.” ([2Tim.3:16-17](#))
- “For I am **NOT** ashamed of the **GOSPEL of Christ**: for it is the **POWER** of God, unto **SALVATION**, to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” ([Rom.1:16](#))

The apostles were told to,

- “Go ye into all the world, and preach the **GOSPEL** to every creature.  
<sup>16</sup> He that believeth **AND** is baptized shall be **SAVED**;  
but he that believeth **NOT** shall be **DAMNED**.” ([Mk.16:15-16](#))

We’ve noticed that God is the fountain of salvation, and the gospel, But...

## C. God is Also, The Fountain of The True Church

God’s People

- “...are a **CHOSEN** generation, a **ROYAL** priesthood, an **HOLY** nation, a **PECULIAR** people; that ye should shew forth, the **PRAISES** of Him, Who hath **CALLED** you, **OUT** of darkness, **INTO** His marvellous **LIGHT**.” ([1Pet.2:9](#))

God’s People are to,

- “...know **HOW** thou oughtest to **BEHAVE** thyself, **IN** the **HOUSE** of God, which is the **CHURCH** of the **Living God**, the pillar and ground of the **TRUTH**.” ([1Tim.3:15](#))

The spiritual body, is subject to Christ, The Head ([Eph.5:24](#)).

And He is the Savior of it ([Eph.5:23](#)).

The spiritual body, the church, is also Divinely organized.

In Phil.1:1, we have,

- “the servants of Jesus Christ, to **ALL** the **SAINTS** (or christians) **IN** Christ Jesus, which are **AT** Philippi (a single location), **WITH** the **BISHOPS** (or Elders), and **DEACONS**.” ([Phil.1:1](#))

## D. Jehovah God, is The Fountain, of The Future Eternal Glory

- Jesus said, “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**.” ([Jn.4:14](#))
- “and **IF** children, then **HEIRS**; heirs **OF** God, and joint-heirs **WITH** Christ; **IF** so be that we suffer **WITH** Him, that we may be also glorified **TOGETHER**.” ([Rom.8:17](#))
- “To him that **OVERCOMETH**, will I grant to sit **WITH** Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.” ([Rev.3:21](#))

Instead of clinging to God's fountain, some are,

## II. Hewing Out Broken Cisterns, of Human Device

Including...

### A. Worldliness

The Worship of money, and pleasure, causes people to neglect and forsake God, and turn to a cistern of sin, and material security.

- Paul said, "Demas hath **FORSAKEN** me, having **LOVED** this present **WORLD**," ([2Tim.4:10a](#))

The Bible says,

- "that which fell among thorns, are they, which, **WHEN** they have heard, **GO** forth, and are **CHOKED**, with cares and riches and pleasures of **THIS LIFE**, and bring **NO** fruit to perfection." ([Lk.8:14](#))
- "But she that **LIVETH** in pleasure, is **DEAD** while she liveth." ([1Tim.5:6](#))

Sadly with many,

### B. Commandments of Men, are Preferred

- Jesus said that some, "**DRAWETH** nigh unto Me, with their mouth, and **HONoureth** Me with their lips; but their **HEART** is, **FAR FROM Me**.  
<sup>9</sup> But **IN VAIN** they do worship Me, **TEACHING** for doctrines, the commandments **OF MEN**." ([Matt.15:7-9](#))

...and so, we should,

- "**TAKE HEED** unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; **CONTINUE** in them: for in **DOING** this, thou shalt both **SAVE** thyself, and them that **HEAR** thee." ([1Tim.4:16](#))
- "Whosoever **TRANSGRESSETH**, and abideth **NOT** in the doctrine of Christ, hath **NOT God**. He that abideth **IN** the doctrine **OF Christ**, he **HATH** both the Father, and the Son." ([2Jn.9](#))

Some would prefer, begging and bingo, for giving.

- But the Bible says, "concerning the **Collection** **FOR** the **SAINTS**, as I have **GIVEN** order, **TO** the **CHURCHES** of Galatia, even so **DO** ye.  
<sup>2</sup> Upon the **FIRST DAY** of the week, **LET** every one of you, **LAY BY** him **IN STORE**, (a treasury store house) **AS** God hath **PROSPERED** him, that there be no gatherings when I come." ([1Cor.16:1-2](#))

Some prefer:

- Church support of human institutions, to do its work of benevolence, edification, evangelism.
- (some prefer) Entertainment for worship -- To get crowds.

Instead of clinging to God's fountain, some are,  
Hewing Out Broken Cisterns of Human Device through,

### C. Man-Made Systems

Such as, A Cistern of, a good moral life, **WITHOUT** Christ.

- But the Bible says, it is, "**NOT** by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His **MERCY**, He **SAVED** us, **BY** the **WASHING** of regeneration, and **RENEWING** of the Holy Spirit;" ([Titus 3:5](#))
  - Which includes being Baptized INTO Christ ([Gal.3:26-27](#))
  - And growing In His Grace and Knowledge ([2Pet.3:18](#))

Broken Cistern of Human Device...

The man-made system of, **Faith ONLY**.

- In the first century, "the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied, in Jerusalem, greatly; and a great company of the priests, were **OBEDIENT To the Faith**." ([Acts 6:7](#))
  - "Ye see then how that by **WORKS**, a man is **JUSTIFIED**, and **NOT By Faith ONLY**." ([Jas.2:24](#))
- And let's be clear, a man is justified by **WORKS** of righteousness, **NOT** the works of men ([Acts 10:35](#))

Broken Cistern of Human Device...

The man-made system of, **OTHER Gospels**.

- Paul said, "But though **WE** (that is, the apostles), or an **ANGEL** from heaven, preach any OTHER gospel unto you, than that which we have preached unto you, let him be **ACCURSED**." ([Gal.1:8-9](#))
- "**BEWARE** lest any man **SPOIL** you (which means, to steal your crown) **THROUGH** philosophy and **VAIN** deceit, **AFTER** the tradition OF MEN, **AFTER** the rudiments OF the WORLD, and **NOT** after Christ." ([Col.2:8](#))

**The Result, of Man-Made Systems, is denominationalism.**

**People who are NOT content with Bible TRUTH,**  
have **HEWED** out religions of their **OWN** making,  
with **HUMAN** names, **HUMAN** organizations, **HUMAN** creeds,  
and **HUMAN** teaching, practices, and activities...

...None of which are found in the pages of the New Testament, which is the Gospel OF Christ.

Instead of clinging to God's fountain, some are,  
Hewing Out Broken Cisterns of Human Device through,

## D. Indifference, of an Empty and Meaningless Life

Without a solid goal, one is Like a ship without rudder.

The great apostle Paul, had a solid, spiritual goal.

He spoke of his high values, in [Phil.3:7-14](#).

- Paul said, "what things were gain to me, those I counted loss **FOR Christ**.<sup>8</sup> Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss, **FOR** the excellency of the **KNOWLEDGE** of Christ Jesus my Lord:

**FOR Whom** (that's Christ) I have suffered the loss of all things,  
and do count them but dung, that I may **WIN Christ**,  
<sup>9</sup> and be **FOUND IN Him**, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law,  
but that (righteousness) which is through the faith **OF Christ**, the righteousness which is **OF God BY faith**:

<sup>10</sup> that I may **KNOW** Him, and (Know) the power of His **RESURRECTION**,  
and (Know) the fellowship of His **SUFFERINGS**, being **MADE conformable** unto His **DEATH**;  
<sup>11</sup> if by any means, I might **ATTAIN** unto the **RESURRECTION** of the dead.

<sup>12</sup> Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect:  
but I **FOLLOW AFTER**, if that, I may apprehend that, for which also, I am apprehended **OF Christ Jesus**.

<sup>13</sup> Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I **DO**,  
**FORGETTING** those things which are behind, and **REACHING FORTH** unto those things which are before,  
<sup>14</sup> I **PRESS TOWARD** the mark, for the prize of the **HIGH calling** of God **IN** Christ Jesus." (that's [Phil.3:7-14](#))

Those who are indifferent, have an empty and meaningless life.

Such a one, will be Unprepared for Eternity...

- "...**without Christ**, being **ALIENS** from the commonwealth of **ISRAEL**,  
and **STRANGERS** from the covenants of **PROMISE**,  
having **NO hope**, and **without God** in the world:" ([Eph.2:12](#))

In-Contrast, those who are,

- "now being made free from sin, and become servants to God,  
ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end, everlasting life." ([Rom.6:22](#))

### III. IN-CLOSING

Why seek help from broken cisterns, when there is a never-failing Fountain, at hand?

- Jeremiah said long ago, “O Lord, I know that the way of man is **NOT** in himself: it is **NOT** in man that walketh, to direct his steps.” ([Jer.10:23](#))
- “Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*.” ([Jer.6:16](#))
- “but now **IN** Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off, are made nigh **BY** the blood of Christ.” ([Eph.2:13](#))

God’s Fountain Flows, and All are welcome to **COME!**

- “**SEEK** ye the Lord, while He may be found, **CALL** ye upon Him, while He is near:” ([Isa.55:6](#))
- “the Spirit and the bride say, **COME**. And let him that heareth say, **COME**. And let him that is athirst **COME**. And whosoever **WILL**, let him **TAKE** the **WATER of Life, FREELY**.” ([Rev.22:17](#))

If you have a spiritual need, **COME**

**Believing** ([Heb.11:6](#)), **Repenting** ([Lk.13:3](#)), **Confessing** ([Acts 8:37](#)), and Be **Baptized** INTO Christ ([Gal.3:26-27](#))

...While together, we stand and sing.

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