

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION



JEREMIAH 2:1-37

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION

INTRODUCTION



- Jeremiah, (650 –570 BC), was commissioned by God to prophecy in one of the bleakest periods of the Jews history.
- The Northern kingdom had been destroyed, (722 BCE) because of their sins, and now Judah was on the verge of being destroyed because of their wickedness.

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION

INTRODUCTION

Jeremiah 2:1–13 (NKJV)

¹ Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, ² “Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord: “I remember you, The kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, When you went after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown. ³ Israel *was* holiness to the Lord, The firstfruits of His increase. All that devour him will offend; Disaster will come upon them,” says the Lord.’ ” ⁴ Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel. ⁵ Thus says the Lord: “What injustice have your fathers found in Me, That they have gone far from Me, Have followed idols, And have become idolaters?”

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Jeremiah 2:1–13 (NKJV)

⁶ Neither did they say, ‘Where *is* the Lord, Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, Through a land of deserts and pits, Through a land of drought and the shadow of death, Through a land that no one crossed And where no one dwelt?’ ⁷ I brought you into a bountiful country, To eat its fruit and its goodness. But when you entered, you defiled My land And made My heritage an abomination. ⁸ The priests did not say, ‘Where *is* the Lord?’ And those who handle the law did not know Me; The rulers also transgressed against Me; The prophets prophesied by Baal, And walked after *things that* do not profit.

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Jeremiah 2:1–13 (NKJV)

⁹ “Therefore I will yet bring charges against you,” says the Lord, “And against your children’s children I will bring charges. ¹⁰ For pass beyond the coasts of Cyprus and see, Send to Kedar and consider diligently, And see if there has been such *a thing*. ¹¹ Has a nation changed *its* gods, Which *are* not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For *what* does not profit. ¹² Be astonished, O heavens, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate,” says the Lord. ¹³ “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.

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- In the thirteenth year of Josiah's reign, God called Jeremiah (Jer 1:1-2,4-5)
- Jeremiah recalls Judah's past faithfulness (Jer 2:1-3)
- BUT - They had "gone far" from the Lord and had "followed idols, And have become idolaters (Jer 2:4-11)
- The heavens looked on in astonishment and great fear, as God accused His people of committing two great evils (Jer 2:12-13)

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Jeremiah 2:13 (NKJV)

13 “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.

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION

THEY HAD FORSAKEN GOD

THE LORD IS
THE FOUNTAIN
OF LIVING WATER

JEREMIAH 17:13

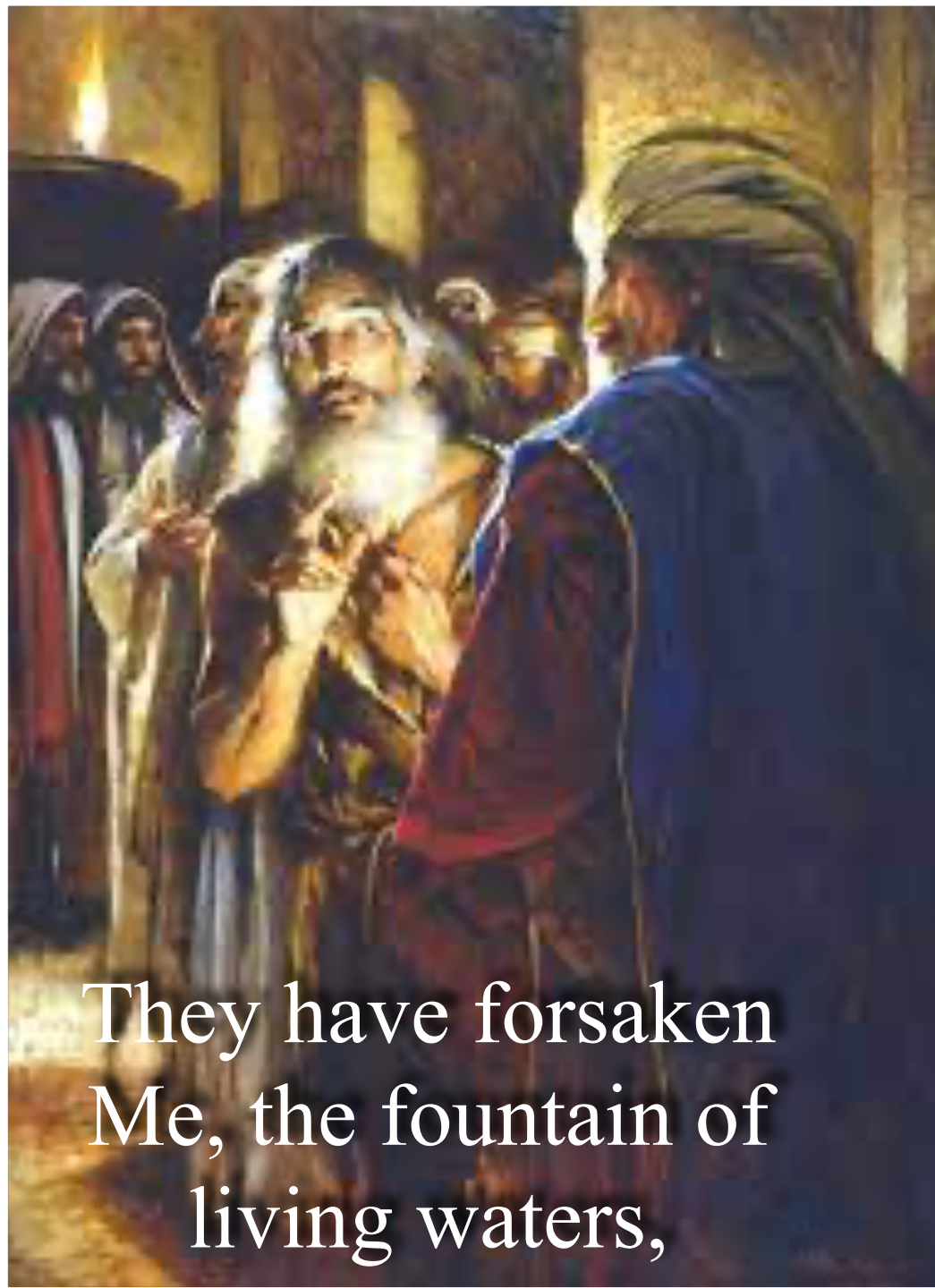
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They have forsaken
Me, the fountain of
living waters,

- God was Israel's fountain of living waters (Jer. 2:13; 17:13; Ps. 36:9; [John 4:14])
- ◆ He had brought her up out of Egyptian bondage (Jer 2:6)
- ◆ He had safely led her through the barren wilderness (Jer 2:6)
- ◆ He had brought her into the land of milk and honey (Jer 2:7)

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION

THEY HAD FORSAKEN GOD

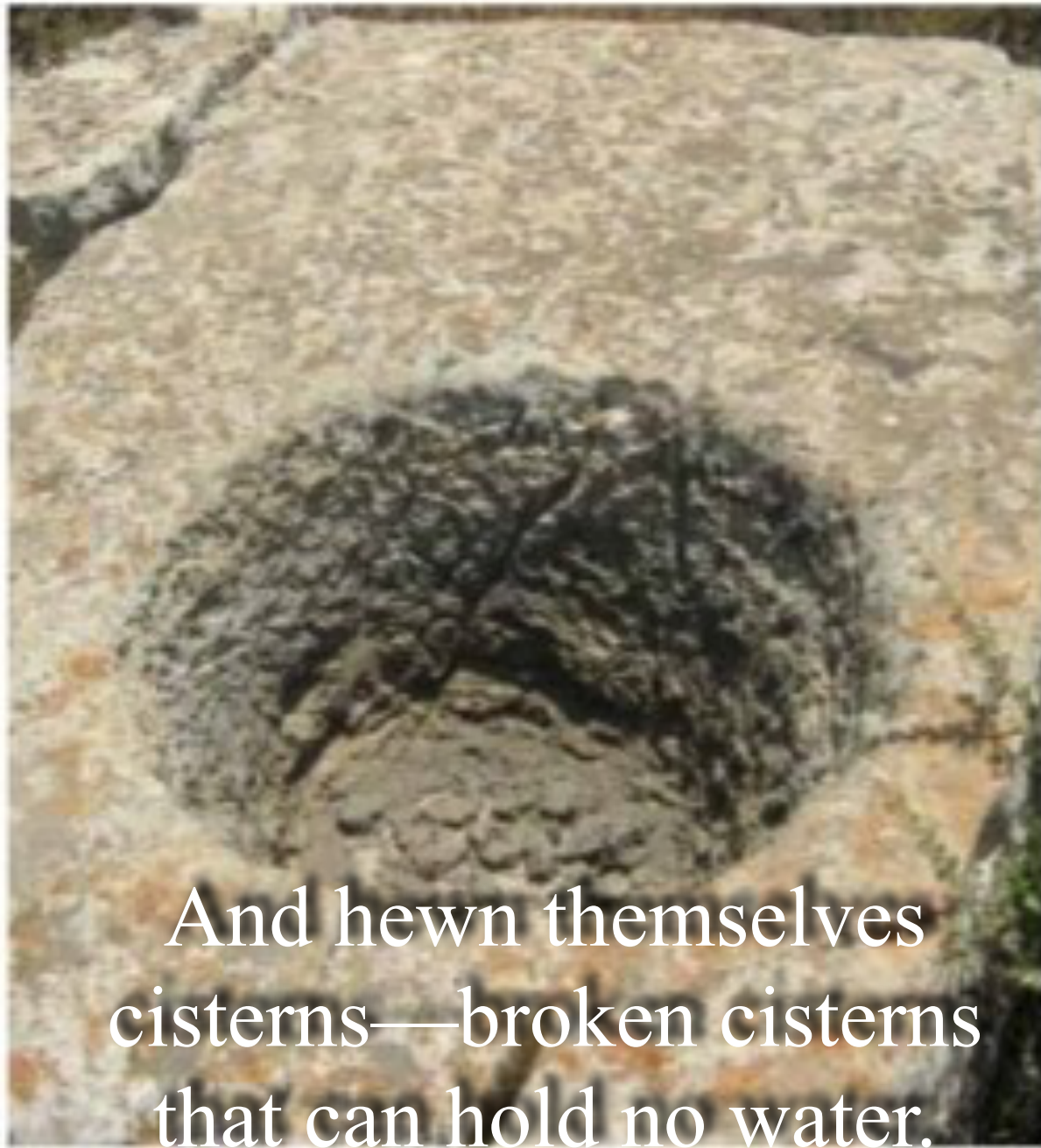


They have forsaken
Me, the fountain of
living waters,

- Judah forgot God (Jer. 2:13)
 - ◆ Beginning with its priests, rulers & prophets (Jer 2:8)
 - ◆ From one generation to the next (Jer 2:9)
 - ◆ Other nations were more faithful to their false gods than Judah was to the ONE TRUE GOD and They exchanged God for that which does not profit (Jer 2:10-11)

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION

HEWED BROKEN CISTERNS

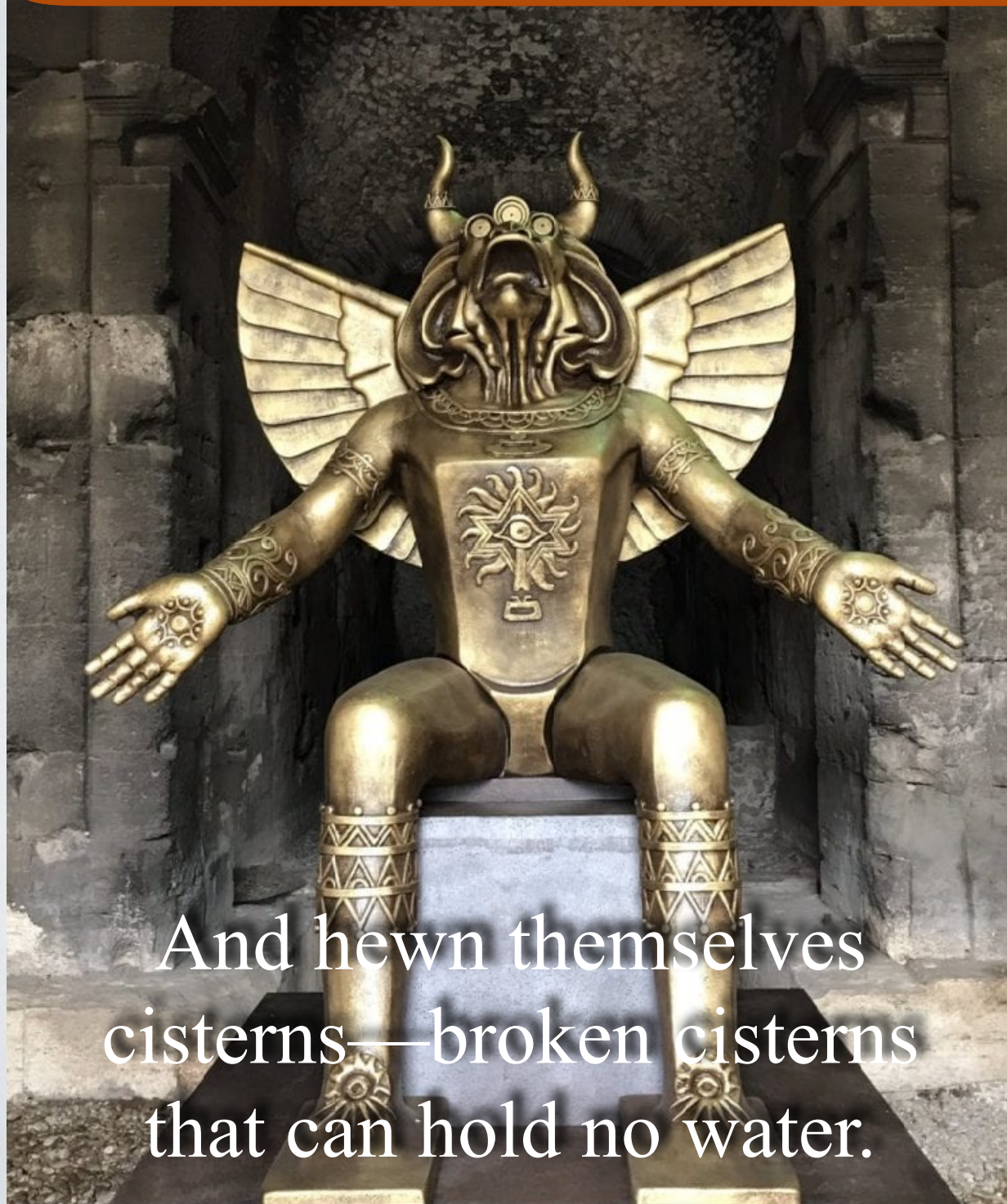


And hewn themselves
cisterns—broken cisterns
that can hold no water.

- Judah turned to gods of their own making (Jer. 2:13)
- ❖ Cisterns were holes or pits for rain water, hewn (cut) out of stone
- ❖ At best, they could only offer stagnant water
- ❖ Broken with cracks, they could not retain water at all.

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION

HEWED BROKEN CISTERNS

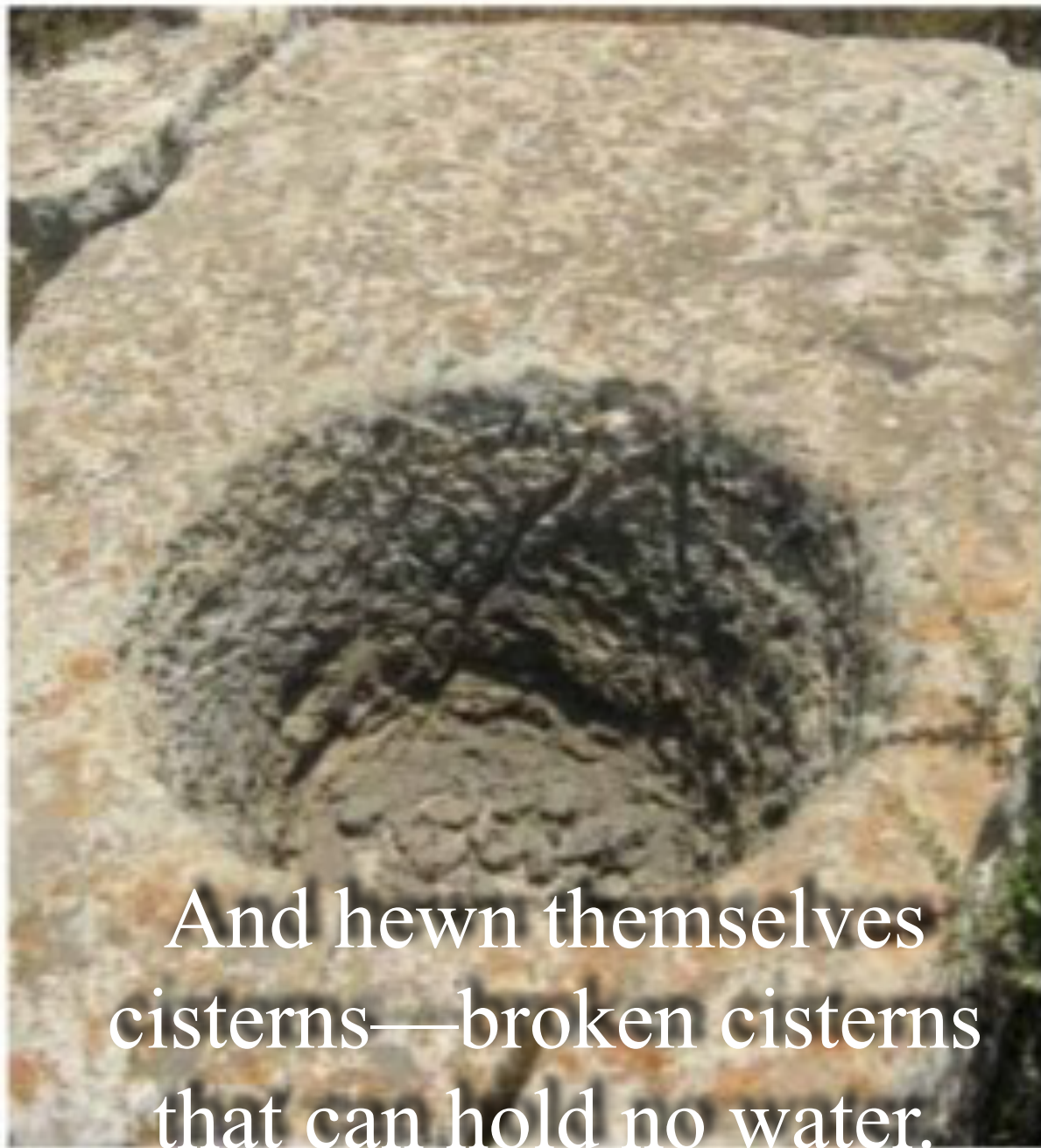


And hewn themselves
cisterns—broken cisterns
that can hold no water.

- Judah turned to gods of their own making (Jer. 2:13)
- ◆ Baal / Molech (Jer 2:8; 32:35)
- ◆ False prophets spoke in the name of Baal (Jer 2:8; 7:31; 19:5; 2 Chr. 28:2, 3; 33:6)
- ◆ False sense of prosperity, of which God forewarned (Deut 8:11-17; cf. Jer 2:6)
- ◆ Judah foolishly left God for poor substitutes! (Jer. 2:27,28; Ps. 115:4-8)

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION

FOLLY of JUDAH'S APOSTASY

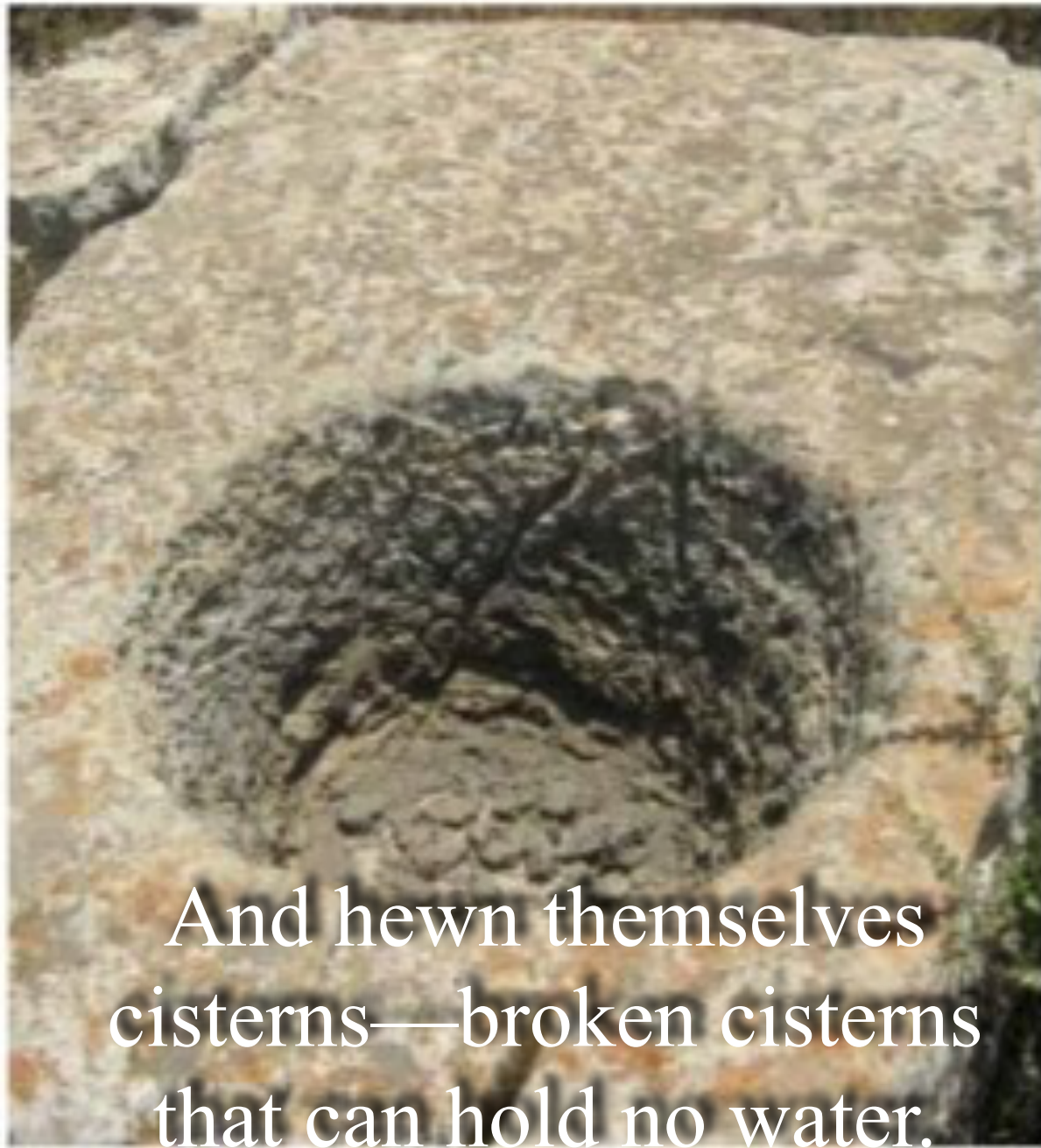


And hewn themselves
cisterns—broken cisterns
that can hold no water.

- Judah relied on foreign allies instead of God (Jer. 2:14-18)
- ◆ Her land was laid waste by foreign invaders (compared to lions) and her towns were burned and deserted (Jer. 2:14-16)
- ◆ Her reliance on foreign nations for protection would utterly fail (Jer. 2:18)
- ◆ Judah brought these things on herself (Jer. 2:17,19)

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FOLLY of JUDAH'S APOSTASY

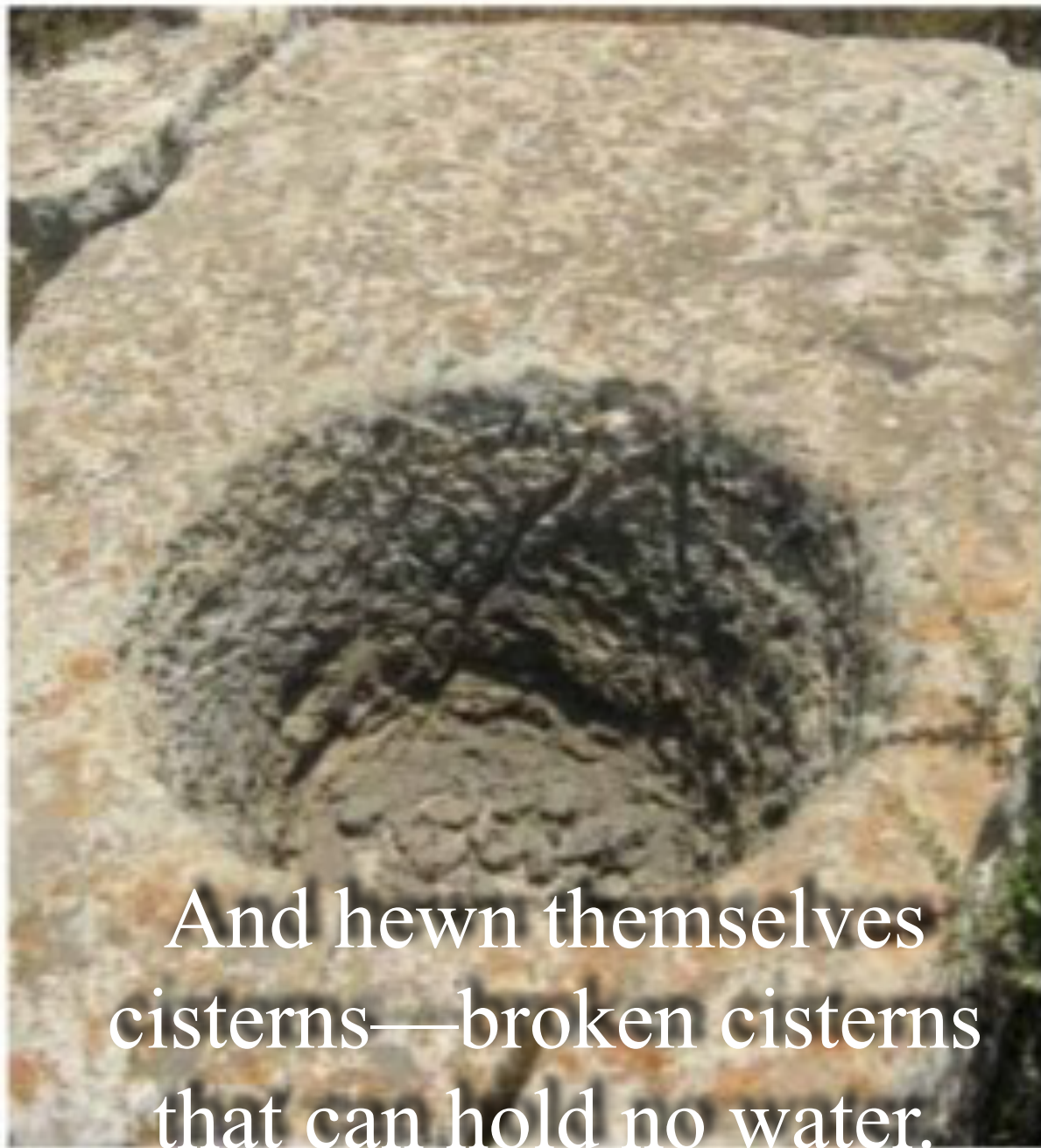


And hewn themselves
cisterns—broken cisterns
that can hold no water.

Jeremiah 2:19 (NKJV)
19 Your own wickedness
will correct you, And your
backslidings will rebuke
you. Know therefore and
see that *it is* an evil and
bitter *thing* That you have
forsaken the Lord your
God, And the fear of Me *is*
not in you,” Says the Lord
God of hosts.

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION

FOLLY of JUDAH'S APOSTASY

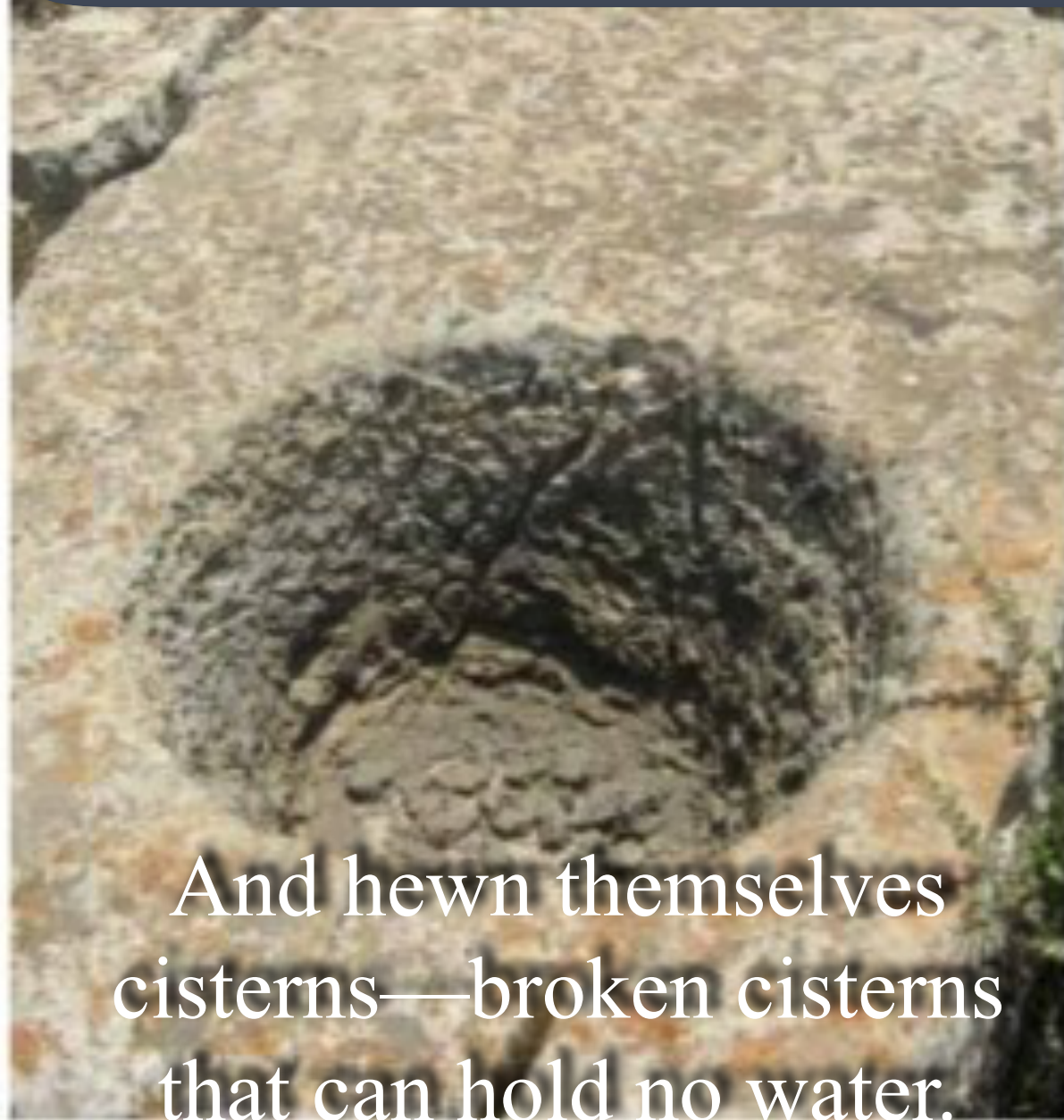


And hewn themselves
cisterns—broken cisterns
that can hold no water.

- 4 visual pictures of Judah's unfaithfulness (Jer. 2:20-25)
 - ◆ An animal that had broken its yoke (20; cf. 5:5).
 - ◆ A choice vine that God planted and nurtured, but became a corrupt, incapable of good fruit.. (2:21; cf. Isa. 5:1-7; Ezek. 15)
 - ◆ A stain that could not be washed off (2:22)
 - ◆ Like a wild donkey she could not be restrained in her lust for foreign gods (2:23)

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION

**GOD'S WAYS IGNORED /
MAN'S WAY EXAULTED**



And hewn themselves
cisterns—broken cisterns
that can hold no water.

■ **IDOLATRY STILL A MAJOR
PROBLEM TODAY**

- ◆ TRUSTING MEN
- ◆ TRUSTING SELF
- ◆ TRUSTING POSSESSIONS
- ◆ TRUSTING MONEY
- ◆ LOVING PLEASURE

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION

GOD'S WAYS IGNORED / MAN'S WAY EXAULTED

God's Way Emphasizes

Authority & Absolute Truth
John 8:31-32; 17:17

The Need For Obedience
Matt. 7:21; John 14:15

The Reality of Sin
1 John 3:4

The Reality of Judgment
Rom. 2:5-11

Man's Way Emphasizes

Relativism / Feelings / Human authority
Judges 21:25; Prov. 14:12; Mat. 15:7-9

**God's Grace, Mercy & Love But
Deemphasizes Obedience** *Rom. 6:1,2*

Rationalization
1 Sam. 15:15-21

Despise God's Goodness & Wrath
Rom. 2:4-11; 11:22

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION

**GOD'S WAYS IGNORED /
MAN'S WAY EXAULTED**

Start to measure
what we will do
by what we
have done ...

We move
further and
further away
from God –

We set a
course for
complete
apostasy –

TWO EVILS OF FALSE RELIGION

GOD'S WAYS IGNORED / MAN'S WAY EXAULTED

God's Way of Salvation

Hear the True Gospel
Romans 10:17

Believe That Jesus Is The Christ, The Son of God – John 8:24; Romans 10:9,10

Confess Jesus As Lord
Matt. 10:32; Acts 8:37; *Romans 10:9,10*

Repent – Turn From Self To Christ
Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30

And Be Baptized In The Name of Christ Unto The Remission of Sins – Acts 2:38; 22:16


Man's Way of Salvation

Emotionalism /Feelings
Prov. 14:12; Mat. 15:7-9

Faith Only ????
James 2:24

Ask Jesus Into Your Heart / Say Sinners Prayer
/ ??????

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Do we recognize the folly of forsaking
God, the fountain of living waters?

Do we recognize the folly of hewing out
broken cisterns, that can hold no water?

JEREMIAH 2:1-37

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