

Jeremiah 2:4 – 14

New American Standard Bible

1 ⁴Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the
2 families of the house of Israel. ⁵Thus says the Lord,
3 “What injustice did your fathers find in Me,
4 That they went far from Me
5 And walked after emptiness and became empty?
6 ⁶“They did not say, ‘Where is the Lord
7 Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt,
8 Who led us through the wilderness,
9 Through a land of deserts and of pits,
10 Through a land of drought and of deep darkness,
11 Through a land that no one crossed
12 And where no man dwelt?’
13 ⁷“I brought you into the fruitful land
14 To eat its fruit and its good things.
15 But you came and defiled My land,
16 And My inheritance you made an abomination.
17 ⁸“The priests did not say, ‘Where is the Lord?’
18 And those who handle the law did not know Me;
19 The rulers also transgressed against Me,
20 And the prophets prophesied by Baal
21 And walked after things that did not profit.
22 ⁹“Therefore I will yet contend with you,” declares the Lord,
23 “And with your sons’ sons I will contend.
24 ¹⁰“For cross to the coastlands of Kittim and see,
25 And send to Kedar and observe closely
26 And see if there has been such *a thing* as this!
27 ¹¹“Has a nation changed gods
28 When they were not gods?
29 But My people have changed their glory
30 For that which does not profit.
31 ¹²“Be appalled, O heavens, at this,
32 And shudder, be very desolate,” declares the Lord.
33 ¹³“For My people have committed two evils:
34 They have forsaken Me,
35 The fountain of living waters,
36 To hew for themselves cisterns,
37 Broken cisterns
38 That can hold no water.

Observation (What does it say?):

What do you notice in this passage?

Begin at the end – read verse 13 first. Then read the entire passage. How does the picture of a fountain and cisterns (reservoirs) describe the problems in verses 4-12?

- *Who is God’s complaint against?*
- *What had they done or failed to do?*

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- *In verse 9, what is the connection made by the “Therefore”?*
- *If you knew that “Kittim” was probably the island of Cyprus (far west of Israel) and Kedar was a wilderness area far east of Israel, how would that affect your understanding of verse 10?*
- *How would you describe the reactions in verses 11-12?*
- *How does verse 13 summarize the passage?*
- *What questions come to mind as you read?*

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- *What does it look like for you to “hew out” your own cisterns?*
- *What might be broken cisterns in your life?*
- *What would be an appropriate response to the problem described in verse 13?*

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation
(What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer’s thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose (“in order that...”)?
- Are there conclusions (“Therefore...”)?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good “headline” for the passage?

Interpretation
(What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer’s thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application
(What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**