

## **One Tough Assignment** **Jeremiah 2:4-13**

The Lord gave Jeremiah a tough job. Most preachers and teachers hope to save people from disaster. They warn folks with the expectation that they will change their ways and avoid ruin.

Jeremiah's job differed. He had to talk to people for whom doom was inevitable. Fierce Babylonian armies were already forming, threatening, and training. Soon they would destroy the Israelite's homeland. Jerusalem's citizens would suffer desolating disgrace and devastation. The time for change had long expired.

The Lord ordained this destruction because Israel disobeyed him: "My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water."

Whether the Lord will judge modern nations by the standards he used for Israel, none can say. But this is certain. He will judge you and me on the basis of our belief in him, our compliance with his commandments, and our active confession of Jesus and his resurrection. Are you drinking from God's fountain? Or are you wasting your time and energy on short-lived crackpots?

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