

# Dangerous Distraction

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*“The word of the Lord came to me: ‘Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the desert, through a land not sown. Israel was holy to the lord the first fruits of his harvest; all who devoured her were held guilty, and disaster overtook them,’ declares the Lord. Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, all you clans of the house of Israel. This is what the Lord says: ‘What fault did your fathers find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves. They did not ask, ‘Where is the Lord, who brought us up out of Egypt and led us through the barren wilderness, through a land of deserts and rifts, a land of drought and darkness, a land where no one travels and no one lives? I brought you into a fertile land to eat its fruit and rich produce. But you came and defiled my land and made my inheritance detestable. The priests did not ask, ‘Where is the Lord?’*

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*“Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols. Therefore I bring charges against you again, declares the Lord. And I will bring charges against your children’s children. Cross over to the coasts of Kittim and look, sent to Dedar and observe closely; see if there has been anything like this: Has a nation ever changed its gods? But my people have exchanged their Glory for worthless idols. Be appalled at this O heavens, and shudder with great horror declares the Lord. 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. Is Israel a servant, a slave by birth? Why then has he become plunder? Lions have roared; they have growled at him. They have laid waste his land; his towns are burned and deserted. Also the men of Memphis and Tahpanhes*

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*“have shaved the crown of your head. Have you not brought this on yourselves by forsaking the Lord your God when he led you in the way? Now why go to Egypt to drink water from the Shihor? And why go to Assyria to drink water from the River? Your wickedness will punish you; your backsliding will rebuke you. Consider then and realize how evil and bitter it is for you when you forsake the Lord your God and have no awe of me declares the Lord the Lord Almighty.” Jeremiah 2:1-19*



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## 1. Recalling What Was - vs. 1-5

- Look at the terms of affection and relationship:
  - devotion, love, protection, holy, blessed
- Sounds really wonderful

## \*Distraction Occurred During Time of Blessing \*

- when crisis is over beware of compromise
- slowly our heads are turned – not sudden or quick

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Look at the blessing in vs.6-7

- brought us, led us, sustained us, fed us, protected us
- God recalls the relationship and blessing of before

## 2. Rebuking What Is vs. 4-13

- The question of God – what fault did they find?
- Why the change of heart? You now strayed, followed idols, lost interest, defiled the gifts of God

\*Distraction was not rebellion, not immediate rejection – it evolved from lost relationship. \*

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- Look at the blame in vs. 8

  - Priests, Law makers, Leaders, Prophets

  - cultures are led by these people – culture defined

  - \* Don't miss the image in vs. 13 - Self Sufficient and unhappy people \*

## 3. Revealing the Cost vs. 14-19

  - vs 9 – cost will affect generations

  - vs. 13 – two specific charges

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- a) Forsaken God – spring of living water
- b) Dug Their Own Cisterns – self reliance and sufficiency
  - Look at the images of consequence
    - Slavery, defeat, loss of land, no satisfaction

Lost relationship with the one you love – consequence



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So What

## 1. Distraction Occurs During the time of Blessing

- absence of persecution and pressure – look away
- God is remembers the right relationship:
  - our love and obedience
  - his actions and provision
- when the road is clear – we can fall asleep



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So What

## 2. God Desires Us to Return To Right Relationship

- reminds us of his care and love
- remains faithful to us
- uses persecution and pressure to bring us home
- Reveals himself to clear up where we are
- does not want us to experience consequences

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So What

## 3. Our Choices will have Consequences

- It will affect generations
- It will bring conflict, dissatisfaction and distress
- It will occur slowly – without our immediate recognition

\* God wishes it were different, and provides a way for that to be \*

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So What

*“Return, faithless Israel, declares the Lord, I will frown on you no longer, for I am merciful, declares the Lord. I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt you have rebelled against the Lord your God, you have scattered your favors to foreign gods under every spreading tree and have not obeyed me declares the Lord.” Jeremiah 3:12-13*