

# NO SUBSTITUTIONS

Jeremiah 2:9–13

March 8, 2026 | Pastor Keith Krell



## SCRIPTURE READING

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Jeremiah 2:11–13; Exodus 20:3–5; Deuteronomy 4:16–18; Psalm 106:1–48;

Isaiah 44:9–20; Romans 1:18–23; John 4:10–14; 6:35; 7:37

## STUDY QUESTIONS

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1. What “gods” do the nations worship (2:11a)? What substitutes for God are most common on the Eastside of Seattle—success, comfort, achievement, security, autonomy? How might you lovingly help a non-Christian friend, neighbor, or coworker see the emptiness of these substitutes?
2. What “gods” of the nations are you personally tempted to trust or pursue (2:11b)? Has any disappointment with God pushed you toward substitutes? Where have you subtly thought, “God is good . . . but I also need \_\_\_\_\_”? Where might you be minimizing the seriousness of exchanging God’s glory for something lesser?
3. What “cistern” have you been digging that promises satisfaction but repeatedly leaks (2:13)? If someone observed your calendar, priorities, and spending, what might they conclude is your true source of life?
4. How much time, energy, or emotional weight are you investing in something that cannot ultimately satisfy? How has this substitute shaped your mood, identity, or sense of security? What has it cost you spiritually?
5. How does this passage show God’s grief rather than just His anger? What does it show about God that the fountain of living water still flows even after His people forsake Him? What would it look like for you to return to that fountain this week? What practices or habits help you drink deeply from God rather than only occasionally?

## RECOMMENDED READING

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Christopher J. H. Wright, *Here are your Gods: Faithful Discipleship in Idolatrous Times* (IVP, 2020)

Timothy Keller, *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters* (Penguin, 2009)

G. K. Beale, *We Become What We Worship: A Biblical Theology of Idolatry* (IVP Academic, 208)

Richard Lints, *Identity and Idolatry: The Image of God and Its Inversion* (IVP Academic, 2015)