

THE STORY  
The Kingdoms' Fall  
Chapter 17 January 21, 2024  
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In the Story we can walk with God's plan or we can break out on our own plan.

Do you worship any gods that in fact do not exist?  
Do you put your trust in a person who doesn't have the power to fulfill your hope?  
Do you trust in things that are not even alive?

*The priests did not ask, 'Where is the Lord?' Those who deal with the law did not know me; the leaders rebelled against me. The prophets prophesied by Baal, following worthless idols. 9 "Therefore I bring charges against you again," declares the Lord. "And I will bring charges against your children's children. 10 Cross over to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and observe closely; see if there has ever been anything like this: 11 Has a nation ever changed its gods? (Yet they are not gods at all.) But my people have exchanged their glorious God for worthless idols. 12 Be appalled at this, you heavens, and shudder with great horror," declares the Lord. 13 "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. Jeremiah 2:8-13 NIV*

1. You Are Always Digging Cisterns

God says he is a spring of living water right next to you.

2. Cistern Water Leaves A Bitter Aftertaste

*Your wickedness will bring its own punishment. Your turning from me will shame you. You will see what an evil, bitter thing it is to abandon the Lord your God and not to fear him. I, the Lord, the Lord of Heaven's Armies, have spoken. Jeremiah 2:19 NAS*

Your choices always have consequence.

It is tough to watch people reject God and remain stuck following other gods.

OUR HOPE IS IN GOD

*"Therefore say to the Israelites, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: It is not for your sake, people of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. 23 I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord, when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.*

*24 "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

Ezekiel 36:22-27 NIV

Jesus introduces himself to the woman at the well and offers her living water.

*"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

John 4:13-14 NIV

It is said "I did not know Jesus was all I really wanted until Jesus was all I had."