



### Jeremiah 2:4-13 New Revised Standard Version

<sup>4</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me  
that they went far from me  
and went after worthless things and became worthless  
themselves?

<sup>6</sup> They did not say, "Where is the LORD,  
who brought us up from the land of Egypt,  
who led us in the wilderness,  
in a land of deserts and pits,  
in a land of drought and deep darkness,  
in a land that no one passes through,  
where no one lives?"

<sup>7</sup> I brought you into a plentiful land  
to eat its fruits and its good things.  
But when you entered you defiled my land  
and made my heritage an abomination.

<sup>8</sup> The priests did not say, "Where is the LORD?"  
Those who handle the law did not know me;  
the rulers transgressed against me;  
the prophets prophesied by Baal  
and went after things that do not profit.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore once more I accuse you,  
says the LORD,  
and I accuse your children's children.

<sup>10</sup> Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look;  
send to Kedar and examine with care;  
see if there has ever been such a thing.

<sup>11</sup> Has a nation changed its gods,  
even though they are no gods?  
But my people have changed their glory  
for something that does not profit.

<sup>12</sup> Be appalled, O heavens, at this;  
be shocked; be utterly desolate,  
says the LORD,

<sup>13</sup> for 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.



"Red. Tree. Ball." The doctor said, "I want you to remember those three words and I will come back to them later in the checkup." That was ten years ago, but not during a visit with my own doctor. You see, this memory test was given to a parishioner and he

happened to share of his appointment during a routine pastoral visit on a Tuesday afternoon. Why that has stuck in my mind all these years later is beyond me. Perhaps, as my wife says, it is because I can recall random information right out of the blue.

For God's people, in the days of Jeremiah, their memory was fuzzy to say the least. This week's Old Testament Lesson reads like an indictment against the people of Judah prior to their fall at the hands of the Babylonians. The people's predicament raised the question as to what wrong God had done against the people to which the obvious answer was "Nothing!" Following the prophet's calling in chapter one, Jeremiah was informed his message would be for the sake of building up as well as breaking down. This latter task was by no means limited to the enemies of God's people, but included those who claimed to be amongst the faithful. There are times when even the faithful can lose sight of what is most important and neglect the essentials needed for Godly living.

The opening verses of the chapter show a favorable relationship had existed between the people and God at one point, but in the prophet's day something had gone considerably wrong. They had traded God in for a different "model" which was in reality worthless (to use Jeremiah's terminology). We may wish to ridicule the people of Judah for their mishandling of their relationship with God, but are we really all that different?

1. We engage priorities which separate us from God.
2. We exploit that which God has blessed us with.
3. We entrust our lives to that which drains us of life.

**Prayer Pebble:** Lord, with all that you have done and I that I have, may I never forget you.