

The Crisis Within and Without

Have you had to deliver bad news before?
What are some of the crisis we face today?
Crisis due rejecting God?
In times of crisis, where is God?
Did God cause it or allowed it?
What draws people to other gods?



Deut. 7:3, 4; Deut. 18:20; Deut. 29:25, 26; Judges 6:7–10; Ps. 106:37, 38; Ezek. 20:23, 24
Is it truly possible to live a sinless life in a sin-engrossed world?

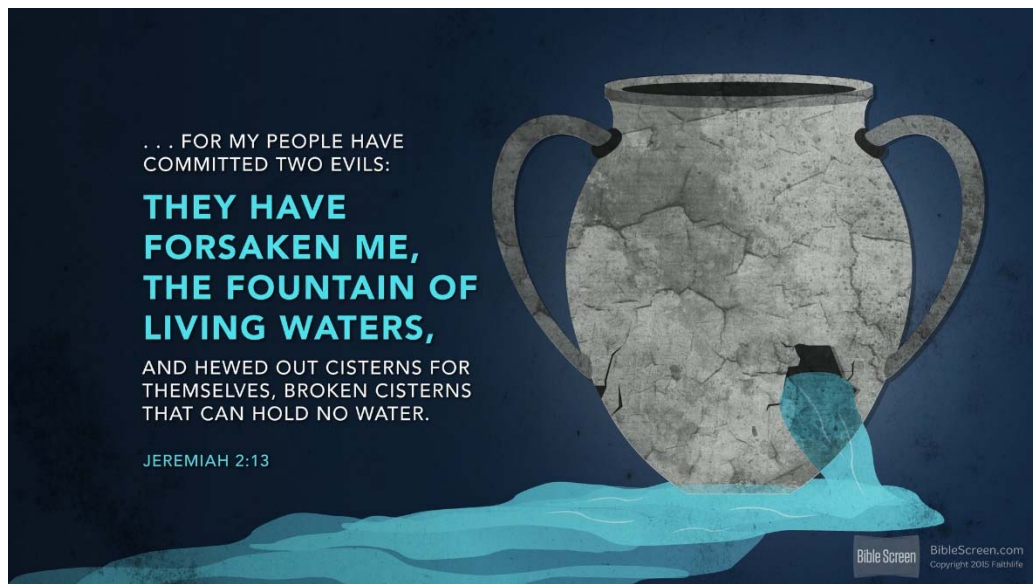
1. What warnings of an impending crisis might you be tempted to ignore, and why?
2. What are some practical ways for avoiding temptations and the crises that follow?
3. How can the friends you choose equip you for the battle against Satan?
4. In what ways are you preaching to the world? What does how you share the gospel say about you?
5. What gods/idols do we have in the 21st century?
6. Can obedience to God divert a crisis? Explain your answer.
7. What does it mean to be the first fruits of the Lord's increase? How can we become that way again?
8. Does God allow calamities to come upon us, or are calamities the natural consequences of our behavior? Explain your answer. What warnings of an impending crisis might we receive that we don't notice or that we ignore?

Jeremiah 2:1-6 and 25-30

Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ²“Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: “I remember you, The kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, When you went after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown. ³Israel *was* holiness to the LORD, The firstfruits of His increase. All that devour him will offend; Disaster will come upon them,” says the LORD.”

⁴Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel. ⁵Thus says the LORD: “What injustice have your fathers found in Me, That they have gone far from Me, Have followed idols, And have become idolaters? ⁶Neither did they say, ‘Where *is* the LORD, Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, Through a land of deserts and pits, Through a land of drought and the shadow of death, Through a land that no one crossed And where no one dwelt?’

...
Withhold your foot from being unshod, and your throat from thirst. But you said, ‘There is no hope. No! For I have loved aliens, and after them I will go.’ ²⁶“As the thief is ashamed when he is found out, So is the house of Israel ashamed; They and their kings and their princes, and their priests and their prophets, ²⁷Saying to a tree, ‘You *are* my father,’ And to a stone, ‘You gave birth to me.’ For they have turned *their* back to Me, and not *their* face. But in the time of their trouble They will say, ‘Arise and save us.’ ²⁸But where *are* your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, If they can save you in the time of your trouble; For *according to* the number of your cities Are your gods, O Judah. ²⁹“Why will you plead with Me? You all have transgressed against Me,” says the LORD. ³⁰“In vain I have chastened your children; They received no correction. Your sword has devoured your prophets Like a destroying lion.



Chronology

- 612 BC: Nineveh falls to an alliance of Babylon and Media
- 608 BC: Pharaoh Necho leads army against Assyria
 - Josiah fights Necho and gets Killed (2 Chron. 35:20-24)
- 606 BC: Battle of Carchemesh
 - Nebuchadnezzar vs Pharaoh Necho
 - W Bank of Euphrates (Jer. 46:1-6)
 - Babylon had been a city in Assyrian empire
 - Nabopolassar – King of Babylon
- After Nebuchadnezzar defeat Pharaoh Necho
 - Begin the Babylonian empire

- **1st Siege of Jerusalem**
 - Jehoiakim released as a vassal (paying a heavy tribute)
 - was installed as king of Judah by pharaoh Necho in 608 BC
 - Temple plundered (for museum)
 - Hostages (Daniel et al.) taken
- Begins 70-year “Servitude of the Nation”
 - 2 Chronicles 36 (Israel kings to Nebuchadnezzar)
 - ²¹ to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.
- Jehoiakim Still king but subjected to Babylon
 - His false prophets keeps urging to rebel against Babylon
 - Two guys saying don’t do it (Jeremiah and Ezekiel)
 - Say it’s the will of God. They were treated as traitors: Jeremiah put in prison

- **2nd Siege of Jerusalem**
- Jehoiakim ignores Jeremiah’s counsel
 - Rebels. 5 year battle: Jehoiakim dies: Jer. 22:17-19
 - Son Jehoiachin (“Jeconiah” Coniah) reigns until siege over Jer 22:24-30
 - [Blood curse now on royal line? Jer. 22:30]
 - How is the Messiah supposed to come through a curse royal line?
 - Matthew (Jew) Genealogy – Presents the Messiah the King – From Abraham the first Jew – David, Solomon (first surviving son of Bathsheba) down to Joseph
 - Luke (Gentile) Genealogy – Start from Adam to David, to (Not Solomon) but Nathan (second surviving son Bathsheba) 1 Chronicles 3:5, takes it down to Heli the father of Mary (If a father only has daughters, he will adopt his son-in-law as a son, he will inherit after him, call the Daughters of Zelophehad (Numbers 27).
- Jeconiah Captured
 - 10,000 captives (including Ezekiel taken to Babylon | Jeremiah still in Jerusalem)
 - Ezek. 1:1-3; 2 Kings 24:8-20; 2 Chron. 36:6-10
- Zedekiah, his uncle, installed as vassal king
- Jeremiah and Ezekiel warn against rebellion but false prophets again prevail

- **3rd Siege of Jerusalem**
- 587 BC: Zedekiah ignores Jeremiah's and Ezekiel’s warnings and yields to false prophets and rebels (Jer. 32:5, 39:6,7; Ezek. 12:13; 2 Kings 25:1-7)
- 3rd Siege results in the destruction of the Temple and the City:
 - Begins 70-year “Desolation of Jerusalem” 2 Kings 24:17-20; 25:1-21
- Ezekiel 12:13
 - I will also spread My net over him, and he shall be caught in My snare. I will bring him to Babylon, to the land of the Chaldeans; yet he shall not see it, though he shall die there.
- Jeremiah 39:6-7
 - Then the king of Babylon killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes in Riblah; the king of Babylon also killed all the nobles of Judah. Moreover he put out Zedekiah’s eyes, and bound him with bronze fetters to carry him off to Babylon.