

The Fountain

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If you knew God's gift...He would have given you living water.

John 4:10

In John chapter 4 Jesus, talking to a woman at the well says, "The water I give shall become a well of water within him bubbling up for eternal life". John 4:14. Also in Jeremiah 2:13, the Lord says: "My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters and they have hewn out for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns,

water". It's obvious to have a defountain that ter, being none Lord Himself.

"A river is a life-giving source."

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One of the two

evils which God mentions in Jer. 2 (actually the first mentioned) is the forsaking of this fountain. Then verse 18 goes on to say "Now what are you doing in the way of Egypt, to drink the waters of the Nile?" We know that Egypt is symbolic of slavery or the world.

Not only did the children of Israel set their eyes on Egypt, (the very place they were delivered out of) but they wanted it's life source as well. A river is a life giving source. Look where there are many rivers and there will be much life as well. Not many rivers; not much life either. Why? Because a river is a source that produces life. The Nile is symbolic of the world's source. Just like the fountain of living water is the source for the Christian, so the Nile is the source for

water is the source for the Christian, so the Nile is the source for the world.

God uses natural things to teach us spiritual things. The Nile in the natural, is extremely polluted; unfit to drink or wash in, and full of disease. To swim in it would be to be taken away in it's current.



Another aspect of the Nile is that it's shore lines keep growing, swallowing up more and more shoreline. There was a time when they buried many people along the banks of the Nile, but because of how it's shore lines kept growing; it has swallowed them up. You might say it's full of dead men's bones, which is a good picture of the world's system or source.

The Nile is unable to impart life, unable to cleanse, and the deadly current promises to take away anybody who would try to swim in it. A totally **contaminated** river. And a river should give life. This one cannot give life, but rather takes it away.

Contrast this to a fountain which bubbles up from a clean source. It **gives** life, is fit to drink, able to cleanse, with no threat to take away someone in it's current. The children of Israel forsook this for a polluted source that could only promise to swallow up and contaminate. However; I believe they fell under a delusion that the Nile was attractive. Outwardly it looks bigger and stronger. Even from a distance, the

looks majestic, but up close, you see the picture of it's God's fountain come contaminated.

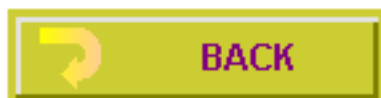
"Man's efforts can't take the place of what only God can provide and do."

Nile probably will never be contaminated or run

dry, because it is from an everlasting and a pure source. I believe the fear that the Israelites had was in thinking that this fountain wouldn't last, and when it dried up, then what? That's why they hewed out cisterns. To store up just in case the fountain dried up. Then they would have back up. They had to make a little provision in case a drought came. Then they would still be alright. They wanted to contain that which flowed. However, even their cisterns could not hold water.

So, they in their unbelief, tried to make provision, and even at that, they weren't able to. *Why?* Because man's effort can't take the

that, they weren't able to. *Why?* Because man's effort can't take the place of what only God can provide and do. Having begun in the spirit, they now resorted to the flesh to see that their needs were



met. That's why God called it two evils. What was the end result? Frustrated, they were back at the shores of the Nile, (the world) saying "it's too hard trying to please God, I can't live up to that kind of life", and looking at the polluted Nile to meet their needs. We make the same mistake today trying to obtain from God what He has already provided. We seek things from God and when we don't see the results, we take matters into our own hands and begin to build cisterns. Frustrated, we say, "I can't live up to this type of life, it's too hard to please God", when actually, God has only said, "don't forsake the fountain."

What would you think if my son Josiah went to pray one day and prayed, "Lord, I pray you would make me a boy. I want to be a boy so bad. I beg you to make me a boy, and most of all let Mommy and Daddy be my mommy and daddy." Wouldn't you say "Josiah, you don't have to pray that way, because you already are a boy, and Mommy and Daddy are already your mommy and daddy." Wouldn't he be wasting his prayers,

praying for something he already has or is?

" We must understand that the Nile is not attractive."

the same

This was the same with the Israelites, they wanted to contain in cisterns what God had abundantly provided for them. It was just a matter of going to the fountain. Leaning on the flesh is like building a cistern that's cracked.

Let's look at another illustration. Suppose you inherited 50 million dollars. Would you go to work the next day? If not, it's because you know you're amply supplied. Let's suppose you work for a person like I used to; a taskmaster of a boss. My old boss was tough. We'd work 60-70 hours a week and never get as much as a 5 minute break. If we ever stood still, he'd pipe up about how we couldn't be productive standing still, etc. Now suppose I get the inheritance. It's mine. Now I get a call to his office and he says: "Greg, listen, I'm sick of you

get a call to his office and he says: "Greg, listen, I'm sick of you slacking off on the job. If I see you slacking off one more time, you're through. Now get to work early tomorrow, and I don't want to see any more slacking." Then he says "Now get out of here."

