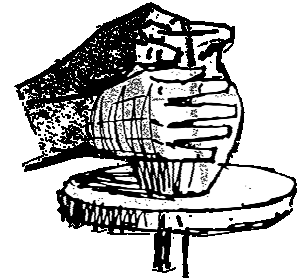


His Workmanship Westside

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ
Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



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Isaiah 64:8

Broken Cisterns: Apostasy, by Henry Morris III

"For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water," Jer 2:13.

Nearly 2700 years ago, the prophet Jeremiah delivered God's message of pending judgment to the nation of Judah. Some 150 years before Jeremiah's warnings, Judah's northern neighbor, the nation of Israel, had been taken captive by Assyria. Both nations had gone into idolatry. Although Judah had experienced earlier periods of revival, with the death of faithful King Josiah it became a pagan nation, falling into gross immorality, open political corruption, unjust oppression of the weak, and a deplorable form of cultic Baal idolatry.

God's Comparison. It is difficult for us to understand the significance of the holy anger expressed by the Lord through Jeremiah toward the nation of Judah. Part of that difficulty lies in our unfamiliarity with the use of "cisterns"—particularly as God identified Himself as a "fountain of living waters" and condemned the pathetic attempt of the nation to build "broken cisterns" to replace the "living waters" which He supplies.

In Jesus's conversation with the Samaritan woman in John 4, she had come to draw water out of a public well—Jacob's well—that was very similar in construction to the cisterns of Jeremiah's day, which were pits dug around a ground spring (living water) or an underground water supply and then enlarged and plastered to hold a large amount of water. Most villages and nearly all cities had such a cistern that was maintained by the responsible government of the area and made available to the local citizens. Some private homeowners built private cisterns, usually on the top of their houses, that were used to catch rainwater or to store enough for household needs. These private cisterns were rarely used for drinking water, since they could easily be contaminated. However, the city cisterns were constantly cleaned and routinely purged to provide fresh water for the population.

The Samaritan woman came to the well to draw the water she needed to live. Jesus told her that He could give her "living water"—an internal source/spring of water—that would provide eternal life, Jn 4:11-14; cf. Jn 7:38. That is the sense in which the Lord told Jeremiah that the people of Judah

had forsaken the "fountain of living waters" and were attempting to construct "cisterns" that would not, and could not, hold any of the eternal, life-giving water that came only from God. Any cistern we create for ourselves will be a broken cistern.

Rabshakeh's Earlier Taunt. About 100 years before Jeremiah's warnings, during the reign of Hezekiah, Sennacherib of Assyria had sent his army under General Rabshakeh to threaten the nation of Judah. Hezekiah—a rare faithful king like Josiah—had recently completed the construction of an underground water tunnel to carry a large stream of "living water" into Jerusalem. He "stopped the water outlet of Upper Gihon, and brought the water by tunnel to the west side of the City of David," 2 Chr 32:30, and "made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool," Is 22:11. Thus, the city of Jerusalem was given a secure and sanitary source of fresh water for the needs of its population and was prepared for an Assyrian siege should it come. And come it did, as the huge army under Rabshakeh arrived on the outskirts of Jerusalem. The city quickly buttoned up for war, and Hezekiah

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“Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive....”
—John 7:37-39

sent out an envoy of his key counselors to meet with Rabshakeh to try to stave off a debilitating siege and a likely carnage. Rabshakeh would have no treaty. Brazenly, he strode to within shouting distance of the wall of Jerusalem (which was lined with the citizenry) and taunted them to forget Hezekiah’s provisions and Hezekiah’s God. That speech promised the citizens of Jerusalem that if they would give up control to Assyria, pay tribute to Sennacherib, and worship the much more powerful gods of Assyria, Jerusalem would enjoy the benefits of a peaceful relationship with the greatest nation Assyria: *“Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria: ‘Make peace with me by a present and come out to me; and every one of you eat from his own vine and every one from his own fig tree, and every one of you drink the waters of his own cistern,’”* 2 Kg 18:31. His offer was deceptive.

Revival Came with Judah’s Refusal.

King Hezekiah and the nation of Judah listened to God’s prophet Isaiah and refused the bluster and false promises of Rabshakeh. They trusted in the direction and counsel of God and His personal promise of protection given through Isaiah. And God delivered. *“Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: ‘He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shield, nor build a siege mound against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return; and he shall not come into this city,’ says the LORD. ‘For I will defend this city, to save it for My own sake and for My servant David’s sake.’”* And it came to pass on a certain night that the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corps-

es—all dead,’ 2 Kg 19:32-35.

Broken Cisterns. Some things are fairly obvious. Anything that forsakes the living waters provided by the God of creation will fail. He is *“the way, the truth, and the life,”* Jn 14:6. He is the only source of life and salvation: *“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved,”* Ax 4:12. All *“other gospels,”* no matter where or how they come, are to be totally rejected, Gal 1:6-9. We must enthusiastically embrace an exclusive gospel that is provided only by the grace of God given through the death of the Lord Jesus on the cross of Calvary and gloriously demonstrated as effective by His physical resurrection—the risen Christ is living proof of His victory!

“Their nobles have sent their lads for water; they went to the cisterns and found no water. They returned with their vessels empty; they were confounded and ashamed and covered their heads. Because the ground is parched, for there was no rain in the land, they were ashamed; they covered their heads.” —Jeremiah 14:3-4

But not all people accept Christ. There are “broken cisterns” being built in seminaries and departments of religion in universities and Christian [sic] colleges. These man-made cisterns appear to hold water but they leak because their foundations are not built on the Word of God. Some teach a universal salvation—the belief that ultimately all will be saved because God is good and would not eternally punish His creation with an eternal hell. Others propose that salvation is ushered in as mankind becomes more “godlike”—that humanity will ultimately

embrace the best of all religions and philosophies, becoming “one” with that which offends no one. These various kinds of theology have one thing in common: They each turn their back on the person of Jesus Christ, Who is our life. They reject the authority of Jesus, the truth of God’s Word, and the power of His gospel. May God rebuke those who teach false ways.

Slow-Leaking Cisterns. There are, however, more subtle breaks than these in the cisterns that men construct to store the “living water” of our great God. As we mature in our relationship with the Lord, much of our faith is dependent on our trust in the accuracy and authority of His revealed Word. The very first sin was brought about through the manipulation of Eve by the serpent, who deceived her into doubting what God had said. This then led her to entertain the thought that God either could not or would not do as He said He would, and finally to suspect the very character and nature of God, and perhaps even ascribe malicious and self-serving deception to the Creator in His instructions for His creation.

Many times in the New Testament we are warned not to fall into the same trap of the “broken cisterns” of man-made philosophy. *“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ,”* Col 2:8. *“O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane and idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—by professing it some have strayed concerning the faith,”* 1 Tim 6:20-21. *“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware*

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Psalm 133:1

Let your faith be seen in 2014
“I rejoice to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.”
—Colossians 2:5

Broken Cisterns, from p. 2
lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked,” 2 Pet 3:17.

At the foundation of all false doctrine is the rejection of Who God is. The classic overview that our Lord gave to the apostle Paul recorded in Romans 1:18-25 should be sufficient to focus our minds and hearts on the ultimate problem with “broken cisterns.” This passage makes clear that Who God is and what He has done is observable to everyone by “the things that are made.” When anyone rejects that evidence, there is no longer any excuse. Once the “living water” is rejected—whether by a nation, an organization, or an individual—any man-made cistern is insufficient to hold the great truths of the Creator because that cistern has “exchanged the truth of God for the lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator,” Rm 1:25. The Scriptures are clear! “Living water” comes from God alone. Any cistern that we manufacture from our own knowledge or capabilities will always be broken.

CONVINCE, COMMIT, CONNECT—2014 Goals:

Seven goals for Westside in 2014

1. Attend every service
2. Attend and prepare diligently for every Bible class
3. Participate in neighborhood evangelism
4. Participate in vacation Bible school June 23-26
5. Convert/baptize ten souls
6. Present the gospel in studies
7. Invite people to hear the gospel

How are you doing so far? Have you made these YOUR goals? Will you pray for them?

Discipleship Here At Home

“One Nation under Allah” from p. 4 to pass the buck of responsibility to the students, saying, “This is a student-initiated and student-led club. There is no school sponsor or advisor. It doesn’t come under the umbrella of the district.” Actually, the activity of reciting the pledge does come under the district. Choosing to put it into the hands of a group not regulated by the administrators does not excuse the district.

This event has a deeper root issue running through it: the liberal “white guilt” deception. Liberals constantly see racism, persecution, hatred, and evil in the wrong place—where it does not really exist. The media, driven by liberal emotionalism, is constantly searching for evidence of American hatred of Islam. It just isn’t there. The media wrings its hands over violence against Muslims after every terrorist attack against Americans, when in reality, any backlash is usually an isolated incident that has other issues at play. There have never been waves of violence against Muslims in America. Even after 9-11, there was no rash of violent reaction against American Muslims. While liberals are constantly worried about our response to Islam’s assault on our nation and our values, they miss the truly important thing—we are constantly under attack by Islam. They are worried about offending the world’s Muslim population, when they should be worried about helping us defend western values and ideals.

Worse, this is blasphemy. Allah is not God. The god of Islam is unlike the God of the scriptures, Is 40:18-31; 45:5-24; 46:5, 9-13. We must not equate the word God with the word Allah. Forcing school children to say they are “under Allah,” causes them to blaspheme and is blasphemy itself, cf. Ps 74:18; Is 37:3-6, 16-24; 65:6-7; Mk 7:21-23; Ax 13:45; 1 Tim 6:1; 1 Pet 4:14. Pray for the Poudre Valley School District and our children.

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here and away

Jordana Sangellino—strep throat
Rocco Jr. and Giada Sangellino—influenza B
Giles Free—seizure last week; confined at home
Sarah Hadders—persisting fever, cold, cough
Ed Fink—prostate cancer; current treatment for brain tumors; **PRAISE**: improved blood count
Amy Vander Kooi’s mother, Sherry Graves—rehab in TN recovering from broken hip
Forrest Corray, Jordan’s brother—addiction
Kory Tope’s uncle Kurt Schulz—successful angioplasty, 2 stents; another in near future
David Hull, a friend of **Randy Reames**—stroke; leukemia relapse; pray open to gospel
Randy’s mother, Una, in her 80s—cancerous colon tumor removed recently
Sandra Perry’s sister, Sharon Rupinen—upper GI tests; surgery expected; **Sandra’s daughter’s** boyfriend—complications from foot amputation
Josh McDonald, friend of **Kory Tope**, and his daughter **Casey**—unwanted divorce
Mark Campbell—will be moving to own apt and needs furniture, kitchen items

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr; Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes—asthma
Bill Dennis—heart issues
Autumn Hadders—epilepsy; celiac disease
Jonathan Hadders—RA
Danielle Huelsman—vertigo, CV syndrome
Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs help
Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak; **Virginia**, macular degeneration; high BP
Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes
Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
Nell Free—pacemaker, heart; back pain
Judy Sartin—spinal stenosis; arthritis
Judy Sartin’s grandson Tristen—autism
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung weakness

Job concerns Linda Szymanski

Travel Joel and **Meredith Walker** are in New England this week. **Sarah McMurray** leaves this pm for 2 weeks’ work in Louisiana
Bereaved The **Menards’** daughter, **Sharon**, age 66, passed away from cancer and a collapsed lung last Sunday

“Man’s insulting God is not reversed by our insulting man.”

—Sinclair B. Ferguson



Exposing current thoughts & trends

“One Nation under Allah” in CO School, by Onan Coca

Rocky Mountain High School in Fort Collins says the Pledge of Allegiance once each week on Monday. Last Monday, the student body recited the pledge in Arabic, replacing ‘under God’ with ‘under Allah.’ Let that sink in. How is this different from pledging allegiance to Adolf Hitler? Islam and Nazism are world-conquering ideologies. Islam’s ultimate goal is to take over the world by conversion, force, or forced conversion. Can you

**ISLAM
WILL DOMINATE
THE WORLD**

“It is He (Allah) who sent His Messenger (Muhammad) with guidance and the religion of truth to manifest it over all religion. And sufficient is Allah as Witness.”
(Surah Al-Fath, 48:28)

imagine that Americans would denounce their heritage and embrace their world-wide enemy? Principal Tom Lopez denied any attempt to push an Islamic agenda, saying, “These students love this country. They were not being un-American in trying to do

this. They believed they were accentuating the meaning of the words as spoken regularly in English.” But this doesn’t make any sense. Speaking unintelligible words in Arabic in some way accentuates their meaning?

That is an extremely weak argument in defense of an ill-advised decision. A member of the school’s “Cultural Arms Club” led the student body in an Arabic version. Lopez said the cultural club seeks to “destroy the barriers, embrace the cultures” that exist within the high school. Either Lopez is deceived or he is purposely undermining the foundational principles of this nation. Take your pick. Either way, he should not be leading a public school. A representative of the activist Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) said he was dumb-founded by complaints from parents and residents. “How on earth is it un-American to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in another language,” he asked. “...unless the people complaining are anti-Muslim or anti-middle eastern bigots.”

There you have it. He pulled the race card. While some good government schools exist, one day they all will come under the complete control of the federal bureaucracy. Diversity and toleration will rule the day, and any worldview that disagrees with the new normal will be excluded.

The Poudre School District communications director, Danielle Clark, said she understands why parents are upset: “We understand not everybody would agree with the students’ choice.” But it is not the student’s choice. They do not control the public address system. It was a school choice. An abdication of responsibility is also part of the school’s defense. Clark tried

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Westside
CHURCH OF CHRIST

meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
720-295-4530

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

info@thechurchingolden.com

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Sunday morning:

• **Adult Bible class, *Inside Out, Growing a Spirit of Service*, Lesson 4, “A Fervent Spirit,”** DeWayne Howell

• **Sermon, “Divine History Lessons,”**
Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon theme for this term: **HISTORY OF THE LORD’S KINGDOM**

• **Prayer, songs, Lord’s Supper, class studies:** “Should we attempt to restore the New Testament church? How do we establish Biblical authority? Will following the express terms of Christ and His apostles and/or approved precedent result in unity?” Larry Campbell

Wednesday adult class for May-June:

Jeremiah and Lamentations
This week: Jeremiah 21-24