

1

 Slide 2 has a dark purple background on the left with the title "The overflowing fountain" in white. Below the title is a list of four bullet points, each starting with a pink triangle. The right side of the slide shows a photograph of a large, illuminated fountain at night with multiple jets of water spraying upwards and outwards, reflecting on the water below. A pink rectangular tab is visible at the top right of the image area.

The overflowing fountain

- ▶ God is a fountain overflowing with goodness and love; light and life
- ▶ But light cannot dwell with darkness
- ▶ God's love is not impotent indifference
- ▶ Great wickedness requires great wrath, or love is not love

2

Wickedness

Man's wickedness is far greater than we can imagine

We get glimpses of it in the Roman Arena, Auschwitz, the southern plantations, Jim Crow, the gulags...

Or Gibeah (Judges 19-21)

3

Wrath

- ▶ Wrath, then, is not an essential attribute of God – for who was God angry at before sin entered the world...
- ▶ Rather, wrath is the response of God's love to man's wickedness.
- ▶ Infinite love, confronted with unfathomable wickedness, overflows with infinite wrath

4

Israel's Special Place

God purposed to redeem mankind through Israel

He purposed to dwell with mankind on the earth, signified by the land of Canaan

He purposed to send a king to crush the head of the serpent.

5

Israel's Special Place

But when Israel continually rejected God, God finally rejected them

God is showing them in our text what they have forfeited by lusting after other gods.

6



They forfeit the physical blessing (Verse 2)

- ▶ They sought other lovers, saying that God's provision wasn't good enough
- ▶ But there is no other provision other than God's

7

They forfeit the land (verse 3)

- ▶ And in forfeiting the land, they forfeit what the land represented – the presence of God.
- ▶ Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness. (2 Chr. 6:41)

8

They forfeit their freedom (Verse 3b)

They will go "back to Egypt".

"Freedom" never means "I do whatever I want to do and no one can tell me what to do."

It means freedom from the bondage of sin and misery.

Freedom to serve God as his people in his holy temple.

But this is forfeit. They will now be in bondage to their sin and misery until death takes them

9

They forfeit their holiness – their separateness (Verse 4)

They are now "not my people". Therefore they will eat the same foods as everyone else, scattered, like everyone else.

The spiritual import is that they are now children of wrath, strangers to the covenant of God

10

They forfeit their acceptance before God (Verse 5)

Shame – get out of my sight. You aren't welcome here.

I don't want your fellowship. I don't know you.

This will come upon them.

Their worship is rejected.

"Depart from me. I never knew you."

What will you do on the feast days?

11

The ground brings forth thorns and thistles.

When fellowship between God and man is destroyed,
enmity strikes

Man vs. creation, man vs. man; man vs. God.

Overtaken by the curse (Verse 6)







12

They forfeit God's word (Verse 7-8)

The famine of the word is the worst famine there is.

When the word is rejected in favor of lies, God eventually removes the word.

The prophets become madmen and fools, snares for the birds

13

Verse 9

- ▶ Their corruption goes to the heart.
- ▶ As the centuries have passed, they have gone deeper and deeper into depravity, destroying themselves.
- ▶ Since their sins as as Gibeah's, God's goodness and love will overflow with wrath against them.

14

God's delight

- ▶ God delighted in them
- ▶ He was a joyous as a wanderer finding grapes.
- ▶ (the point is not that Israel had something pleasant in them; his point is that God delighted in them)
- ▶ But from the very beginning, they corrupted themselves
- ▶ Baal Peor was the place where the Midianites seduced them into horrendous idolatry (Numbers 25)

15

They forfeit their future Verses 11-13.

- ▶ They will die in obscurity.
- ▶ But even more final, their line will be cut off.
- ▶ God spares many for the elect in their loins. But there is not even that hope left in them.
- ▶ They wanted to be like the other nations. So they will join those nations in their destruction.

16

Hosea's prayer

- ▶ Hosea doesn't even know what to pray.
- ▶ What do you even ask for, when such a judgment is pronounced and certain?
- ▶ He prays that the nation will not bring forth any more children to be destroyed.
- ▶ The hopelessness of the situation cries off the page.

17

Gilgal

- ▶ Gilgal – the place where Israel renewed the covenant under Joshua and were circumcised, the place where God “rolled away the reproach” – this place had become the place of the most vile idolatry
- ▶ God's love no longer rests on them
- ▶ God's love is poured out only in Christ. It is abundant and overflowing, but it is exactly that which makes atonement necessary.
- ▶ Outside of atonement, only wrath remains.

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