

## Jeremiah 23:1-8

This section brings us to a clear denunciation of false prophets. Although certainly applicable to the false prophets of Jeremiah's day, this is a condemnation of false prophets at any time, and specifically in the last days. There are a number of indications that this section focuses on the last days: it speaks of the Messianic Davidic King ruling over Israel; the Jewish people returning from all countries of the world; Israel dwelling safely with good shepherds; as well as the specific statement that what is taught in this chapter will be understood in the last days (vs. 17).

- 1 Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.**
- 2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.**
- 3 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.**
- 4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.**

### THE DESTRUCTIVENESS OF ISRAEL'S LEADERS

Vs. 1-2 "Pastor" (רעי ra'ah) is a common word in biblical times and refers to "tend a flock." Psalm 23, "The LORD is my Shepherd (רעי ra'ah)," is a well known psalm that uses the analogy of "shepherd" or "pastor."

Although one may apply this warning to modern day church leaders (pastors/elders) the context has to do with the leaders of Israel (prophets, priests, kings) that had oversight of the people. They destroyed and scattered the people ("sheep") and God, in response, will visit them with destruction.

#### **"The pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture...'**

1. The sheep are Gods.
2. The pastors are responsible for destroying and scattering the sheep.
  - 1) The sin of the people brought about God's judgment in sending them into Babylonian captivity.
  - 2) The destruction and the scattering of God's sheep by the pastors is likely also the spiritual destruction of the people.
3. Today we have false teachers, not false prophets
  - 1 **But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you,** who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.
  - 2 **And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.**
  - 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.
  - 12 **But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;**
  - 13 **And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness,** as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots they are and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;
  - 14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; **beguiling unstable souls:** an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:
  - 15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;
  - 16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

## THE HEALING RESTORATION OF ISRAEL'S MESSIANIC LEADER (KING)

vs. 3-4 The remnant of Israel will return to the land from all countries of the world where they will be blessed and led by shepherds which look out for their best interests.

The return is from world-wide captivity. This is important for a couple of reasons.

1. The context of this chapter is the last days.
2. The scattering of Israel was the result of the injustice/sinfulness of the leaders - vs. 1 and 2
3. The scattering of Israel was done by God because of His justice - vs. 3
4. The re-gathering of Israel will be the work of God - vs. 3
5. The remnant of Israel will be re-gathered - vs. 3 - the remnant are Jewish people who believe in Jesus.

"But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace." Romans 11:4-5

"Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed." Isaiah 66:5

"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn." Zechariah 12:10

"And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God." Zechariah 13:8-9

6. God will set up righteous leaders over Israel - vs. 4 - the leaders are those who return with Jesus in glorified bodies - O.T. believers, church age believers, martyred Tribulation period believers. There will be peace and abundance at this time, vs. 4.

**5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.**

**6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

"Behold" (הנה hee-NEH)

"In Barron's 'Mastering Hebrew' the author commented on the significance of the Hebrew equivalent of the word behold when used as a conjunction or interjection. It functions as a neon-red flag that shouts, 'Pay very close attention to what comes next, because it's especially important!' In Biblical Hebrew the word is expressed in varying forms that stem from the most common root, הנה (hee-NEH)."

<https://biblicalhebrewjourney.blogspot.com/2014/02/behold-biblical-hebrew-meaning-its-not.html>

Sit up, pay attention to what is about to be said!

"the days [are] come[ing]" - make no mistake there IS COMING a day when evrything will change.

"saith the LORD" - this promise comes from God!

There will be a Davidic King raised up - "I will raise unto David" - notice 4 things.

1. He is a **righteous Branch**

God's Branch is referenced in a number of passages. Here He is referenced as the King - Matthew.

Zechariah 3:8	"...for, behold, I will bring forth <b>my servant</b> the BRANCH."	-	Mark
Zechariah 6:12	"...Behold <b>the man</b> whose name is The BRANCH."	-	Luke
Isaiah 4:2	"In that day shall <b>the branch of the LORD</b> be beautiful and glorious..."	-	John

2. He is a **King** who will prosper in His rule.

“And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.” Zechariah 14:9

3. He **will execute judgment** (משפט mishpat) - a verdict rendered fairly and impartially.

4. He **will execute justice** (צדקה tzed-aw-kaw') - a verdict carried out righteously and morally.

5. He **will save Judah** when He comes and **Israel will dwell safely** as a result.

Salvation is both physical and spiritual at this time - Zechariah 12.

6. He is God - **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS** -

**7 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;**

**8 But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.**

Vs. 7 **Therefore** is used to emphasize “as a result of, because of, consequently, on that ground.” What follows, thus, is predicated on the previous couple of verses. What follows is based on the promises of God. What follows is because of the Messianic King, the God-Man, who is 100% certain to return and save Israel.

1. The Jewish people will no longer talk about the LORD who delivered them from Egypt bringing them into the land of Israel.

2. The Jewish people will talk about the LORD who delivered them from the nations of the world bringing them back into the land of Israel.