

Jeremiah 23:1-40 **Wicked Shepherds Judged – Kingdom Restoration**
Change of Yahweh's Fame – Judgment of False Prophets

Woe to the wicked Shepherds

1 "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the Lord.

2 Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the Lord.

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3 "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

4 I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the Lord.

5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: **YAHWEH TSIDQEENUW** (THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS).

Fame of Yahweh to be changed in Kingdom age

7 "Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,'

8 but, 'As the Lord lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."

False Prophets and Empty Oracles – WARNING

9 My heart within me is broken Because of the prophets; All my bones shake. I am like a drunken man, And like a man whom wine has overcome, Because of the Lord, And because of His holy words.

10 For the land is full of adulterers; For because of a curse the land mourns. The pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up. Their course of life is evil, And their might is not right.

11 "For both prophet and priest are profane; Yes, in My house I have found their wickedness," says the Lord.

12 "Therefore their way shall be to them Like slippery ways; In the darkness they shall be driven on And fall in them; For I will bring disaster on them, The year of their punishment," says the Lord.

13 "And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria: They prophesied by Baal And caused My people Israel to err.

14 Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one turns back from his wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.

15 "Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts concerning the prophets:
'Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, And make them drink the water of gall; For from the prophets of Jerusalem Profaneness has gone out into all the land.'"

16 Thus says the Lord of hosts:

"Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of the Lord.

17 They continually say to those who despise Me,' The Lord has said, "You shall have peace"; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'"

18 For who has stood in the counsel of the Lord, And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?

19 Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord has gone forth in fury — A violent whirlwind! It will fall violently on the head of the wicked.

20 The anger of the Lord will not turn back Until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly.

21 "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.

22 But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings.

23 "Am I a God near at hand," says the Lord, "And not a God afar off?

24 Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the Lord; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord.

25 "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!'

26 How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart,

27 who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal.

28 "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the Lord.

29 "Is not My word like a fire?" says the Lord, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?

30 "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," says the Lord, "who steal My words every one from his neighbor.

31 Behold, I am against the prophets," says the Lord, "who use their tongues and say, 'He says.'

32 Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says the Lord, "and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all," says the Lord.

33 "So when these people or the prophet or the priest ask you, saying, 'What is the oracle of the Lord?' you shall then say to them, 'What oracle?' I will even forsake you," says the Lord.

34 "And as for the prophet and the priest and the people who say, 'The oracle of the Lord!' I will even punish that man and his house.

35 Thus every one of you shall say to his neighbor, and every one to his brother, 'What has the Lord answered?' and, 'What has the Lord spoken?'

36 And the oracle of the Lord you shall mention no more. For every man's word will be his oracle, for you have perverted the words of the living God, the Lord of hosts, our God.

37 Thus you shall say to the prophet, 'What has the Lord answered you?' and, 'What has the Lord spoken?'

38 But since you say, 'The oracle of the Lord!' therefore thus says the Lord: 'Because you say this word, "The oracle of the Lord!" and I have sent to you, saying, "Do not say, 'The oracle of the Lord!'"

39 therefore behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you and forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and will cast you out of My presence.

40 And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten."

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Facts Revealed:

Woe to the wicked Shepherds

- ✧ "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says Yahweh (the Lord).

Therefore thus says Yahweh Elohey Yisrael (the Lord God of Israel) against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says Yahweh (the Lord).

[\[Jeremiah 23:1-2\]](#)

✧ The leaders of the people bear the greatest responsibility for the way the people go.

✧ The teachers receive the stricter judgment. [\[James 3:1\]](#)

✧ Yahweh knows what the leaders do and will reward them accordingly.

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- ✧ "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says Yahweh (the Lord).

"Behold, the days are coming," says Yahweh (the Lord), "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: **YAHWEH TSIDQEENUW (THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS)**

[\[Jeremiah 23:3-6\]](#)

✧ Yahweh has and always will have a remnant of His people Israel.

✧ When He comes and sets up His Kingdom He will bring the remnant of His people Israel back to the Promised Land. [\[Isaiah 10:20-23, 11:10-12, 14:1-2\]](#)

- ✧ They will be helped by the people of the lands to which they were scattered. [\[Isaiah 49:22, 60:9\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh will then set up faithful shepherds over them. It will be a time of peace and plenty.
- ✧ The King will be from the line of David reigning in righteousness and judgment.
- ✧ His name shall be Yahweh Tsidqenuw (The Lord Our Righteousness).

Fame of Yahweh to be changed in Kingdom age

- ✧ "Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says Yahweh (the Lord), "that they shall no longer say, 'As Yahweh (the Lord) lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' but, 'As Yahweh (the Lord) lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land." [\[Jeremiah 23:7-8\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh's most spectacular act on Israel's behalf has always been His deliverance of Israel from Egyptian enslavement.
- ✧ During the Kingdom age, the Egyptian deliverance will fade into insignificance and will be replaced by the total restoration of Israel to the Promised Land when they are regathered from around the world and brought home to the Land of Israel as the leading nation of the earth where Messiah is seated on His royal throne as King of kings and Lord of lords.

False Prophets and Empty Oracles – WARNING

- ✧ My heart within me is broken Because of the prophets; All my bones shake. I am like a drunken man, And like a man whom wine has overcome, Because of Yahweh (the Lord), And because of His holy words.
For the land is full of adulterers; For because of a curse the land mourns. The pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up. Their course of life is evil, And their might is not right.
"For both prophet and priest are profane; Yes, in My house I have found their wickedness," says Yahweh (the Lord). [\[Jeremiah 23:9-11\]](#)
- ✧ Jeremiah's heart is broken and he feels faint because of the message of destruction coming from the Lord.
- ✧ Yahweh had instructed Jeremiah to look at the behavior of the people, and Jeremiah confirmed that the land is full of sexually immoral people who have turned from the living God to go after idolatry. [\[Jeremiah 3:1-10, 5:1-2, 7:17-19\]](#)
- ✧ The land is defiled by their abominations and Yahweh has withheld the rain because the ways of the people of the land is not right.
- ✧ The Prophets and Priests are equally guilty of sin just like the wicked people.
- ✧ Yahweh is witness of the evil done in His Temple by the religious leaders.
- ✧ "Therefore their way shall be to them Like slippery ways; In the darkness they shall be driven on And fall in them; For I will bring disaster on them, The year of their punishment," says Yahweh (the Lord).
"And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria: They prophesied by Baal And caused My people Israel to err. [\[Jeremiah 23:12-13\]](#)
- ✧ The year of punishment has come, disaster is on its way and the people will fall before their enemy because of their evil doings.
- ✧ The Northern kingdom of Israel was carried away by the Assyrians because of the folly of their prophets who prophesied by Baal and caused the people to err.
- ✧ This should have been a warning to the Southern kingdom of Judah.
- ✧ Also I have seen a horrible thing in the prophets of Jerusalem: They commit adultery and walk in lies; They also strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one turns back from his

wickedness. All of them are like Sodom to Me, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah. [\[Jeremiah 23:14\]](#)

- ✧ The prophets of Jerusalem are doing the same by committing adultery and prophesying lies.
- ✧ They strengthen the hands of evildoers by promising peace and security when war is coming.
- ✧ No one is called to repentance to turn back from his wickedness.
- ✧ Yahweh views them just like Sodom and Gomorrah which were so evil that He brought fire and brimstone to over throw all the cities of the plain. [\[Genesis 13:10-13, 18:16-21, 19:1-25\]](#)
- ✧ "Therefore thus says Yahweh Tsebaavot (the Lord of hosts) concerning the prophets: 'Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, And make them drink the water of gall; For from the prophets of Jerusalem Profaneness has gone out into all the land.'" [\[Jeremiah 23:15\]](#)
- ✧ Because the Prophets of Jerusalem are deceiving the people with profaneness, Yahweh has special punishment for them.
- ✧ Thus says Yahweh Tsebaavot (the Lord of hosts):
"Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; They speak a vision of their own heart, Not from the mouth of Yahweh (the Lord). They continually say to those who despise Me,' Yahweh (The Lord) has said, "You shall have peace"; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'" [\[Jeremiah 23:16-17\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh warns the people to exercise discernment and not listen to false prophets who speak from their own hearts when Yahweh has not sent them.
- ✧ False prophets encourage the people who walk according to the lusts of their own hearts, by saying, "You will have peace" and "No evil shall come upon you."
- ✧ The Peace and Prosperity message to sinful ungodly people is dangerous.

Discerning a true message

- ✧ For who has stood in the counsel of Yahweh (the Lord), And has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it? [\[Jeremiah 23:18\]](#)
- ✧ The responsibility of the people is to search the Word of God for understanding and discernment, by careful study and marking the Word of God.
- ✧ Yahweh is looking for those who will truly stand in His counsel.

Judgment against the wicked

- ✧ Behold, a whirlwind of the Lord has gone forth in fury — A violent whirlwind! It will fall violently on the head of the wicked.
The anger of Yahweh (the Lord) will not turn back Until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. [\[Jeremiah 23:19-20\]](#)
- ✧ The fury of Yahweh has gone out and will fall on the head of the wicked, it will not turn back until He has accomplished the intent of His heart.
- ✧ **In the Last Days it will be perfectly understood.** This will be the time of the Great Tribulation and Judgment Seat of Christ.

Discerning False or True Prophets

- ✧ "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. [\[Jeremiah 23:21\]](#)
- ✧ False prophets bring their messages on their own, desiring to appear super spiritual for recognition from people by making them feel comfortable with their sinful life style.
- ✧ **But if they had stood in My counsel, And had caused My people to hear My words, Then they would have turned them from their evil way And from the evil of their doings.** [\[Jeremiah 23:22\]](#)

- ✧ A true prophet will call the people to repentance and holiness of life.
- ✧ This message will not be offensive to the Saint, and will save the Sinner who repents.
- ☆ "Am I a Elohey (God) near at hand," says Yahweh (the Lord), "And not a Elohey (God) afar off?
Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says Yahweh (the Lord);
"Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says Yahweh (the Lord).
"I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' [\[Jeremiah 23:23-25\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh is fully aware of the messages spoken to the people whether true or false.
- ☆ How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart, who try to make My people forget My name by their dreams which everyone tells his neighbor, as their fathers forgot My name for Baal. [\[Jeremiah 23:26-27\]](#)
- ✧ The heart of false prophets today is the same as it has been throughout history.
- ✧ Their message distracts the people from following Yahweh in favor of seeking their own pleasure.
- ☆ "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says Yahweh (the Lord).
"Is not My word like a fire?" says Yahweh (the Lord), "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? [\[Jeremiah 23:28-29\]](#)
- ✧ The difference between the truth and a lie is like the difference between wheat and chaff.
- ✧ Yahweh's Word is powerful.
- ☆ "Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," says Yahweh (the Lord), "who steal My words every one from his neighbor.
Behold, I am against the prophets," says Yahweh (the Lord), "who use their tongues and say, 'He says.'
Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says Yahweh (the Lord), "and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all," says Yahweh (the Lord). [\[Jeremiah 23:30-32\]](#)
- ✧ Yahweh is against false prophets who repeat another false prophet's message.
- ✧ Yahweh is against false prophets who begin their prophecy by saying, "Thus says the Lord," when Yahweh has not spoken.
- ✧ Yahweh is against false prophets who prophesy false dreams.
- ✧ They cause the people to err by their lies and recklessness.
- ✧ Yahweh did not send or command them, so their false messages will do the people no good at all.
- ☆ "So when these people or the prophet or the priest ask you, saying, 'What is the oracle of Yahweh (the Lord)?' you shall then say to them, 'What oracle?' I will even forsake you," says Yahweh (the Lord).
"And as for the prophet and the priest and the people who say, 'The oracle of Yahweh (the Lord)!' I will even punish that man and his house.
Thus every one of you shall say to his neighbor, and every one to his brother, 'What has Yahweh (the Lord) answered?' and, 'What has Yahweh (the Lord) spoken?'
And the oracle of Yahweh (the Lord) you shall mention no more. For every man's word will be his oracle, for you have perverted the words of the living Elohiym (God), Yahweh Tsebaavot Eloheynu (the Lord of hosts, our God).

Thus you shall say to the prophet, 'What has Yahweh (the Lord) answered you?' and, 'What has Yahweh (the Lord) spoken?'

But since you say, 'The oracle of Yahweh (the Lord)!' therefore thus says Yahweh (the Lord): 'Because you say this word, "The oracle of Yahweh (the Lord)!" and I have sent to you, saying, "Do not say, 'The oracle of Yahweh (the Lord)!'"

therefore behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you and forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and will cast you out of My presence.

And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.'" [\[Jeremiah 23:33-40\]](#):

- ✧ The people, prophets, and priests have been using the word "oracle" as a mockery of Jeremiah showing their skepticism toward his messages of pending doom and calls to repentance.
- ✧ Yahweh is so weary of hearing them use the word "oracle" that He is angered by it.
- ✧ You may ask "What has Yahweh answered, or spoken?", but you may not ask, "What is the oracle of Yahweh?"