

Jeremiah 23

Chapter 23 of 52 · 40 Verses · Authorized King James Version

The Righteous Branch

- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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;
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- 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.

Lying Prophets

- 9** Mine 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 hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness.
- 10** For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force is not right.
- 11** For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD.
- 12** Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation, saith the LORD.
- 13** And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err.
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- 14** I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.
- 15** Therefore thus saith 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 is profaneness gone forth into all the land.
- 16** Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.
- 17** They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

18 For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard it?

19 Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked.

20 The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider 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 should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

23 Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?

24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

25 I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed.

26 How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart;

27 Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal.

28 The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD.

29 Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

30 Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour.

31 Behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith.

32 Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.

33 And when this people, or the prophet, or a priest, shall ask thee, saying, What is the burden of the LORD? thou shalt then say unto them, What burden? I will even forsake you, saith the LORD.

34 And as for the prophet, and the priest, and the people, that shall say, The burden of the LORD, I will even punish that man and his house.

35 Thus shall ye say every one to his neighbour, and every one to his brother, What hath the LORD answered? and, What hath the LORD spoken?

36 And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man's word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God.

37 Thus shalt thou say to the prophet, What hath the LORD answered thee? and, What hath the LORD spoken?

38 But since ye say, The burden of the LORD; therefore thus saith the LORD; Because ye say this word, The burden of the LORD, and I have sent unto you, saying, Ye shall not say, The burden of the LORD;

39 Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, and 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.

HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

God — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

Heaven — שָׁמַיִם (Shamayim)

Heaven, sky

The Hebrew **shamayim** (שָׁמַיִם) means heaven or sky—God's dwelling place and the realm above earth. 'The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's' (Psalm 115:16), yet 'the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him' (1 Kings 8:27).

Judgment — מִשְׁפָּט (Mishpat)

Judgment, justice

The Hebrew **mishpat** (מִשְׁפָּט) means judgment or justice—God's righteous decisions and ordinances. God is the Judge of all the earth who 'shall do right' (Genesis 18:25), executing perfect justice.

Lord — יְהוָה / אֲדֹנָי (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יהוה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

Priest — כֹּהֵן (Kohen)

Priest

The Hebrew **kohen** (כֹּהֵן) denotes a priest—one who mediates between God and people through sacrifices and intercession. Aaron and his descendants served as Israel's priests, foreshadowing Christ the Great High Priest.

Prophet — נָבִיא (Navi)

Prophet, spokesman

The Hebrew **navi** (נָבִיא) means prophet—one who speaks God's word to the people. Prophets received divine revelation and declared God's message, often calling Israel to repentance and foretelling future events.

Righteous — צַדִּיק (Tzaddik)

Righteous one

The Hebrew **tzaddik** (צַדִּיק) describes one who is righteous, just, or lawful—conforming to God's standard. From the root tzedek (צֶדֶק), meaning righteousness or justice.

Save — יָשַׁע (Yasha)

To save, deliver, rescue

The Hebrew **yasha** (יָשַׁע) means to save or deliver—rescue from danger or distress. This is the root of 'Jesus' (Yeshua), meaning 'YHWH saves.' God alone is Savior: 'I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour' (Isaiah 43:11).

Word — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

CROSS REFERENCES

Jeremiah 23:1 **References Lord:** Jeremiah 2:8; 10:21; 23:2; Ezekiel 13:3. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 12:10; 22:22; 50:6; Matthew 9:36; John 10:10; 10:12

Jeremiah 23:2 **Evil:** Jeremiah 21:12. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 32:34; Micah 7:4. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 23:34

Jeremiah 23:3 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 29:14; 30:3; 31:8; 32:37; Psalms 106:47; Ezekiel 11:17; 36:24; 36:37; Micah 7:12

Jeremiah 23:4 **Parallel theme:** 1 Peter 1:5

Jeremiah 23:5 **References Lord:** Jeremiah 30:3; Isaiah 4:2. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 52:13; 53:2; Zechariah 3:8. **Righteousness:** Jeremiah 23:6; Isaiah 9:7; Zechariah 9:9; Revelation 19:11. **Kingdom:** Jeremiah 30:9

Jeremiah 23:6 **Righteousness:** Daniel 9:24; Romans 3:22; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9. **Salvation:** Jeremiah 30:10; 33:16. **References Lord:** Isaiah 7:14. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 32:37; Isaiah 9:6

Jeremiah 23:7 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 23:3

Jeremiah 23:8 **References Israel:** Ezekiel 34:13. **References Lord:** Isaiah 14:1; Ezekiel 39:28; Zephaniah 3:20. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 23:3; Ezekiel 36:24; 37:25

Jeremiah 23:9 **Parallel theme:** Psalms 60:3; Isaiah 51:21; Lamentations 3:15; Daniel 8:27; Habakkuk 3:16

Jeremiah 23:10 **Evil:** Psalms 107:34. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 9:2; 9:10; Isaiah 24:6; Malachi 3:5

Jeremiah 23:11 **Prophecy:** Jeremiah 6:13; 8:10; Zephaniah 3:4. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 32:34; Ezekiel 23:39. **Evil:** Jeremiah 7:30; 11:15. **References Lord:** 2 Chronicles 36:14; Ezekiel 8:16

Jeremiah 23:12 **Darkness:** Jeremiah 13:16; Psalms 35:6; Proverbs 4:19; Isaiah 8:22; John 12:35. **Evil:** Jeremiah 11:23. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 32:34; Psalms 73:18

Jeremiah 23:13

Parallel theme: Isaiah 9:16. **Prophecy:** Jeremiah 2:8. **References Israel:** 2 Chronicles 33:9

Jeremiah 23:14

Parallel theme: Jeremiah 20:16; 29:23; Genesis 18:20; Deuteronomy 32:32; Matthew 11:24.

Prophecy: Jeremiah 14:14; 23:32; Ezekiel 22:25; Micah 3:11. **Evil:** Genesis 13:13

Jeremiah 23:15

References Lord: Jeremiah 8:14; 9:15. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 69:21; Lamentations 3:5; 3:15

Jeremiah 23:16

Prophecy: Jeremiah 14:14; 23:21; 23:26; Ezekiel 13:3; Micah 2:11; Matthew 7:15; 1 John 4:1.

Word: Proverbs 19:27; Ezekiel 13:6. **References Lord:** 2 Kings 17:15

Jeremiah 23:17

Evil: Jeremiah 3:17; 5:12; 13:10; Amos 9:10; Micah 3:11. **Peace:** Jeremiah 8:11; Deuteronomy 29:19; Micah 3:5. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 9:14; 18:18

Jeremiah 23:18

Word: Jeremiah 23:22. **References Lord:** 1 Kings 22:24; 2 Chronicles 18:23; Psalms 25:14; Amos 3:7; John 15:15; 1 Corinthians 2:16

Jeremiah 23:19

Evil: Jeremiah 25:32; 30:23; Proverbs 10:25. **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 21:1; Amos 1:14

Jeremiah 23:20

References Lord: Jeremiah 30:24; Proverbs 21:30; Isaiah 14:24; Zechariah 1:6. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 49:1; Isaiah 55:11

Jeremiah 23:21

Prophecy: Jeremiah 14:14; 23:32; 27:15

Jeremiah 23:22

Evil: Jeremiah 25:5; 35:15; Ezekiel 13:22; Zechariah 1:4. **Word:** Jeremiah 23:18. **Parallel theme:** Acts 20:27

Jeremiah 23:24

References Lord: Proverbs 15:3; Isaiah 29:15; 66:1. **Parallel theme:** 1 Kings 8:27; 2 Chronicles 6:18; Psalms 10:11; 90:8; 139:7; Isaiah 57:15; Ephesians 1:23

Jeremiah 23:25

Prophecy: Jeremiah 23:28; 23:32; 29:8; Numbers 12:6; Joel 2:28. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 8:6; 1 Corinthians 4:5

Jeremiah 23:26

Prophecy: Jeremiah 14:14

Jeremiah 23:27

Parallel theme: Jeremiah 29:8; Judges 3:7; 10:6; 2 Kings 21:3; Acts 13:8

Jeremiah 23:28 **Faith:** Proverbs 14:5; Matthew 24:45; Luke 12:42; 1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Timothy 1:12. **Word:** 2 Corinthians 2:17

Jeremiah 23:29 **Word:** Jeremiah 5:14; 20:9; Luke 24:32; John 6:63; Hebrews 4:12. **Parallel theme:** Acts 2:3; 2:37; 2 Corinthians 2:16; Revelation 11:5

Jeremiah 23:30 **Word:** Deuteronomy 18:20. **References Lord:** Psalms 34:16; Ezekiel 13:8; 13:20; 15:7

Jeremiah 23:31 **References Lord:** Jeremiah 23:17. **Prophecy:** 2 Chronicles 18:5; Isaiah 30:10

Jeremiah 23:32 **Prophecy:** Jeremiah 23:16; 23:25; Deuteronomy 18:20; Lamentations 2:14; Zephaniah 3:4; Revelation 19:20. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 7:8; Isaiah 3:12; Matthew 15:14. **References Lord:** Jeremiah 29:31

Jeremiah 23:33

References Lord: Malachi 1:1. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 12:7; Isaiah 13:1; Hosea 9:12; Nahum 1:1. **Prophecy:** Habakkuk 1:1

Jeremiah 23:34 **Prophecy:** Zechariah 13:3

Jeremiah 23:36 **References Lord:** Isaiah 3:8. **Word:** 2 Kings 19:4; 2 Peter 3:16. **Parallel theme:** Psalms 64:8; 120:3. **References God:** Jeremiah 10:10

Jeremiah 23:39 **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 23:33; Ezekiel 8:18

Jeremiah 23:40 **Eternal Life:** Jeremiah 20:11. **Parallel theme:** Jeremiah 42:18

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