

Week 6: The word of future hope and present despair – Jeremiah 23:1-8

Pray for our mission partners and your time in the Word	
Context (Jeremiah 22)	
1. What do you remember from the sermon on Sunday? Read Jeremiah 22:1-5, what were the kings meant to be like? Read Jeremiah 22:6-17, In what ways have the kings forsaken their responsibility? Read Jeremiah 22:13-30, What is God's judgment of the kings?	Gilead/Lebanon: The regions that precious cedar wood was sourced from for building the kings palace. Shallum: King Jehoahaz (son of Josiah king before Jehoiakim) Bashan/Abraim: Mountains in Lebanon Alternatively -> read to vs: 23, if it's a little too much reading for your group to get their head around.
Notice	
Read Jeremiah 23:1-8 2. Re-read the passage on your own	Prompts for reading on own - Images/metaphors - Keywords or ideas - Questions you have
3. Share with a partner, what images had an impact on you? 4. Discuss all together, a. What are you unsure about? b. What do you think the passage is about? Resolve what you think the main point of the passage is?	Guided study <i>if needed</i> Vs: 1-4 Why do you think the image of a shepherd is used of the kings? - What is the task of a shepherd? - How have the kings failed? - How will God restore their failure? Vs: 5-8 What does the shepherd God will place look like? - How will he succeed where the other kings have failed? What are the hints about when his rule will be?

22 This is what the LORD says: “Go down to the **palace of the king of Judah** and proclaim this message there: ² ‘Hear the word of the LORD to you, king of Judah, you who sit on David’s throne—you, your officials and your people who come through these gates. ³ This is what the LORD says: **Do what is just and right**. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. ⁴ **For if** you are careful to carry out these commands, then kings who sit on David’s throne will come through the gates of this palace, riding in chariots and on horses, accompanied by their officials and their people. ⁵ **But if** you do not obey these commands, declares the LORD, I swear by myself that **this palace will become a ruin.**”

⁶ For this is what the LORD says about the palace of the king of Judah:

“Though you are like Gilead to me,
like the summit of Lebanon,
I will surely make you like a wasteland,
like towns not inhabited.

7

I will send destroyers against you,
each man with his weapons,
and they will cut up your fine cedar beams
and throw them into the fire.

⁸ “People from many nations will pass by this city and will ask one another, ‘Why has the LORD done such a thing to this great city?’ ⁹ And the answer will be: ‘Because they have **forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God and have worshiped and served other gods.**”

10

Do not weep for the dead king or mourn his loss;
rather, weep bitterly for him who is exiled,
because he will never return
nor see his native land again.

Josiah

¹¹ For this is what the LORD says about Shallum^[a] son of Josiah, who succeeded his father as king of Judah but has gone from this place: “He will never return. ¹² He will die in the place where they have led him captive; he will not see this land again.”

13

“Woe to him who builds his palace by unrighteousness,
his upper rooms by injustice,

making his own people work for nothing,
not paying them for their labor.

14

He says, 'I will build myself a great palace
with spacious upper rooms.'
So he makes large windows in it,
panels it with cedar
and decorates it in red.

15

"Does it make you a king
to have more and more cedar?
Did not your father have food and drink?
He did what was right and just,
so all went well with him.

16

He defended the cause of the poor and needy,
and so all went well.
Is that not what it means to know me?"
declares the LORD.

17

"But your eyes and **your heart**
are set only on dishonest gain,
on shedding innocent blood
and on oppression and extortion."

¹⁸ Therefore this is what the LORD says about Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah:

"They will not mourn for him:
'Alas, my brother! Alas, my sister!'
They will not mourn for him:
'Alas, my master! Alas, his splendor!'

19

He will have the burial of a donkey—
dragged away and thrown
outside the gates of Jerusalem."

20

“Go up to Lebanon and cry out,
let your voice be heard in Bashan,
cry out from Abarim,
for all your allies are crushed.

21

**I warned you when you felt secure,
but you said, ‘I will not listen!’**

This has been your way from your youth;
you have not obeyed me.

22

The wind will drive **all your shepherds away**,
and your allies will go into exile.
Then you will be ashamed and disgraced
because of all your wickedness.

23

You who live in ‘Lebanon,^[b]
who are nestled in cedar buildings,
how you will groan when pangs come upon you,
pain like that of a woman in labor!

²⁴ “As surely as I live,” declares the LORD, “even if you, Jehoiachin^[c] son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, were a signet ring on my right hand, I would still pull you off. ²⁵ I will deliver you into the hands of those who want to kill you, those you fear—Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the Babylonians.^[d] ²⁶ I will hurl you and the mother who gave you birth into another country, where neither of you was born, and there you both will die. ²⁷ **You will never** come back to the land you long to return to.”

28

Is this man **Jehoiachin** a despised, broken pot,
an object no one wants?
Why will he and his children be hurled out,
cast into a land they do not know?

29

O land, land, land,
hear the word of the LORD!

30

This is what the LORD says:

“Record this man as if childless,
a man who will not prosper in his lifetime,
for none of his offspring will prosper,
none will sit on the throne of David
or rule anymore in Judah.”

23 “Woe to **the shepherds** who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. ² Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: “Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done,” declares the LORD. ³ “I myself will gather the **remnant** of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. ⁴ **I will place shepherds** over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing,” declares the LORD.

5

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up for David^[a] a **righteous Branch**,
a King who will reign wisely
and **do what is just and right in the land**.”

6

In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.
This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.

⁷ “So then, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when people will no longer say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,’ ⁸ but they will say, ‘As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of Israel up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.’ Then they will live in their own land.”