

POWER HOUR

7/12/2026

Lesson Text:
Jeremiah 23:1-8

Related Scriptures:
John 10:1-16, 25-30;
Genesis 1:26-28; Isaiah 4:2-6;
Isaiah 11:1-16 & Luke 9:28-36

“GOD SENDS A RIGHTEOUS
BRANCH”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: “For the time is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David’s line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. Jeremiah 23:5 NLT

Time: probably between 597 and 586 B.C.

Place: Jerusalem

Jeremiah 23:1-8 NLT

¹ “What sorrow awaits the leaders of my people—the shepherds of my sheep—for they have destroyed and scattered the very ones they were expected to care for,” says the Lord. ² Therefore, this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to these shepherds: “Instead of caring for my flock and leading them to safety, you have deserted them and driven them to destruction. Now I will pour out judgment on you for the evil you have done to them. ³ But I will gather together the remnant of my flock from the countries where I have driven them. I will bring them back to their own sheepfold, and they will be fruitful and increase in number. ⁴ Then I will appoint responsible shepherds who will care for them, and they will never be afraid again. Not a single one will be lost or missing. I, the Lord, have spoken!

⁵ “For the time is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will raise up a righteous descendant from King David’s line. He will be a King who rules with wisdom. He will do what is just and right throughout the land. ⁶ And this will be his name: ‘The Lord Is Our Righteousness.’ In that day Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. ⁷ “In that day,” says the Lord, “when people are taking an oath, they will no longer say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who rescued the people of Israel from the land of Egypt.’ ⁸ Instead, they will say, ‘As surely as the Lord lives, who brought the people of Israel back to their own land from the land of the north and from all

the countries to which he had exiled them.' Then they will live in their own land."

INTRODUCTION

When King David ushered the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem and established the ancient city as his royal residence, Israel entered its golden age. The promise of the Davidic dynasty captivated God's people as the nation expanded its borders, wealth, and political standing. The divine Shepherd had raised up the shepherd-king over His people. David and his descendants offered guidance and hope. By Jeremiah's day, however, much had changed. In the years that followed David and his prosperity, the nation suffered greatly under its kingship. After King Solomon abandoned his loyalty to God and His people, the nation fractured. The northern tribes appointed their own king, and the Davidic dynasty exercised authority over the regions of Judah and Benjamin alone. Although southern Israel enjoyed moments of religious and political revival when Hezekiah and Josiah sat on David's throne, most of its kings were wicked. Judah's final kings—those contemporary with Jeremiah—were the worst of all. Despite God's judgment of their sin, He would keep His promises and provide a King.

Additional Scripture Readings

God's Guiding Presence at the Exodus. Exodus 13:17-22.

The Lord's Branch Brings His Presence. Isaiah 4:2-6.

The Lord's Branch Removes Sin. Zechariah 3:1-10.

The Branch in the Line of David. Jeremiah 33:10-18.

A New Exodus Led by the Branch. Isaiah 11:1-16.

The Branch is Christ. Romans 15:8-13.

Wicked Shepherds and a Good King. Jeremiah 23:1-8.

1. Scattering the false shepherds (Jeremiah 23:1-2). Jeremiah began this prophecy by likening the rulers (kings, priests, and prophets) of Judah to bad shepherds. Instead of nurturing the flock, guiding them in the way of the Lord, they were destroying the flock (see also Ezekiel 34:1-6).

There is an element of judgment on the flock here—they were scattered,

referring to exile. The main emphasis of these verses, however, is on the judgment of the shepherds. Whereas the Lord would deliver a remnant of the flock, He would bestow punishment on the shepherds. They would be removed from their leadership and replaced by shepherds who would care for the flock.

2. Gathering the remaining flock (Jeremiah 23:3-4). A common theme in the prophets is the lack of a deliverer for God's people (see Isaiah 59:16-20). The shepherds were supposed to protect their flock so the people would follow God's commands and receive His blessing (Deuteronomy 28:1, 14). The shepherds, however, failed to do this.

Because of the shepherds' corruption, God Himself would step in and provide salvation. No person was good enough; no person could be sinless enough to save God's people. He would bring them back from exile despite their unfaithful hearts, and He would place new shepherds over them. This was not because His people deserved His mercy, but because His glory would be magnified through bringing salvation. God loved His people despite their rebellion (Hosea 11:8), and so He promised salvation.

3. Reigning in righteousness over the flock (Jeremiah 23:5-8). A partial fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy is evident through the salvation and return of exiles to the land (see Nehemiah 1:5-11). There was a high priest in the land called Joshua, whom the prophet Zechariah called "the Branch," yet Joshua did not bring lasting peace (Zechariah 6:11-13). Instead, Joshua himself was a foreshadowing of a greater Priest-King, the true King of all nations.

Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of the Branch. He alone is both the Root of David and a Branch from David (Isaiah 11:10; Revelation 22:16). He came before David, yet He was also David's offspring. Jesus, the Son of God, took on flesh so that He might become the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-18). During His first coming, He came to save the world. At His return, He will come to judge the world, manifesting His full kingship to the world (Revelation 19:11-16).

This final deliverance of God's people through the kingship of Jesus will be greater than anything in the past—so much greater that people would no longer speak of God's deliverance of His people in the Exodus. That was the defining moment for the nation of Israel, perhaps the biggest event in their history.

The coming deliverance, however, includes all nations, as well as total peace and security. We have already experienced this in part through faith in Jesus, and we should proclaim His glory and tell of His salvation. He has saved us in a way that is greater than His salvation of the Israelites at the Red Sea!

PRACTICAL POINTS

God will judge leaders who take advantage of their positions. We should take leadership seriously (Jeremiah 23:1-2).

No matter our circumstances, God is always able to rescue and bless us (vs. 3).

Godly leadership is a gift from the Lord, and we must pray for it (vs. 4).

Jesus is King (vs. 5)!

The Lord is our righteousness! Whenever we think we are unworthy, we should take comfort and rest in His worthiness (vs. 6).

Although the Exodus was great, God has done (and will do) even greater things, and we should wait expectantly for Him (vss. 7-8).

CONCLUSION

Jeremiah's prophecy to a wayward people. They had rebelled against God and suffered exile as a result. They thought God had broken His promises to them, but He was faithful. He judged their sin, yet He also promised salvation.

We now live in the time between Christ's first and second comings, and we have seen the partial fulfillment of this prophecy. As a result, we should proclaim the good news of Christ's kingship to all. There is no safety in the way of the world; God will bring judgment upon it. In Christ, however, we can have perfect peace.

Next week, we will continue in the book of Jeremiah. We will examine God's protection of His people and His justice **"God's Faithful Justice.**

Jeremiah 26:1-13. *Union Gospel Press, LifeStone*