

Advent 2020, Jeremiah 23:1-8

Herald: The Incarnation of Jesus Christ in the *Prophets*

Introduction

1. The incarnation in the *Torah* – Ex. 22, in the Writings – Ps 110
 - a. Messiah Jesus, the Presence of God, dwelt among us
 - b. Messiah Jesus, the Priest-King
2. Messiah Jesus in the Prophets (**Micah 5:2, Isaiah 7, 9**)
3. The incarnation means your justification

Central Truth The Lord has compassion on His people. He promised a Righteous Branch, a King from David's lineage, who would come to justify His people by His grace through their faith in order for them to dwell eternally secure in the Lord, in heaven.

Scattered! Ungodly Shepherds Destroy God's Sheep (vv 1-2)

1. *Woe* pronounced upon the Shepherds of God's People
 - a. Originally the Shepherd was the King of Israel, but then included the priests and prophets (**see vv 9-11**)
 - b. The priests and prophets had become corrupt – scattered & destroyed the people of God
2. The prophets and priests were wicked, idolatrous
3. Ungodly leadership breeds ungodly policies & ungodly people
4. God is not inattentive, and breathes threats against them
5. The Lord responds in wrath – *Woe to you!*
6. The people followed the leader – just as responsible
7. Jeremiah 1-22 – A divine indictment against the people: Guilty!
8. God exiles His people, and go to Babylon
9. God banishes these leaders

Gathered! The Lord is My Shepherd: God Cares! (vv 3-4)

1. The Lord Himself moves into correct the condition of Israel
2. I will gather my remnant, the Lord says
3. God is mercy, grace: Wicked leadership fails God's people, God compassionately takes over on behalf of His sheep
4. God seeks His remnant to restore and heal – to deliver them, to bring them into the sheepfold, and raise up true shepherds
 - a. Biblical Examples: Elijah, Samuel
 - b. Historical Examples: Luther, Zwingly, Calvin, Edwards, Whitefield, Wesley
5. God will not allow His agenda to be commandeered & hijacked by ungodly leaders
6. God steps in & provides for His sheep – God knows His sheep and His sheep know Him – The Lord is our Shepherd
7. The Lord is the Supreme Shepherd (**Psalms 23:1-2**)

8. The Lord keeps track of His remnant – not one will go missing
 - a. Example: Parable of the Lost (*Found*) Sheep
 - b. In a world of ungodly goats, there are lost sheep who will be part of God's flock – they come to Christ through proclamation of the Gospel (evangelism and missions)
 - c. The Lord Seeks His Lost Sheep and finds them all

Shepherded! The Righteous Branch Will Come to Justify (vv 5-6)

1. The world is a dark place, in a state of despair and hopelessness
2. The Lord says I am sending you someone – A Shepherd King
3. This Shepherd King
 - a. Would be a branch from David's line
 - b. Will save His people, and cause them to dwell secure
 - c. Brings a New Dimension in Redemption (**Zech 6:12-14a**)
 - d. Will Build His Temple
 - e. Will be Priestly
 - f. Is Mighty God, Deliverer, & a Righteous Branch (**Is 9:6-7**)
 - g. Will break the bondage of slavery to sin and satisfy the penalty for sin
 - h. Will justify His people through His own righteousness and the anguish of the Cross (**Isaiah 53:11**)
 - i. Will be OUR Righteousness – He is actively obedient to the Father to save His people (**Matthew 1:21**)
 - j. Would go to the Cross to pay the price for sin and bear the iniquity of God's sheep
 - k. Will reign as King forever over all nations (**Luke 1:32-33, Psalm 2:8, 1 Corinthians 5:19**)
 - l. His perfections are ours through Grace through faith
 - m. Is Righteous – His Righteousness is imputed to His sheep
 - n. Will be opposite of King Zedekiah – his name is Righteousness of Yahweh, was an evil king (went into exile into Babylon) (**see Jer 29, 34**), the prophets and priest
 - o. Is Jesus of Nazareth, the Good Shepherd (**Jn 10:11-15**) – He lays His life down for His sheep making them holy, justified by faith

Gloried! God's People Will Dwell Eternally Secure (vv 7-8)

1. Messiah Jesus will come again to bring His sheep home
2. The Exodus of Moses will pale in comparison to this deliverance and glorification Jesus will provide
3. Jesus will be the Shepherd King on Heaven's Throne, leading His people in the peace of God
4. The Second Advent will display Jesus as the Good Shepherd (**Revelation 7:9-12, 17**)
5. The incarnation of Jesus Christ makes our deliverance and glorification possible