

A Study of the Prophets

O.T. Survey Lesson 154--Jeremiah 23:1-40

Introduction: In contrast to the ungodly leaders of the present, Jeremiah looks forward to the coming of those who would shepherd God's people in righteousness (23:1-8), among them the Messiah Himself. In the meantime, God expresses His displeasure with the false prophets who have led the people astray.

Lesson aim: To understand the prophecy of the shepherd to come and to know how God feels about false prophets.

Warning to Judah's shepherds and the hope of a righteous shepherd to come--Jeremiah 23:1-8

1. What were the shepherds of Judah doing to God's sheep? (v. 1)
2. What did God say He would do with the evil shepherds? (v. 2) With the scattered flock? (v. 3)
3. What did God promise to raise over his fold? (v. 4) What results would there be for God's flock?
4. What special person did God promise to raise up? (v. 5) What would He do? What would happen in His days? (v. 6) What would His name be? (v. 6) Who is this shepherd? (See Jn. 10:14)
5. In the days of the shepherd to come, what would people no longer be saying? (v. 7) What would they be saying? (v. 8)

Warning to the false prophets in Judah--Jeremiah 23:9-40

1. How did Jeremiah feel about the false prophets in the land? (v. 9) Jeremiah said both prophet and priest were what? (v. 11) Was their fate? (v. 12)

2. What did God say the prophets of Jerusalem did? (v. 14) With what would God feed these prophets? (v. 15)
3. What warning did God issue to the people concerning the false prophets in the land? (v. 16) What was the source of their message? What message did they deliver to the people?
4. What did God affirm about Himself? (v. 23) What did He affirm about false prophets? (v. 25) What was the source of their messages? (v. 25-28)
5. God's word is like a _____ and like a _____ (v. 29).
6. What was God's answer to those who thought the word of the Lord was a "burden"? (v. 33-40)