

## Jeremiah Ch 23-24 • “The Lord Our Righteousness”

- Background    God has been speaking judgment against last four kings of Judah
- v1-2            “Shepherds” includes kings but also religious leaders  
God: “You haven’t tended my flock; now I’m going to tend to YOU!”
- v3-4            Millennial prophecy: “fear no more” has never been true since 586BC!
- v5-6            “Branch of righteousness” – cf to Judah’s last kings. (See Isaiah 11:1-2)  
Notice Jesus’ humanity (v5) AND His divinity (v6).
- v7-8            Days coming when God does something greater than Exodus for His people.
- v9-12          Now tone shifts back: the future is glorious but the present not so much.  
Nation of adulterers (literally and spiritually) but people plowing ahead.  
Prophets supposed to be check on the priests; now leading the wrong way!
- v13-15         Should have learned from mistakes of Israel (northern kingdom).  
Now will be judged like Sodom!
- v16-22         What were false prophets doing to incur God’s wrath?  
Not speaking for God, not pointing to truth, telling people to ignore truth!  
Note long-term fulfillment: “latter days” – cf Tribulation / Isaiah 53!
- v23-25a        God: “Who do you think I am?” Do you think I don’t see (know) (care)?
- v25b-27        People forgetting God’s name (character) in favor of Baal.
- v28-29         God: put what I say next to what false prophets (Baal) say.  
Grain feeds (straw only fills); fire purifies; hammer breaks things apart.
- v30-33         Not all prophets are from God. You lead my people away from me;  
you say I sent you when I didn’t; you don’t hurt you help!  
What more reason do I need to judge you! And I will!
- v34-35         If anyone asks, tell them you don’t have a “burden” from the Lord.  
Tell them they ARE the burden! But not too heavy for God!
- v36-40         Enough with putting YOUR words in MY mouth!

Background 612BC The Babylonians defeat the Assyrian empire  
609BC Josiah (last good king) killed in battle vs Egypt.  
609BC Jehoahaz is king for 3 months; Neco replaces w/ Jehoiakim.  
605BC Babylonians defeat Egypt & capture Jerusalem (1<sup>st</sup> wave of deportation)  
601BC Jehoiakim tries to push back vs. Babylon.  
597BC Jehoiakim is killed; Jehoiachin rules for 100 days (2<sup>nd</sup> wave deportation)  
Nebuchadnezzar takes Jehoiachin captive; puts Zed. on the throne.  
588BC Zedekiah considers alliance w/ Egypt vs Babylon  
Nebuchadnezzar's army first blockades then lays siege.  
586BC Jerusalem falls (3<sup>rd</sup> wave of deportation)

Ch 24 is a message from God AFTER 597BC

24v1-3 People of Jerusalem left behind after 2<sup>nd</sup> deportation are confused;  
they think THEY are the ones who are blessed. God says NO.

24v4-5 Those in exile will suffer LESS than those remaining in Jerusalem.

24v6-7 Note: long-term prophecy (Israel WAS uprooted in 70AD).  
HAS to be long-term prophecy: New Covenant not given yet!  
24v7 not fulfilled until the END of Tribulation.

24v8-10 Short-term application is straightforward. But long-term application?  
24v9 seems to more accurately describe world post-70AD (and today!)

*Application* *How are we ignoring prophetic voices in the church today?!*  
*Because of the New Covenant, we have new hearts!*  
*We need to seek God WITH our whole (new) hearts!*