

# **Jeremiah 23.1-8**

## **Jeremiah 23.1-4**

**V1** – Who would have been included as the shepherds of Israel? Prophets, priests, the king, and the elders under the Law of Moses

-In other words, all the leaders of the people

-**What were the shepherds doing?** Destroying and scattering the flock

**V2** – What was God's response to the evil shepherds of Israel? He would scatter them (by means of the Babylonians)

**V3** – Jeremiah begins to make prophecies with two meanings

-**What are the two meanings of this verse?** The return from Babylon to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel in 536 BC and the return of God's people to him on Day of Pentecost in *Acts 2*

**V4** – How would God's people be governed under the New Covenant? With shepherds

-**What would be the result?** They could live in peace and not be afraid (a beautiful, but sobering, passage for elders today)

## **Jeremiah 23.5-8**

**V5** – Jeremiah broke into a full-prophecy about the coming of the Messiah

-**What kind of king was coming for the people of God?** A new division, a new branch

-The Jewish people would be cut off, but there would be a branch to spring forth from the stump: Jesus Christ

-**Describe the nature of this branch?** He would reign as a king and act wisely, and he would restore justice and righteousness in the land

**V6** – The twelve tribes would be rejoined (see *James 1.1* – God's people would be called back together)

**V7** – At that time, they would no longer keep referring back to the forty years in the wilderness

**V8** – But they would rejoice that all of God's people had been brought together

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