

RUSSELL SANDERS
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JEREMIAH 23

Chapter 23 of Jeremiah is a truly remarkable word of which we must be very aware. There are two important messages.

The first is the Messianic prophecy found in verses 3-8. Verse 5 speaks of raising up ***“unto David a righteous Branch, and a King...”*** and verse 6 says his name shall be called, ***“THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”*** This is speaking of Jesus.

The second message is a dire warning which is relevant then and very relevant today. It is a warning about pastors and prophets.

Verse 1 says, ***“Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!”***
Verse 2 says, ***“...thus saith the LORD...against the pastors that feed my people. Ye have scattered my flock and driven them away (from truth) ...”***

There are many thousands of such pastors today. They do not believe the infallibility of the bible, or in the born-again experience for salvation. They accept such things as homosexuality and fornication. They preach a political and social message. They preach good works and many paths to salvation.

We are warned of false prophets who speak out of ***“their own heart”*** (human spirit) in verse 16. They ***“prophecy from false dreams”*** in verse 32 and have ***“perverted the words of the living God.”*** Verse 36.

1 Corinthians 14:32 tells us how this occurs as it says, ***“and the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.”*** This lets us know that a prophet that prophesies from their musings and reasonings of their own souls will be judged by the prophets that are prophesying true words from God. If a word comes from one's own reasonings then it is not a word from the Holy Spirit, it comes from their own human spirits.

We must be careful to measure every word or message we hear according to the written word of God. If you do not know God's word, then one can easily be led astray in what you accept or believe by these prophets and pastors.

God's word is never changing. We are commanded in 2 Timothy 2:15, ***“Study to shew thyself approved unto God...rightly dividing (understanding) the word of truth.”***

Casually reading God's word is good, but deeper study of it is crucial to your understanding. Ask the Holy Spirit and He will reveal the deeper meanings to you.