Jeremiah 22

Jesus

Proverbs 16:18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 6:16 These six things the Lord hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A **proud look**, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

James 4:6 God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." **… 10** Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

The LORD is the Enemy of the Proud

Jeremiah 21:13 [To Judah] "**Behold, I am against you** …"Who say, 'Who shall come down against us? Or who shall enter our dwellings?'

I. Prophecies Against the Kings of Judah

1 Thus says the Lord: "**Go down to the house of the king of Judah**, and there speak this word, 2 and say, 'Hear the word of the Lord, O king of Judah, you who **sit on the throne of David**, you and your servants and your people who enter these gates! 3 Thus says the Lord: **"Execute judgment** and righteousness, and deliver the plundered out of the hand of the oppressor. Do no wrong and do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, or the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place. 4 For **if you indeed do this thing**, then shall enter the gates of this house, riding on horses and in chariots, accompanied by servants and people, **kings who sit on the throne of David**. 5 But if you will not hear these words, I swear by Myself," says the Lord, "that this house shall become a desolation." ' "

- **Jer. 22:** Command to do righteousness. If/then
- **Jer. 17:** Command to keep Sabbath. If/then

Jeremiah 17:24 "And it shall be, **if you heed Me carefully**," says the Lord, "to bring no burden through the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, but hallow the Sabbath day, to do no work in it, 25 **then shall enter the gates of this city kings and princes sitting on the throne of David**…

- Both 17/22 same wording/ultimatum

If you obey Me **then** your sons will continue to reign in Judah
But if not, this house/line of kings will become a desolation

Matthew 23:37 [Fulfilled 650 yrs later in 70ad] O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! **Your house is left to you desolate;** 39 for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' "

Israel has had no King for 2700 yrs

6 For thus says the Lord to the house of the king of Judah: "You are Gilead to Me, The head of Lebanon; Yet I surely will make you a wilderness, Cities which are not inhabited. 7 **I will prepare destroyers** against you, Everyone with his weapons; They shall cut down your choice cedars And cast them into the fire.

- **Gilead:** Choice land in/around Israel.

Song 4:1 Behold, you are fair, my love! Behold, you are fair! You have **dove's eyes behind your veil.** Your hair is like a flock of goats, Going down from Mount Gilead.

The God who is love, is also the LORD who must judge. [NJC]

- Sadness of what could have been

8 And many nations will pass by this city; and everyone will say to his neighbor, '**Why has the Lord done so** to this great city?' 9 Then they will answer, 'Because **they have forsaken the covenant** of the Lord their God, and worshiped other gods and served them.' "

They Forsook what their Nation was Founded upon

Benjamin Rush [Signer Declaration of Independence] wrote that "By renouncing the Bible, philosophers swing from their moorings upon all moral subjects… It is the only correct map of the human heart that ever has been published," adding that systems of morals and government not founded upon it would perish.

John Adams [Signer Declaration/2nd U.S. President) concurred in correspondence with Rush, describing the Bible as containing "the most profound Philosophy, the most perfect Morality, and the most refined Policy, that ever was conceived upon Earth". He also wrote that "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other".

Noah Webster [Educator/Author of early American Dictionaries/Histories] later reflected that all major miseries and evils in society "proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible".

Q. Why has the LORD done so to America?
A. They have forsaken the Covenant and Worshiped/Served other Gods

- The ideology that led to 9.11 in NYC is now the ideology in NYC mayoral office
- Do we really think this is going to end well?

10 Weep not for the dead, nor bemoan him; Weep bitterly for him who goes away, For **he shall return no more**, Nor see his native country.

- **Don't weep for the dead:** King Josiah, reformer killed in 609 BC
- **Weep for those who go away:** King Shallum 4th son of Josiah

Don't weep for Josiah. Weep for his Apostate Sons

II. Message to the Kings of Judah

11 For thus says the Lord concerning Shallum the son of Josiah, king of Judah, who reigned instead of Josiah his father, who went from this place: "He shall not return here anymore, 12 but he shall die in the place where they have led him captive, and shall see this land no more.

- **Shallum:** Reigned 3 mo/Taken to Egypt/Died never returning to Judah. **Why?…**

Indifferent to the Suffering of the People/Building the Kingdom of Self

13 "Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness And his chambers by injustice, Who uses his neighbor's service without wages And gives him nothing for his work, 14 Who says, '**I will build myself a wide house** with spacious chambers, And cut out windows for it, Paneling it with cedar And painting it with vermilion.'

- Judgement for indifference to those who suffer…

James 5:4 Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

- Greed/Covetousness/Idolatry/Demonic [Col. 3:5]
- Tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me? Jesus: Not my purpose

Luke 12:15 And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." 16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' 20 But God said to him, '**Fool!** This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

- Kings that following Josiah were building a Kingdom of Self/False security

15 "Shall you reign because you **enclose yourself in cedar**? Did not your father eat and drink, **And** do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. 16 He judged the cause of the poor and needy; Then it was well. **Was not this knowing Me?**" says the Lord. 17 "Yet your eyes and your heart are for nothing but your covetousness, For shedding innocent blood, And practicing oppression and violence."

- Josiah ate/drank AND did justice and righteousness

1 Timothy 6:6 Now godliness with contentment is **great gain**. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Picture of a privileged son resting on his father's laurels

Expecting the same Respect w/out the Work/Sacrifice/Loyalty to the LORD/People

1988 Vice Presidential Debate: Senator Bentsen to Dan Quail when he compared himself to Jack Kennedy "Senator, I served with Jack Kennedy. I knew Jack Kennedy. Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine. *Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy*."

- Shallum, you are no King Josiah

Josiah was My friend because he Obeyed/Exalted Me in Humility
You're My enemy because you scorn Me in your Pride/Insolence/Entitlement

18 Therefore thus [also] says the Lord concerning **Jehoiakim the son of Josiah**, king of Judah: "They shall not lament for him, Saying, 'Alas, my brother!' or 'Alas, my sister!' They shall not lament for him, Saying, 'Alas, master!' or 'Alas, his glory!' 19 **He shall be buried with the burial of a donkey**, Dragged and cast out beyond the gates of Jerusalem.

- **Jehoakim:** 2nd Son of Josiah. Reigned 11 yrs after Shallum's 3 months
- Lit. The LORD raises up. He also giveth and taketh away

Burial of a Donkey

- Died during siege
- Possible insurrection
- Thrown over wall as sign to Babylon there not w//him

Daniel 1:2 And **the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into** [Nebuchadnezzar's] **hand**

20 "Go up to Lebanon, and cry out, And lift up your voice in Bashan; Cry from Abarim, For **all your lovers are destroyed**. 21 **I spoke to you in your prosperity**, But you said, '**I will not hear**.' This has been your manner from your youth, That you did not obey My voice. 22 The wind shall eat up all your rulers, And your lovers shall go into captivity; Surely then you will be ashamed and humiliated For all your wickedness. 23 O inhabitant of Lebanon, Making your nest in the cedars, How gracious will you be when pangs come upon you, Like the pain of a woman in labor?

- I spoke to you when things were good *but you did not listen*. Now…

No where to turn. All you trusted has failed
Rulers gone. Lovers gone. You are alone. Naked before God

Every Enchanted ground, Bypath meadow, Vanity Fair, Hill of Lucre, Land of Beulah seemed like a good idea at the time. [Pilgrim's Progress]

Hebrews 11:24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 **choosing rather to suffer** affliction with the people of God than to **enjoy the passing pleasures of sin**, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; **for he looked to the reward**.

- Are we building our own kingdom w/out regard for God/eternity
- IOWs Whose Kingdom are we building. Ours will fall

III. Curse on Coniah

24 "As I live," says the Lord, "though **Coniah the son of Jehoiakim**, king of Judah, were the signet on My right hand, yet I would pluck you off; 25 and I will give you into the hand of those who seek your life, and into the hand of those whose face you fear—the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the hand of the Chaldeans. 26 So I will cast you out, and your mother who bore you, into another country where you were not born; and there you shall die. 27 But to the land to which they desire to return, there they shall not return.

- Coniah AKA Jehoiachin AKA Jeconiah. Son of Jehoakim/Grandson of Josiah
- 2nd to last King of Judah. 3 Mo 10 days. **Too loved by God to be judged?**

Even if you had the value of the Signet Ring on my Right Hand
I would still pluck you off/Put you in the hand of Nebuchadnezzar

28 "Is this man Coniah a despised, broken idol— A vessel in which is no pleasure? Why are they cast out, he and his descendants, And cast into a land which they do not know? 29 O **earth, earth, earth**, Hear the word of the Lord! 30 Thus says the Lord: '**Write this man down as childless**, A man who shall not prosper in his days; For none of his descendants shall prosper, **Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling anymore in Judah**.' "

- Generation of Kings from David to Coniah end.
- Blood curse on Je**coniah**'s line. Now we have a problem

God said He would continue the Lineage of Kings from David to Messiah

What makes this so remarkable is that the Messiah was prophesied to come from the royal line of David. Now there was a blood curse on that very royal line! I always imagine that there must have been a celebration in the counsels of Satan then, since they must have assumed that they **now had God in an unsolvable corner**: how can the Messiah come from the royal line that is now subject to a blood curse? But then I visualize God turning to the angels and saying, **"Watch this one!"** When we get to the New Testament, we discover two genealogies of Jesus Christ. Matthew as a Jew and focusing on Jesus as the Messiah, begins his with Abraham and follows the royal line through David, and the first surviving son of Bathsheba, Solomon, on to Joseph, the legal father of Jesus Christ. Luke, however, as a doctor focuses on Jesus as the Son of Man, and takes his genealogy from Adam - the first man - and then from Abraham to David, they are identical. However, **when Luke gets to David, rather than go through Solomon, he follows the line from Nathan, the second surviving son of Bathsheba**, and takes his genealogy to Mary, identifying Joseph as the son-in-law of Heli, Mary's father. The virgin birth, prophesied in Isaiah is thus an "end run" [bypass] on the blood curse on the descendants of Jeconiah. [Missler]

Isaiah 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Jeremiah 23 Pt 1 vv 1-8

Jesus

I. Branch of Righteousness

1 "**Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!**" says the Lord. 2 Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the Lord.

To the Shepherds: Political/Religious Leaders
You are Responsible for the Coming Judgment

- **Characteristics of Bad Shepherd**

1. Instead of Gathering you Scattered
2. Instead of Calling you Drove Way
3. Instead of Attending you Forsook

A Good Shepherd must be a Good Sheep

Exodus 32:34 [God to Moses] …go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, **My Angel shall go before you**.

Moses led the people as he followed the LORD
David led the people as he followed his Shepherd

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

Even Jesus Led by the people by following the Father

John 5:19 …the Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only **what He sees the Father doing**

John 8:28 …I do nothing of Myself; but **as My Father taught Me**, I speak these things.

- The Kings/Priests/Prophets were building their own Kingdom
- Not following the LORD but the dictates of their own wicked/selfish hearts

Jesus Reveals the Heart of the Father to His people
Thus Jesus is the Good Shepherd

John 10:11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 12 But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. 13 The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. 15 As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. 16 And other sheep I have which

are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

What made Judah's Shepherds bad?
They did not want to follow in order to know how to lead

- How to know a false shepherd?

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to **draw away the disciples after themselves.**

True Shepherds lead people to Jesus
False Shepherds/Satan's Substitutes have always been

Matthew 15:14b …They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.

Matthew 23:15 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

2 Thessalonians 2:9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

God will use False Shepherds to Separate the Wheat from Chaff
Who is ripe to be deceived?

- Those who do not receive the love of the Truth
- Those who do not believe Truth because the enjoy unrighteousness more

Leaders are Responsible but so are Individual Followers
We are accountable to the Truth we hear

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light

- 40 yrs later Israel was scattered/have been 2000 yrs
- 1948 Dry Bones Israel began to rattle/Many still scattered 6 Mil US/2 Mil rest world

Jeremiah envisions the Future Fulfillment of God's Redemptive Plan for Israel
Every Jew from all of 12 Tribes since Jacob back in the land w/Jesus as King

3 "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. 4 **I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them**; and

they shall **fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking**," says the Lord. 5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "That **I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper**, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

God's Kingdom On Earth as it is in Heaven
A Kingdom/King are Coming to this Earth

It seemed as if the royal line of David was cut down like a tree and only a stump remained. Yet God would take that stump and bring forth a green shoot, a Branch. [Guzik]

Zechariah 6:12 Then speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: "Behold, the Man whose name **is the BRANCH**! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the Lord;

Luke 1:32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

- Has Jesus sat on the Throne of David?

Jehovah Tsidkenu
The LORD our Righteousness

Romans 3:21 But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ…

As Jesus is now our Righteousness
Jesus will soon be the Righteousness of Israel/Jewish People

7 "Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that they [Jews] shall no longer say, 'As the Lord lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' 8 but, 'As the Lord lives who brought up and **led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."**

Genesis 12:7 To your [Abram's] descendants **I will give this land**

- Jeremiah prophesies future fulfillment of the land Promise
- The land belongs to Israel. God.

A King shall reign and prosper/Execute judgment/Righteousness in the earth
In His days Judah will be saved And Israel will dwell safely

Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS