

The background is a painting of a gnarled, brown branch with small, light-colored flowers and buds. The branch is set against a vibrant, textured blue background. In the bottom right corner, there is a glass of water with a reflection on its surface. The overall style is reminiscent of Vincent van Gogh's 'Olive Trees with Yellow Sky and Sea'.

# JEREMIAH

**21:1** This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur the son of Malchiah and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, saying,

**2** “Inquire of the Lord for us, for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is making war against us. Perhaps the Lord will deal with us according to all his wonderful deeds and will make him withdraw from us.”

**3** Then Jeremiah said to them: “Thus you shall say to Zedekiah,

**4** ‘Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands and with which you are fighting against the king of Babylon and against the Chaldeans who are besieging you outside the walls. And I will bring them together into the midst of this city.

**5** I myself will fight against you with outstretched hand and strong arm, in anger and in fury and in great wrath

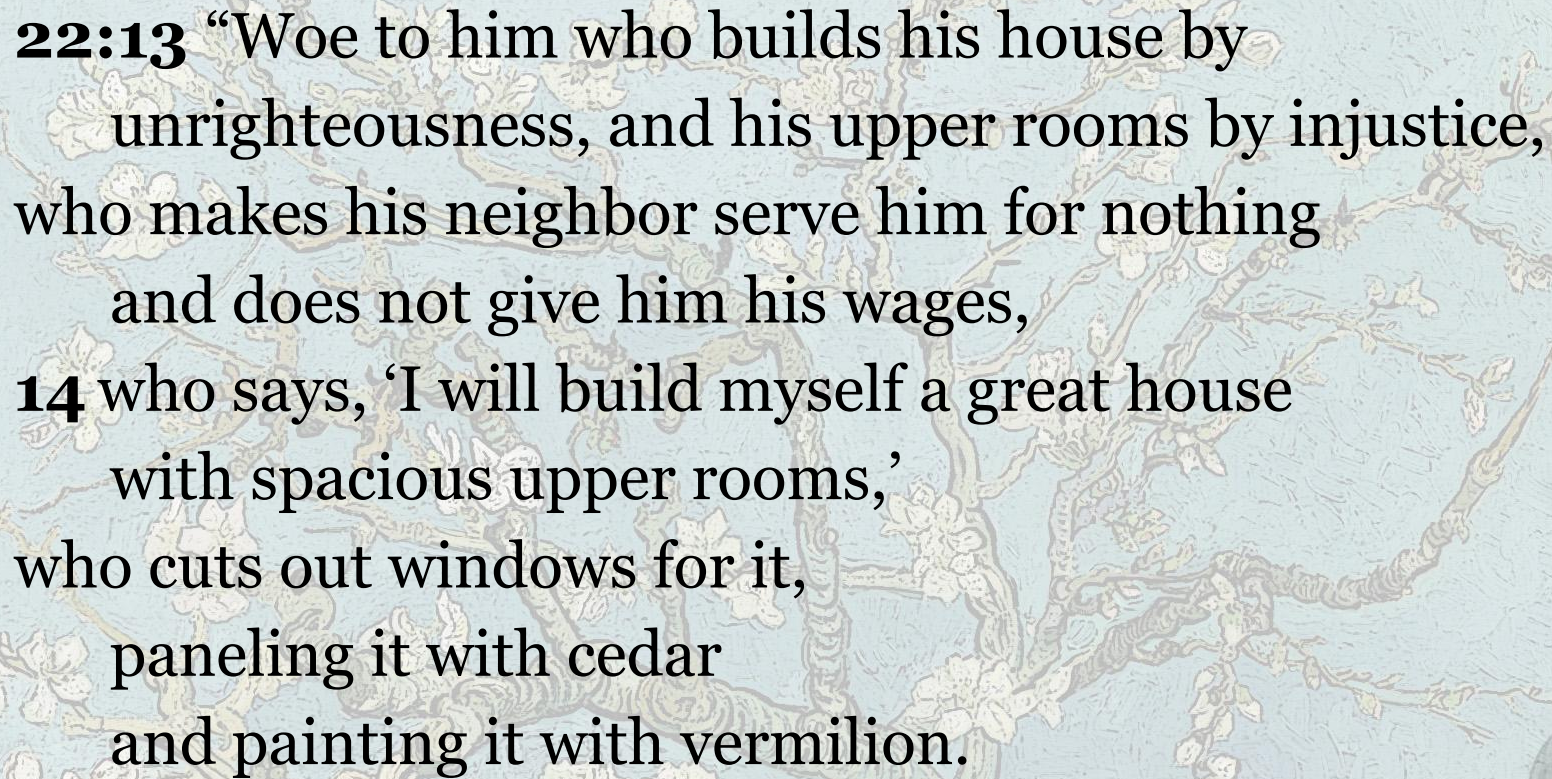
**6** And I will strike down the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast. They shall die of a great pestilence.

**7** Afterward, declares the LORD, I will give Zedekiah king of Judah and his servants and the people in this city who survive the pestilence, sword, and famine into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of those who seek their lives. He shall strike them down with the edge of the sword. He shall not pity them or spare them or have compassion.'

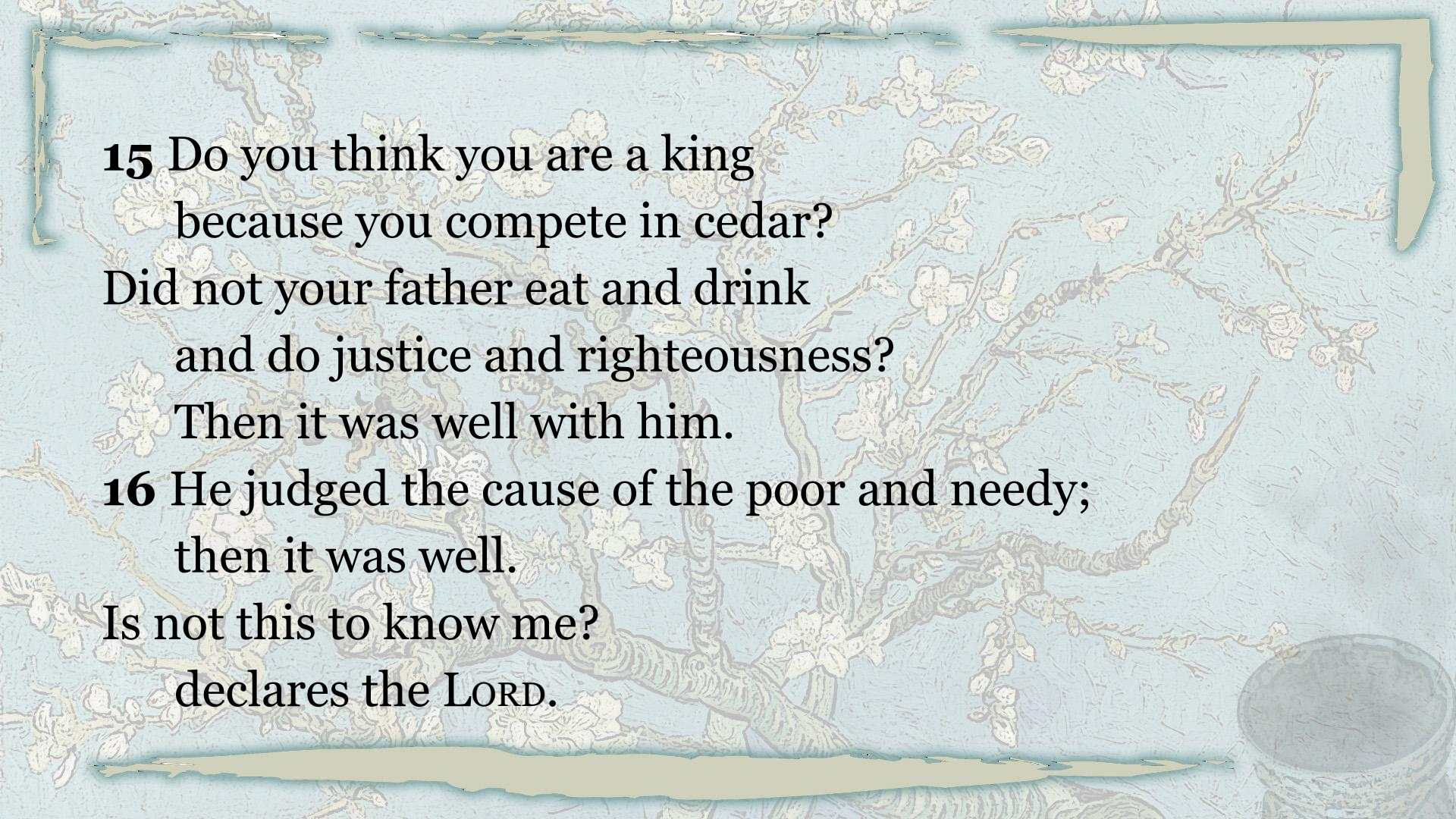
**8** “And to this people you shall say: ‘Thus says the LORD: Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.

**9** He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out and surrenders to the Chaldeans who are besieging you shall live and shall have his life as a prize of war.

**10** For I have set my face against this city for harm and not for good, declares the LORD: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.’

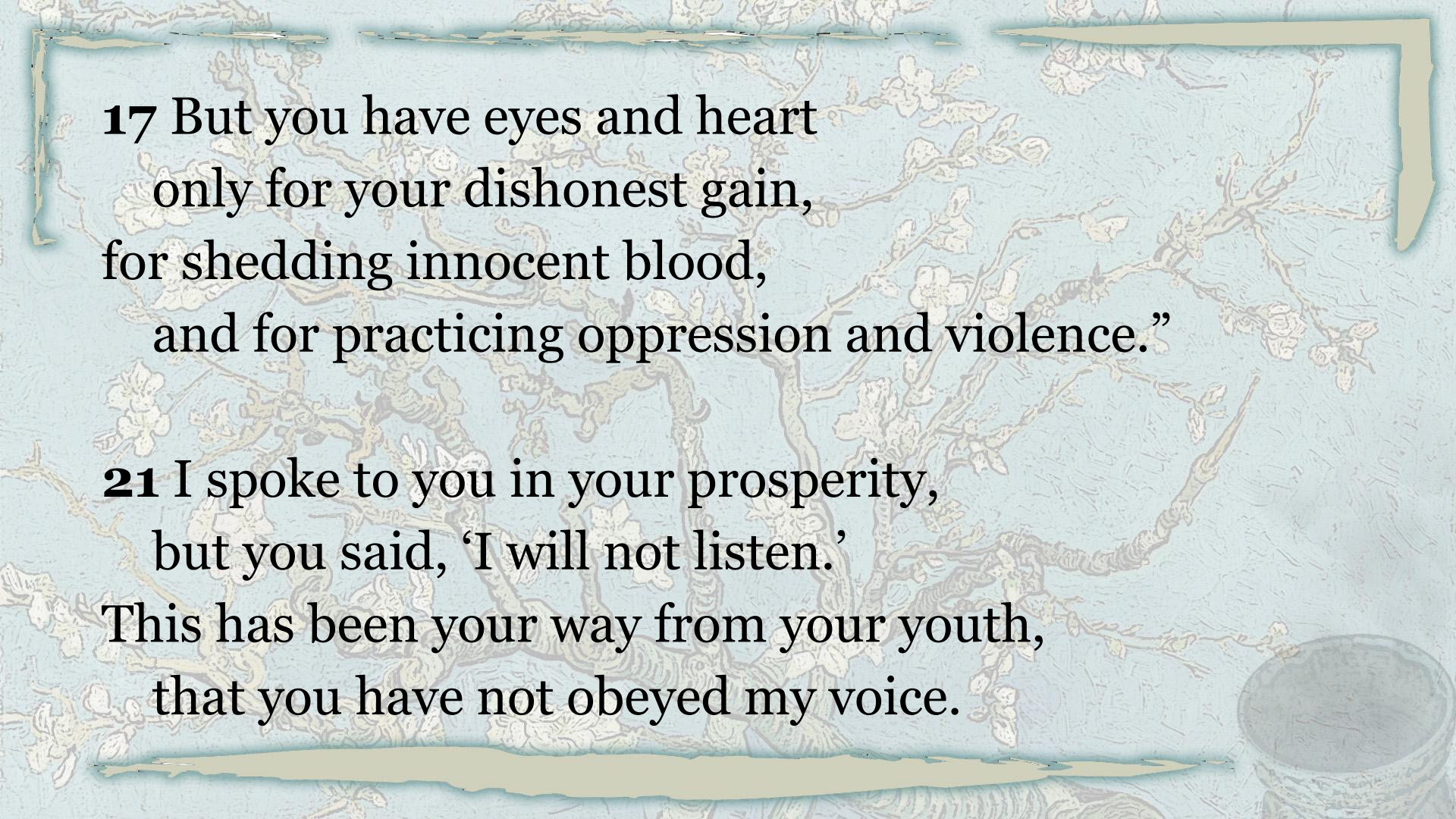


**22:13** “Woe to him who builds his house by  
unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice,  
who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing  
and does not give him his wages,  
**14** who says, ‘I will build myself a great house  
with spacious upper rooms,’  
who cuts out windows for it,  
paneling it with cedar  
and painting it with vermilion.

The background features a light blue, textured surface with a faint, golden-brown illustration of a gnarled tree with small white blossoms. In the bottom right corner, there is a dark, circular stone bowl or mortar. The text is framed by a light green, torn-edge border.

**15** Do you think you are a king  
because you compete 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.  
Is not this to know me?  
declares the LORD.



**17** But you have eyes and heart  
only for your dishonest gain,  
for shedding innocent blood,  
and for practicing oppression and violence.”

**21** I spoke to you in your prosperity,  
but you said, ‘I will not listen.’

This has been your way from your youth,  
that you have not obeyed my voice.





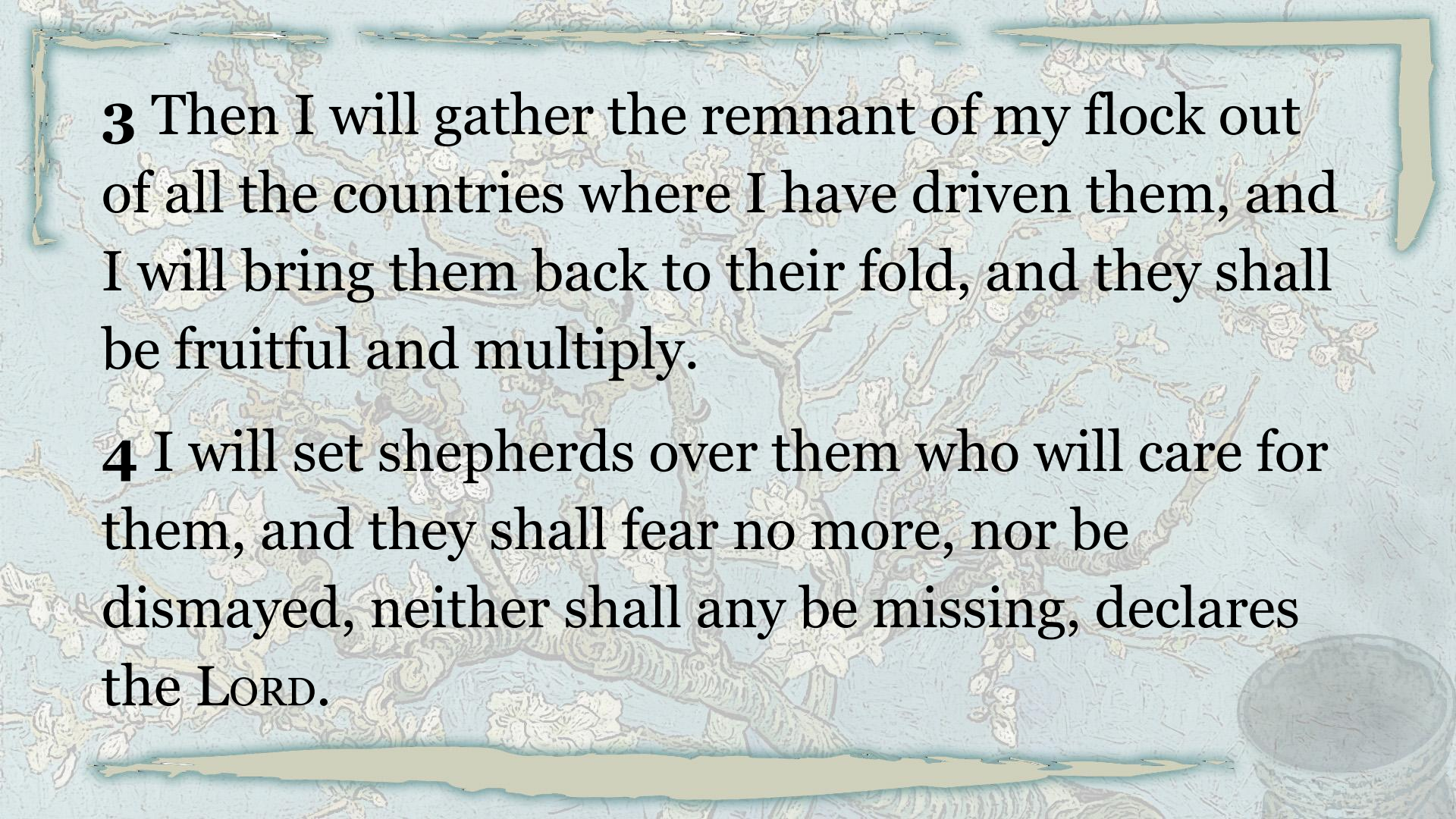


**30** Thus says the LORD:

“Write this man down as childless,  
a man who shall not succeed in his days,  
for none of his offspring shall succeed  
in sitting on the throne of David  
and ruling again in Judah.”

**23:1** “Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD.

**2** Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD.



**3** Then I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

**4** I will set shepherds over them who will care for them, and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall any be missing, declares the LORD.

**5** “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**6** In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’