

Our Shepherd King

August 9th, 2026

Pastor Joshua Fried

- Opening Illustration
 - Sheep and Goats // Dogs and Cats
- The Failure and Shortcomings of Earthly Leaders — Jeremiah 23:1-4
 - The Shepherds of Israel — Original Context
 - The image of shepherd was a common Ancient Near Eastern illustration for leaders
 - Israel was led by a king and his counselors as well as the levitical priestly class
 - Deuteronomy 28:49, 64

The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand, . . . “And the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.
 - God appointed leaders in Israel to pastor His people well
 - Israel’s leaders did not
 - Israel failed to uphold their covenant vows to God
 - The Shepherds of the Church — Today’s Context
 - The Church is not Israel; this passage is a description of Israel
 - Israel was a theocracy and God’s covenant people by ethnicity

-
- The Church exists beyond borders and it God's covenant people by grace
 - Yet the principle of shepherding applies to pastors today
 - God promises shepherds to lead his people
 - And provides the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ
 - The Promised Shepherd King — Jeremiah 23:5-6
 - The righteous branch
 - The Davidic Covenant - "A legitimate shoot"
 - Jeremiah 33:17-18

"For thus says the Lord: David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel, and the Levitical priests shall never lack a man in my presence to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings, and to make sacrifices forever."
 - Jeremiah further reveals that the Branch will be a King and a Priest
 - Often misunderstood by the Jews to be two Messiahs instead of one
 - Zechariah's use of the Messianic title
 - Zechariah 6:12

And say to him, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Behold, the man whose name is the Branch: for he shall branch out from his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord.
 - Jesus Christ as the good shepherd fulfills both offices
 - A Good Shepherd
 - John 10:11 -

"I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd lies down his life for the sheep"
 - Jesus Christ takes up his throne through the cross

-
- The irony of Pilate's placard: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"
 - The cross was Jesus' earthly throne, followed by the resurrection and ascension to His eternal throne
 - The Promised Homecoming — Jeremiah 23:7-8
 - A greater Exodus
 - Our ongoing exile
 - The return from exile is underwhelming compared to Egypt
 - 722 BC Assyria mixes up the population in Northern Israel
 - Creation of the "Samaritans"
 - These tribes never return
 - Between 605 and 586 BC, the tribe of Judah is taken into captivity in Babylon
 - After 70 years, Cyrus the Great allows the Jewish people to begin returning to their own land
 - Out of hundreds of thousands of Jews dispersed throughout the Persian Empire, roughly 42,360 returned in the first return.
 - The majority choose to remain with the comforts of their new lives
 - Compared to the Exodus, the return from exile is far from spectacular
 - A greater Exodus to come
 - The Church is an exile in Babylon
 - Revelation 18:4

Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;
 - Conclusion

-
- Returning to the shepherd — Jeremiah 23:1-4
 - A pattern emerges
 - About Israel
 - Not untrue for the Church today
 - The call for the Church
 - Proclaim Sound Doctrine
 - Charge for the Church: Test every spirit
 - 1 John 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.
 - Hold your teachers accountable to Scripture
 - Be fruitful and multiply
 - A return to the first commandment in Genesis 1:28
 - This goes beyond Israel to the Church
 - Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
 - None will be missing
 - We have confidence that God will not those who are His own
 - John 10:27-28

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.