

# Lessons From Jeremiah

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Jeremiah 23: 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.”

Jeremiah 23:5.





# I. Introduction

God describes through the Prophet Jeremiah the life of the New Covenant. He reminds His people that the healthy leadership is one of the essential characteristics for a life in peace, justice, and freedom. This is why the new king is presented as a king of justice.



“Before you are a leader,  
success is all about growing  
yourself. When you become  
a leader, success is all about  
growing others.”  
Jack Welch



“In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.”  
Harry S. Truman



"The very essence of leadership is that you have to have a vision. It's got to be a vision you articulate clearly and forcefully on every occasion. You can't blow an uncertain trumpet."  
Theodore Hesburgh



“True greatness, true leadership, is found in giving yourself in service to others, not in coaxing or inducing others to serve you.”  
Oswald Sanders





"I define spiritual leadership as knowing where God wants people to be and taking the initiative to use God's methods to get them there in reliance on God's power. The answer to where God wants people to be is in a spiritual condition and in a lifestyle that display his glory and honor his name. Therefore, the goal of spiritual leadership is that people come to know God and to glorify him in all that they do. Spiritual leadership is aimed not so much at directing people as it is at changing people."

John Piper





“Example is not the  
main thing in  
influencing  
others. It is the  
only thing.”  
Albert Schweitzer



“Foresight is the ‘lead’ that the leader has. Once he loses this lead and events start to force his hand, he is leader in name only. He is not leading; he is reacting to immediate events and he probably will not long be a leader. There are abundant current examples of loss of leadership which stems from a failure to foresee what reasonably could have been foreseen, and from failure to act on that knowledge while the leader has freedom to act.”

Robert K. Green leaf – The Servant as Leader

## II. Context





God presents a new concept of leadership for His people. He confirms that there will be no more descendants ruling on the throne in Jerusalem. This is a historic reality. With the end of Exile, we don't have the kings sitting on the throne. We have governors and high priests as two authorities: civil and religious.



As a part of the new concept of leadership we have the Messiah with the ultimate authority. The shepherds are also appointed to take care of the people of Israel. However, the monarchy is over, waiting for the enthronization of the Messiah to rule as king in the New Jerusalem.



# Jeremiah 21: 1 - 43: 7 Structure

A	22: 20 – 23	Lebanon, Bashan, and Abarim
C	22: 24 – 30	No more ruler in Jerusalem on the throne of David
B	23: 1 – 4	Shepherds
C'	23: 5 – 6	These days, Branch of Righteousness, on the Throne of David
C''	23: 5 – 6	These days, The Name "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS"
C'''	23: 7 – 8	These days, Deliverance from Babylon
B'	23: 9 – 12	Prophets and Priests
A'	23: 13 – 14	Samaria, Sodom, and Gomorrah



# The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah: Structure

A	Ch. 1	Prologue: Vocation of Jeremiah and prediction about Babylon
B	Ch. 2 - 10	Prophecies regarding Judah
C	Ch. 11 - 20	Confessions of Jeremiah
D	Ch. 21 - 29	Nebuchadnezzar punishing the king Zedekiah and Jerusalem
E	Ch. 30 - 33	The New Covenant and the new Consolation
D'	Ch. 34 - 35	Sin of the king Zedekiah
C'	Ch. 36 - 45	Suffering of Jeremiah
B'	Ch. 46 - 51	Prophecies regarding the Nations
A	Ch. 52	Epilogue: Fall of Jerusalem and fulfillment of the prophecy about Babylon

III. God's eternal reign is the good news for our planet. At the same time, it is the inspiration for our everyday life. Through the acceptance of His reign we declare: THY WILL BE DONE.



# 1. God appoints leaders

""Behold, the days are coming,  
says the Lord that I will raise to  
David""





“Throughout the Bible we see God appoints leaders to resolve major problems and, yet again, we have noticed that He's not changed His methodology. Not everyone is called to everything.”  
Wes Lane



“Don't appoint leadership in a hurry, because God appoints leaders. In order to assign someone to accomplish an important task, you need first to know God and His will, as well as to know people surrounding you. For ex. if you want to teach John how to speak French, you need to know John and French. This is the same reality in the spiritual world. You need to know your co-workers, inside and out, not only through their words. “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.” Matthew 7: 18 – 20.” (DS)



“United with Christ in God, we shall reveal to the world that as God chose His Son to be His representative on the earth, even so has Christ chosen us to represent His character. Everyone who has genuine faith in Christ Jesus will represent Him in character.”

Ellen G. White,  
Medical Ministry, p. 23.





## 2. The first characteristics of the new leadership is righteousness

"A Branch of Righteousness"



“Jehovah-Tsidkenu” are the Hebrew words for “the LORD (is) our Righteousness.” Jesus Christ is the “Branch of Righteousness” through the lineage of David. He is the King of Righteousness (see Heb. 7:2) who came to save Judah and Israel and all nations. Isaiah declared, “Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins” (Isa. 11:5). Jesus walked upon this earth in truthfulness, faithfulness, fairness and uprightness — He was God in the flesh fully righteous in every way.

The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ allows all who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God to be freely justified by His grace through the redemption that is in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:23,24). Remembering the death of Jesus in the Lord’s Supper is a declaration of God’s righteousness as He set Him forth as a propitiation by His blood (Rom. 3:25). Jesus Christ is the LORD our Righteousness in the way He lived, died, arose from death, and makes us righteous, justified before His Father.”

Ron Drumm

“The branch is an image of Messiah frequently found in the prophets. Jesus is called ‘My servant the branch’ (Isaiah 11; 2). He is also ‘the Branch of the Lord’ (Isaiah 4: 2), ‘The Branch of Righteousness’, raised up for David (Jeremiah 23: 5; 33: 15), and ‘The man whose name is the Branch’ (Zechariah 6: 12. 13.). These four titles parallel four aspects of the person of Christ as seen in the four Gospels:

Branch of Righteousness, Matthew, Gospel of the KING

My servant the Branch, Marc, Gospel of the SERVANT

The man whose name is the Branch, Luke, Gospel of the SON OF MAN

The Branch of the Lord, John, Gospel of the SON OF GOD”

Warren W. Wiersbie

"The Torah sets a high standard for the moral life. It is not enough to be righteous if that means turning our backs on a society that is guilty of wrongdoing. We must take a stand. We must protest. We must register dissent even if the probability of changing minds is small. That is because the moral life is a life we share with others. We are, in some sense, responsible for the society of which we are a part. It is not enough to be good. We must encourage others to be good. There are times when each of us must lead."

Jonathan Sacks





### 3. God prepares prosperity for His children, according to His criteria

"A King shall reign and prosper"



“Far better is it to learn, in the light of God’s word, the causes that govern the rise and fall of kingdoms. Let the youth study these records, and see how the true prosperity of nations has been bound up with an acceptance of the divine principles. Let him study the history of the great reformatory movements, and see how often these principles, though despised and hated, their advocates brought to the dungeon and the scaffold, have through these very sacrifices triumphed.

Such study will give broad, comprehensive views of life. It will help the youth to understand something of its relations and dependencies, how wonderfully we are bound together in the great brotherhood of society and nations, and to how great an extent the oppression or degradation of one member means loss to all.”

Ellen G. White, Education, p. 238.

“The prosperity theology teaches Christians should not be in need of anything. The prosperity theology as it is taught by many preachers, is not the gospel, which cautions the born again believers about seeking after riches. However, Paul urgently warns us in 1 Timothy 6:9-11 “Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.” God does bless his people with wealth and it is not against the teachings of Scripture to gain wealth. But sometime we teach things to people that get us off course and end up creating desires where there was none.” Norman Grant



"The true prosperity gospel exists when we learn the self-denial at the foot of the cross and when we understand that the true riches are much superior to the quantity of the money in the bank. Those who come to Jesus will always hear: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." The true prosperity is living in God's presence. Living close to Jesus the soul is able to declare: 'The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.'" (DS)



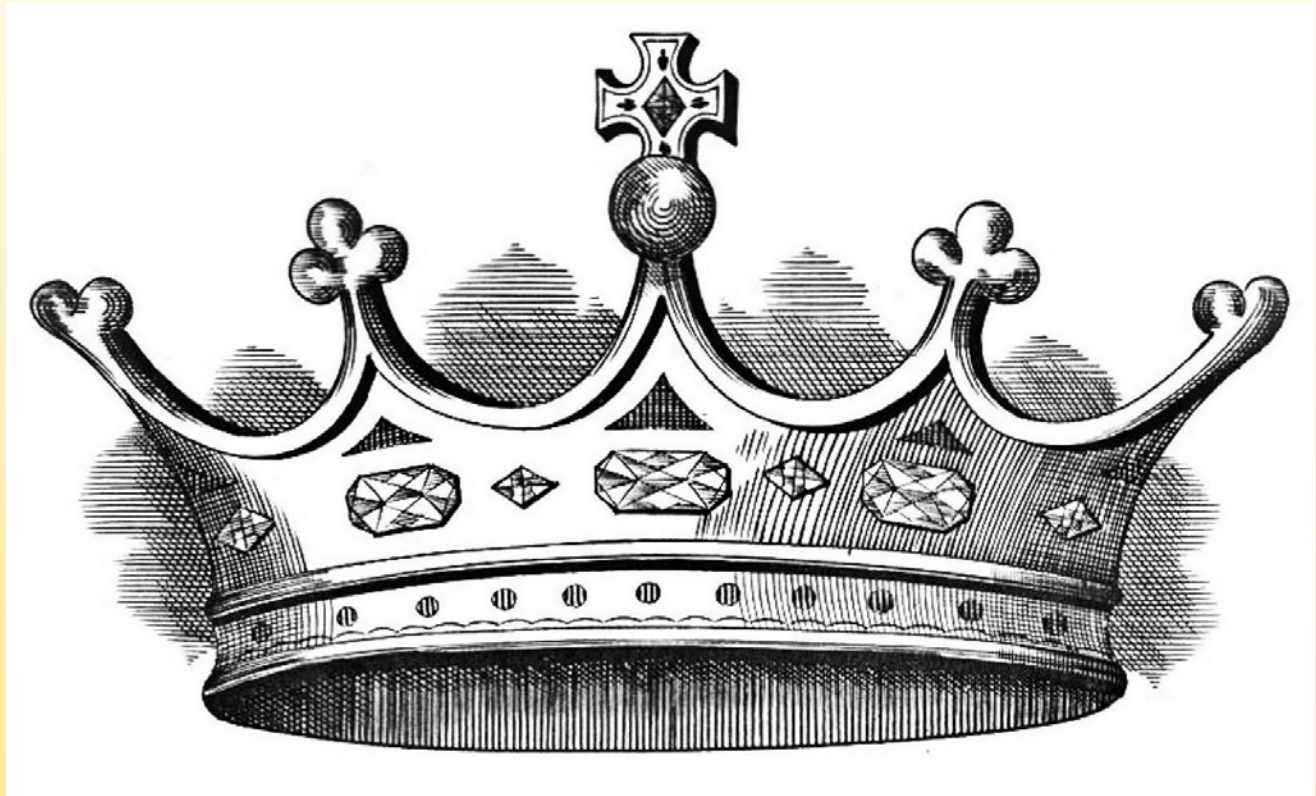


4. The decision process  
is healthy when the  
outcome is judgment  
and righteousness  
“And execute judgment and  
righteousness”



"The present kings of David's line were unjust and oppressive, and their affairs therefore did not prosper; but this king shall break the usurped power of Satan, institute a perfect rule of holy living, and in due time make all the world righteous."

Joseph Benson



"No, no, we are not  
satisfied and will not be  
satisfied until justice rolls  
down like water and  
righteousness like a mighty  
stream."

Martin Luther King



"True peace is not merely the absence of war, it is the presence of justice."  
Jane Addams





5. God's concept of the future is His universal reign  
"In the earth."



"Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns! Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." The reign of the Lord is central here. God is the one in charge. That's what it means to be king. "Say among the nations," the text says. This is the audience to whom we are commanded to declare the news that the LORD is king. The implications are huge. We declare this news to all the nations because the LORD is king over all the nations. Everyone on the face of the earth needs to hear this news because it applies to them. It is about them. It is for them." Johathan Parnell



"The kingdom of God is the perfect reign of God, destroying His enemies and bringing to His people the blessings of His reign. The kingdom belongs to the age to come and will be established only by a mighty, supernatural act of God in the coming of the Son of Man, usually spoken of as the second coming of Christ."

George Eldon Ladd



“Christ announced and inaugurated the kingdom of God. This kingdom consists of the full reign of God in the world, a reign that restores right relationship among God, humanity, and the creation. Shalom finds its expression. A new order, divinely initiated, breaks into history. And in this all, the initial promises of covenant with creation and humanity become manifest in the life of the kingdom of God.”

Wesley Granberg-Michaelson





# V. Conclusion



“God has placed in the church, as His appointed helpers, men of varied talents, that through the combined wisdom of many the mind of the Spirit may be met. Men who move in accordance with their own strong traits of character, refusing to yoke up with others who have had a long experience in the work of God, will become blinded by self-confidence, unable to discern between the false and the true. It is not safe for such ones to be chosen as leaders in the church; for they would follow their own judgment and plans, regardless of the judgment of their brethren. It is easy for the enemy to work through those who, themselves needing counsel at every step, undertake the guardianship of souls in their own strength, without having learned the lowliness of Christ.”

Ellen G. White, Acts of Apostles, p. 279.

“If Christians around the world were to suddenly renounce their personal agendas, their life goals and their aspirations, and begin responding in radical obedience to everything God showed them. the world would be turned upside down. How do we know? Because that's what first century Christians did, and the world is still talking about it.”

Henry T. Blackaby, Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda



"How carefully should we examine the motives which prompt us to actions! When we follow the inclination of the natural heart, we separate our souls from God, although the lips may declare that we are wholly the Lord's. With the Bible open before us, let us look into God's holy mirror, and see whether our practises and plans are holy. Let us ask the question, Is this the way of the Lord? If we do an injury to our brother or neighbor, we shall have to meet the injured one before the throne of God. No difference in belief will justify us in invading another's rights, in neglecting to do justice and judgment. Let the love of Christ reign in the heart, let his commandments be obeyed, and we shall exert no unhallowed influence. Has the truth been accepted in the soul? Is the mind of God, as revealed in the holy law, the guide of our life? If so, love, joy, peace,—yes, heaven,—is brought into our life here below."

Ellen G. White, Youth Instructor, December 9, 1897, par. 5.



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