



Week 1: Hope

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Jeremiah 23:4-6

⁴ I will place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD.

***⁵ "The days are coming," declares the LORD,
"when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.***

***⁶ In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.
This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.***

This passage from Jeremiah is a promise of restoration for a land full of brokenness and suffering. At this time, God's people were in a state of turmoil. The people of this time were—much like we are today in our nation and around the world—desperate for some bright glimmer of hope, for someone or something to alleviate the despair in their hearts.

Hope is a complicated thing. It can be a source of joy, something that gets you through the toughest of times. But it can also be a source of great disappointment and pain. In the uncertainty and unrest of 2020, I'm sure we have all placed our hope in a person, idea, or thing, desperately wishing it will ease the frustration and pain. In this passage, however, God is revealing to each of us that there can only be one source of true Hope—God himself. Inevitably, the things of this world will disappoint us: our leaders, our families, our partners/spouses, our friends. But when we rest in the promise that God, our perfect Leader, Protector, and Shepherd, will tend to our every need, we can place our fears and insecurities in God's hands and trust Him to take care of the rest.

Thankfully, we don't have to wait for our source of Hope. The advent season reminds us that Jesus came and walked here on this earth. He, our perfect Shepherd, has already led us—His church, His flock—to safety. And because of that we can let go of the fear and unrest in our hearts and rest easy in the God-given Hope of Jesus Christ and all that is promised for us as His people. ✨

By Rachel Word-Davy