

NARRATOR:

The Fourth Lesson: Jeremiah predicts the rise of a just shepherd

Jeremiah was a prophet that lived about seven centuries before Christ. He preached that the people of Judah, the Southern Kingdom, needed and deserved better leadership.

In this reading, Jeremiah predicts the rise of a new and good shepherd of the people in the family line of King David.

We here today have the benefit of knowing about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, who suffered and died so that the Israelites, and indeed the people of all nations could be saved from the consequences of their sinfulness.

This is the Jesus who we celebrate at Christmas.

Reader 4:

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

**See, days are coming—oracle of the LORD —
when I will raise up a righteous branch for David;
As king he shall reign and govern wisely,
he shall do what is just and right in the land.**

**In his days Judah shall be saved,
Israel shall dwell in security.**

**This is the name to be given him:
“The LORD our justice.”**

**Therefore, the days are coming—oracle of the LORD —
when they shall no longer say,
“As the LORD lives,
who brought the Israelites
out of the land of Egypt”;**

**but rather,
“As the LORD lives,
who brought the descendants of the house of Israel
up from the land of the north”—
and from all the lands to which I banished them;
they shall again live on their own soil.**

“The word of the Lord.”

—Jeremiah 23:5-8