

Lent Day 7: Tuesday, February 28

Jeremiah 23:1-16

MULTIPLY YOUR HOPE

I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number.

Here's the picture. A nation, God's people, has turned away from him. Despite God's warnings rendered by Jeremiah the prophet, so they are sent into exile. In the opening verses of chapter 23, we find that the Lord calls out the Shepherds of that time. The Lord is holding these Shepherds accountable for his people's dispersion. The Lord cites their lack of care for the flock as the reason for His displeasure.

It is in this context of darkness, despair, and hopelessness that the Lord declares today's verse – "I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number.

When experiencing a dark and hopeless season, we can apply our faith to three things in this verse.

- 1) "*I myself*" – the Lord himself, will gather the lost flock. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, always seeks the lost. He is always calling and tending to His sheep (John 10:1-18). He will personally see to our care.
- 2) "*will bring them back to their pasture*" - the Lord will bring them back to **their** pasture. The place ordained for them—their "grace" place. King David said the Lord his Shepherd would lead him to green pastures and quiet waters (Psalm 23:2).
- 3) *they will be fruitful and increase* – as a result of being cared for by Jesus the Good Shepherd, we experience fruitfulness and increase. We have the potential to bear fruit even in challenging seasons. Jeremiah alarms that those who trust in the Lord will be like a tree planted by the water; its leaves are always green and never fails to bear fruit. (Jer. 17:8)."

PRAYER

Lord, thank you for being my Shepherd. You personally see that I have everything I need. You lead my life to the ordained place specially made for me. Therefore, I thank you for being fruitful in all you've called me to be and to do.