

The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 48

“Built On Honesty”

Study: Jeremiah 9:1-11

Reading: Matthew 5:33-37, James 5:12

Memory: Isaiah 40:12

When my mother became a widow in her early 50's one of the biggest things she struggled with was who she could trust. Because my dad was no longer there to look into situations and use the experience and the knowledge he had gained over the years, she had to find out, sometimes the hard way, who could be trusted. There were many companies and individuals who found they could take advantage of a trusting widow and my mom had to start figuring out who to watch for.

Sadly, because of our human nature, there will always be a question in this life about who we should trust. Today, we will be reminded as believers that we are people who should be able to be trusted.

What Does the Bible Say?

Though Jeremiah saw the great wickedness of the people, he was not excited to share the news of judgement and destruction with them. The message he was called to deliver filled him with grief and he declared that he could weep all night over the lives that were going to be lost during the invasion and destruction of the land. He wished he had a place to live out in the desert, far away from the people, so he could leave them and put their sin and destruction out of his mind. The tongues of the people were compared to bows which shot lies and deception throughout the land. They traveled from one type of evil to another and God declared that they did not even know Him anymore (vs 1-3).

One of the great signs that the land was filled with evil was the lack of trust among family and neighbors. They would not trust those around them to tell the truth and be honest in their dealings. They constantly took advantage of others around them. This was not how God wanted them to act or represent Him. They chose not to get to know Him and what He desired (vs 4-6).

As a result of this great wickedness, God was going to bring testing to them to help refine them. This was not a testing to see how they would

respond, but was the type of testing used to refine gold and silver. They would be put through the fire to remove the impurities from among them (vs 7).

In verse 3 their tongues were compared to a bow and here in verse 8 their tongues are compared to arrows. This is because people would say one thing with their mouths that sounded good, but behind this empty talk was a heart of deception. These things could not go unpunished. God had no choice but to enact vengeance on the people because of their sin and because they had broken their covenant with Him (vs 8-9).

Jeremiah was not only going to weep over the loss of life, but for the landscape of Judah. The animals and plants would be decimated and much of the landscape would be changed. The Babylonians would exploit the natural resources of the land and would carelessly destroy the natural beauty that the people of Judah enjoyed. This destruction would also come to Jerusalem as it would become a pile of ruins and a place for wild animals to live. This would happen to all the cities of Judah as the inhabitants would be driven out or killed (vs 10-11).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you a person who can be trusted? One of the great rebukes given to the Israelites in this passage concerned their lack of credibility when it came to their dealings with each other. Instead of building a nation on trust, they were too focused on themselves and only cared how they could take advantage of others. Even though what they said sounded good, it was not good because they had plans in their hearts to do evil. They did not view this as evil and wrong because it had become such a common part of their lives. It was simply how everyone did business and it created a society where the people did not trust each other. This is the opposite of what God wanted for His people because He created men to have relationships built on trust and honesty. Scripture places a strong emphasis on honesty and trust and this is something that you should strive for in your life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for always being honest and truthful with you.*
- * *Ask God to help you be a person of honesty and integrity.*
- * *Praise God because He is truth.*

What did Jeremiah say he could do for the people (vs 1)?

Why did he say this (vs 1)?

Describe how you might feel if you were called to have to do what Jeremiah was called to do?

Where did Jeremiah wish he could go (vs 2)?

Why did he want to do this (vs 2)?

What were the tongues of the people of Judah compared to (vs 3)?

What did God say the Israelites were doing (vs 3)?

Who were the people told to watch out for (vs 4)?

How were the people described (vs 4)?

What does verse 5 say about “everyone” in the land?

How do you think deception became such a part of their normal lives?

What do you think verse 6 means?

How can you see this take place in society today?

What did God say He would do (vs 7)? What do you think this meant?

How were their tongues described (vs 8)?

What did God ask (vs 9)?

Why did Jeremiah want to weep (vs 10)?

What was God going to do to the cities of Judah (vs 11)?

Why was God going to enact such harm on His people?

“Boast In The Lord”

Study: Jeremiah 9:12-26

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

Memory: Isaiah 40:12

Several years ago, there was a linebacker who was becoming a star for the Detroit Lions. Near the end of a breakout season, he had made a tackle. In celebrating the tackle that he had made, he pulled a hamstring and had to sit out the rest of the season. He never fully recovered from that injury and a short time later he was no longer playing football in the NFL.

It is interesting to note that this player’s celebration of his “great” achievement of making a tackle was the very thing that caused his “greatness” to be taken away from him. Today, we will be reminded how we can boast in the wrong thing and how quickly those things we boast in can be taken away from us.

What Does the Bible Say?

Verse 12 asks a series of questions that seem to be asked in almost a mocking fashion. Jerusalem and Judah were going to be destroyed, but it wouldn’t take a man with great wisdom to figure out why. There are many deep complex issues in the world that wise men were sought after to help solve, but the reason for the destruction of Israel was clear and obvious. God answered these questions by stating that this destruction was the result of the choice of the people to abandon His instructions. They chose not to obey the voice of the Lord, but stubbornly followed their own desires and worshiped false gods. God compared His actions towards Judah to a father who fed his children bitter food and polluted water. This would bring great harm to them and the few who survived would be scattered among the nations of the world (vs 12-16).

A call went out to the professional mourners to gather together in Judah to begin weeping. Instead of putting obituaries in newspapers like we do today, their funeral announcement would be made by women who were hired to stand outside the homes and weep and wail for the person who passed away. The sound of these weepers would be heard all over the nation of Judah because the people were going to be killed and

dispersed and the land would be destroyed. The women were told to teach their daughters a song of lament and give them lessons in how to wail because great death was going to enter into the land of Israel. Bodies of the dead would be scattered all over the place, like manure spread on a field. They would be left like sheaves gathered in a field with no one to pick up the bundles (vs 17-22).

Making another reference to the wise man, God declared that there was no reason for any man on the earth to boast in his wisdom, power or riches. All those things existed because they were allowed by God. God desired that the people boast in Him and boast in the fact that they could know the God of the universe as their Father. God finds His delight in the people who choose to humble themselves before Him and practice love, justice and righteousness. The people had allowed their earthly riches, wisdom and power to get in the way of living the life that God desired for them to live (vs 23-24).

God would judge the pagan nations for their sin, but God would also judge Judah for their sin. Their choice to be circumcised did not make them followers of God. That was an outward action to remind them they were children of God, but what God wanted was their choice to follow Him from their hearts (vs 25-26).

How Does this Apply to Me?

What do you boast in? Some people strive for wealth while others strive for power or wisdom. They pride themselves in how hard they have worked to gain these things, not realizing that any abilities they have were given to them by God. They look for these things to be their fulfillment in life only to find these pursuits empty and meaningless. What should motivate a person in life is the ability to know God as their Heavenly Father. This knowledge should also transform a person so their life is characterized by love, justice and righteousness. When you seek after these things, it brings delight to the heart of God and the blessings as a result will be innumerable. It is easy to find yourself seeking after the wisdom, wealth and power of the world rather than the fullness of God.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for what He has blessed you with.*
- * *Ask God to help you remember that He is the source of your blessings.*

Why do you think God asked the questions in verse 12?

Why did God say the land of Judah would be destroyed (vs 13)?

What did the people choose to do (vs 14)?

What are ways that you can act like the people of Judah?

What was God going to feed the people with (vs 15)?

What do you think was meant by this?

Where would the people be scattered (vs 16)?

Why would this be so devastating?

What did God call for (vs 17-18)?

What was going to be heard in Israel (vs 19)?

Why would this cause such shame?

What were the daughters to be taught (vs 20)? Why?

What was going to come to Jerusalem (vs 21)?

How was the devastation described in verse 22?

What three things were they told not to boast in (vs 23)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How have you seen people boasting in these things?

What should you boast in (vs 24)?

What do you think it means to be “circumcised in heart” (vs 25-26)?

“Worshiping Logs”

Study: Jeremiah 10:1-16

Reading: Acts 17:16-34

Memory: Isaiah 40:12

One of the things that is hard for many to understand is how many of the German people believed the lies that Adolf Hitler and the Nazi party declared about the human race. It is hard to understand how many of the German people could treat other human beings with such disgrace, without realizing that all of us could fall into believing lies. When something is repeated over and over again, it is very easy to start believing that it is true. Thousands of examples from history attest to this fact, and we will read today how God encouraged the people of Judah not to believe the lies about the false idols they worshiped.

What Does the Bible Say?

The people of Judah were challenged not to fall into the sins of the nations that lived around them. One of the things the pagan nations did was attempt to predict the future by signs in the sky, very similar to our astrology today. This method often caused unnecessary fear and though they would be right sometimes, many times they were wrong. The things that ungodly people live for and what they look at to help direct them is full of emptiness. A great illustration of that is the way they made idols. They would go into the woods, cut down a tree and carve it into an image. This image would be adorned with precious metals and then nailed to the ground or platform so it wouldn't fall over. There was nothing great about these idols since they were all man-made. God compared them to scarecrows because they couldn't speak or walk. If they moved, they had to be carried. There was no reason to fear these idols because they could not do evil and they could not do good (vs 1-5).

Jeremiah responded to what God said by declaring that there was no God like the One True God. He was the one full of power and might. Everyone, no matter what nation they were from, should choose to fear and worship this God. He was far above any power or wisdom found in the world. It was foolish for anyone to replace the God of the universe

with a piece of wood. Even if that wood was ornately decorated with precious metals, the idols were simply the creation of skilled men. The true God was different than all of these idols. He is alive and is everlasting. He has the ultimate power over all the earth and is far greater than any human or supernatural force that ever had or ever will exist (vs 6-10).

All of the human made gods would come and go. They were not the creators of the world, but will be destroyed by the Creator. The people of Judah were reminded that it was God who made the earth with the power of His breath and it was His wisdom that created the sun, moon and stars with great creativity. At the sound of His voice, the waters on the earth move as He causes rain and wind to move. Nature itself is one of the strongest proofs that there is a Creator, but sadly the people chose to worship the creation instead of the Creator. God declared that those who chose to worship the creation are “stupid” (ESV) and their minds are full of delusions. All the things they worshiped would go away, but God would never be destroyed (vs 11-16).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Though many people in our society today don't physically worship false idols today, they do reject God as the Creator and worship many other things. Even many churches have given into the claims of the evolutionists and have fallen prey to the lies of the enemy which are designed to lead people to worship the creation rather than the Creator. It is vital to believe that God created the heavens and the earth and that He created everything in six literal days. Over and over Scripture refers back to the creation narrative and affirms what God said He did. It is very important to believe that with the words of His mouth, God spoke the world into existence and still controls everything you see in the world.

Suggestions for Prayer

* Praise God for being the God of creation.

* Ask God to help you avoid being deceived into believing lies.

Thought for the day

What did Jeremiah want the people to hear (vs 1)?

What were they not to follow (vs 2)?

How is it easy to follow the customs of the world around you today (vs 2)?

How are the customs of the world described (vs 3)?

How did the description of idol making reveal its foolishness (vs 4)?

What were the idols compared to (vs 5)?

Why were the people of Judah told not to be afraid of these idols (vs 5)?

What did Jeremiah say about God (vs 6)?

What question did Jeremiah ask in verse 7? Why do you think he asked this?

Why is it important to realize that there is none like God (vs 7)?

How does Jeremiah describe those who chose to worship idols (vs 8)? Why do you think He described them this way?

Why is it emphasized that all idols were the works of the hands of men (vs 9)?

How is God described in verse 10?

What will happen to the gods of this world (vs 11)?

What did God do by His power (vs 12)?

What happens at the voice of God (vs 13)?

How are those who believe in idols described (vs 14)? Why (vs 15)?

How is God described in verse 15?

“Please Be Gentle”

Study: Jeremiah 10:17-25

Reading: Galatians 6:1-5, James 5:13-20

Memory: Isaiah 40:12

Every day you hear about people making “plea bargains” in the court system. Most of the time, the people are admitting their guilt and in exchange, asking the court to give them a lighter sentence than the law states they should get. They recognize their guilt and call on the mercy of the prosecutors and the court in order to make their sentence less severe.

Today, we are going to see how Jeremiah predicted great horror that would come to the people, but yet he plead with God to be merciful with them when He brought about His judgement.

What Does the Bible Say?

The message of Jeremiah shifted from the superiority of God to telling the inhabitants of Judah to gather together their belongings and be ready to move. This is because they were going to be under siege from foreign armies and would eventually be forced from their homes. God was going to force the inhabitants out of the land, like a rock shot out of a sling shot. Great distress will be upon the whole land and everyone would feel the great pain that was going to take place (vs 17-18).

Jeremiah’s heart hurt as he declared these words, knowing the great pain and suffering that was going to take place. Though it hurt Jeremiah to mention these things to the people, he knew it was something that must be said. He also knew that this was something that the children of Israel had to face as a result of their sin (vs 19).

Judah was pictured as a shepherd whose tent had been destroyed by attacking invaders. These invaders also took away his children which greatly limited his ability to rebuild his tent. Things would never be the same again (vs 20).

One of the great reasons for the destruction was a result of the leaders of the people (shepherds) choosing to no longer seek wisdom from the Lord, completely failing their sheep (the people of the land). As a result, the sheep were not being led to safety or protected and the outcome was

that the sheep would all be scattered (vs 21).

The roar of the approaching army would be great and terrifying. They would come from the north and roll over anyone or anything which tried to stand in their way. This destruction would leave the cities desolate and only fit for wild animals to live in (vs 22).

Jeremiah then offered a prayer for the people. In this prayer he declared that their lives were not their own and no man was able to truly plan out his own course in life. Jeremiah asked for correction from God, but also wanted God to be gentle in that correction. He did ask God to pour out His wrath on the foreign nations. He wanted judgement to come on the nations which caused so many problems for Israel, but he still wanted God to be gentle when bringing His correction to the land of Judah and the children of God (vs 23-25).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Even though the people of Judah were living wicked lives and had abandoned God, Jeremiah did not want them to see the great destruction that God was going to bring. He cared for his fellow Israelites and did not want them to see the great destruction that he was declaring. He knew they needed correction and needed a change, but at the same time his heart went out to his fellow Jews and desired that God would spare them. This is a great reminder for you in how you should respond towards those fellow believers around you who are not living as God would have them to live. You should not approach them with anger and frustration, but with love and compassion hoping that God will open their eyes to the truth. Instead of judging others involved in sin, you should be praying for them and reaching out in ways in attempt to help them.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for His great mercy towards you.*
- * *Ask God to help you be merciful towards those caught in sin.*
- * *Praise God because He is a God of mercy and grace.*

Thought for the day

Why was Israel told to gather their things (vs 17)?

Why do you think God said He was going to sling them out of the land (vs 18)?

What was God going to bring upon the people (vs 18)?

Why do you think He wanted to make sure they felt the pain of the discipline He was bringing (vs 18)?

How did Jeremiah feel declaring all this destruction (vs 19)?

Why did he think he declared that he had to bear through the difficulties that lay ahead (vs 19)?

How have you felt like this when those close to you were not doing what God wanted them to do?

What were the people of Judah compared to (vs 20)?

Why do you think the children would no longer be there to help (vs 20)?

How were the leaders described (vs 21)?

Why were they described this way (vs 21)?

What was the result of their failures (vs 21)?

What was going to come from the north (vs 22)?

What was going to happen to Jerusalem (vs 22)?

What did Jeremiah recognize about man and God (vs 23)?

What did Jeremiah ask God (vs 24)? Why do you think he asked this?

Who did Jeremiah want God to judge (vs 25)?

Who did Jeremiah want God to have mercy on (vs 25)?

“Just the Messenger”

Study: Jeremiah 26:7-15

Reading: James 4:1-12, Luke 4:16-30

Memory: Isaiah 40:12

One of the reasons I have chosen to preach exegetically (verse by verse) through the Bible and not topically is because I don't ever want to be accused of preaching at someone. Even with this philosophy there have been a handful of times I have been accused of preaching directly at someone. In most cases that I was accused of this, I had no idea what a person was struggling with or going through. Often, if someone shares something with me in confidence and I am studying through a passage that addresses that issue, I find myself wanting to shy away from declaring the truth on the matter so I can avoid being accused of preaching at someone. My desire is to speak God's Word and let the Holy Spirit do the convicting through the Word of God.

Today we are going to read how the people became angry with Jeremiah because of the message he delivered. We will be reminded of the importance of listening to the message instead of becoming angry or bothered with the messenger.

What Does the Bible Say?

It appears that the beginning of Jeremiah 26 was a summary of what was declared by Jeremiah in chapters 7-10. He was at the front of the Temple courtyard when he declared these things with many of the prophets and priest listening to the words he was saying. This would not have been an easy message to deliver since there were several times in the declaration that the spiritual leaders were called out for leading people in the wrong direction (vs 7).

Needless to say, this prophecy didn't sit well with these spiritual leaders or many of the people. The leaders and those around Jeremiah grabbed hold of him and declared that he was going to die because of the message that he delivered. They didn't like the fact that he declared that the great temple would be destroyed like Shiloh and that Jerusalem would become desolate. They surrounded Jeremiah so that there was no way of escape and they took him into custody. The leaders of Judah heard what

had taken place and they took their seats around the New Gate. Leaders often held court and conducted their major political business near the main gates of the city. The priests and prophets accused Jeremiah of wrongdoing and declared that he deserved to die because of what he had said against the city (vs 8-11).

Jeremiah defended himself by declaring that he was called by the Lord to deliver this message. He was not going to make apologies for this message, but encouraged the people to listen to what was said and change their ways. He told them that if they obeyed the voice of the Lord that God would spare them from the disaster that would soon be upon them (vs 12-13).

The concern that Jeremiah presented was not one for his own life, but for Jerusalem and the people of Judah. He told them they could do whatever they wanted with him, but warned them that if they chose to kill him that this would bring even more judgement upon them from God. He was an innocent man who was only doing his duty before God and delivering the message that God told him to deliver. They were already making a huge mistake by not repenting and if they chose to kill him, the punishment they would experience would most likely come sooner and swifter (vs 14-15).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you get upset at the messenger for delivering messages that you don't want to hear? It is easy to get upset at other people when they tell you things that you may not want to hear. It is hard when you are rebuked for your sin or your mistakes. It is much more difficult to humble yourself and listen than it is to become upset and angry at the person who rebuked you. One of the greatest lessons you can learn, and often need to repeatedly remind yourself of is the importance of humbling yourself. Being willing to admit you were wrong and recognizing changes that need to be made is very difficult, but it is one of the best things for you. Ask God to give you the humility you need to accept correction and instruction. No matter how mature you are or how experienced you become at something, there is always space for improvement.

Thought for the day

Where had Jeremiah been speaking (vs 7)?

Who was listening to the message of Jeremiah (vs 7)?

Why do you think that Jeremiah mentioned who was listening?

What did Jeremiah speak (vs 8)?

Why do you think it was important that Jeremiah spoke everything that God had told him to speak?

Describe how you think you would feel if you were called to deliver this message?

What did the leaders do when Jeremiah was done (vs 8)?

Why is it significant that the leaders were involved in this?

What did they want to happen to Jeremiah (vs 8)?

What question did they ask Jeremiah (vs 9)?

Why do you think they would ask a question like this?

What happened when the political leaders heard about what was taking place (vs 10)?

What did the spiritual leader say that Jeremiah deserved (vs 11)?

What defense did Jeremiah give (vs 12)?

What did he challenge the people to do (vs 13)?

What did Jeremiah say they could do with him?

What does Jeremiah's response reveal about his character (vs 13-14)?

What lesson can you learn from the boldness of Jeremiah?

“Making A Difference”

Study: Jeremiah 26:16-24

Reading: Micah 3:1-12, James 5:13-20

Memory: Isaiah 40:12

When I first started in ministry, one of the responsibilities I was given was to pick up children and teenagers with our church van for children’s ministries and youth group. I did this for many years, and there were times I wondered if I was wasting my time because many of the children would stop coming around 10th grade and I would never see them again. I continued this ministry for many years until I became the senior pastor and someone else took over. Though I didn’t see the results back then, I have received a couple of messages on social media over time from a few of these children, who had become adults. In those messages, they thanked me for being willing to pick them up for church and showing the love of Christ to them. I don’t know where the majority of those children are today, but I take great joy in the fact that I was able to make a difference in the lives of a few.

Today, we are going to be reminded how we can have a positive impact on the lives of other individuals.

What Does the Bible Say?

Before Jeremiah gave his speech by the gate of the temple, God had instructed him “do not hold back a word” (Jer 26:2) because God knew that the message would not settle with the people, especially the leaders. The religious leaders were ready to kill Jesus, but the political leaders didn’t think that Jeremiah’s actions were enough to warrant his death. Some of them understood that Jeremiah was a true prophet of the Lord and knew that he was telling the truth. You must remember that this was just a little over a year after the death of Josiah and that there were still many godly people in the land who had taken part in the reforms of Josiah (vs 16).

Some of the wise elders in the land spoke up and reminded the people how the prophet Micah, who prophesied during the time of Hezekiah, had predicted that Jerusalem would be destroyed (Micah 3:12). Hezekiah did not choose to kill Micah because of this because Hezekiah feared the

Lord. Instead of putting the prophet to death, Hezekiah listened to what was said and sought the favor of God. God then turned from His judgment of the city and chose not to carry out the words of judgement that were prophesied. A few of these elders stood with Jeremiah and challenged the people to repent. They declared that the current actions of the people were going to bring judgement upon themselves (vs 17-20).

This defense of Jeremiah helped spare him from death, but other prophets of God didn’t experience that same deliverance. Jeremiah mentioned another prophet whose name was Uriah. He declared the judgement of God with words very similar to Jeremiah’s, but Jehoiakim, king of Judah, didn’t like what he heard and he wanted to kill Uriah. For safety reasons, Uriah fled to Egypt but that didn’t stop Jehoiakim from his desire to have Uriah killed. The king sent men to Egypt to find Uriah, and when they did, they brought him back to Jerusalem where he was killed by Jehoiakim. In a sign of great disrespect, they buried him with the common people rather than in an area where the prophets were buried (vs 21-23).

Jeremiah would have probably suffered the same fate but for a few godly elders who stood up for him to protect him. One of the major allies that Jeremiah had was an elder named Ahikam. This was the man who had served under Josiah as one of his top advisors and helped head up the major reforms that Josiah had made. His influence on the people helped spare the life of Jeremiah (vs 24).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize the influence your godliness can have in the lives of others? Though the majority of people at the time wanted to live in evil and rejected the message of Jeremiah, there were a few godly men who were trying to make a difference. They may not have changed the whole evil culture but they helped spare the life of Jeremiah. It is easy at times to get discouraged when you feel like you are the great minority when you stand for the truth found in the Word of God. You may at times find yourself thinking, “What is the point?” Yet, you must remember that your stand for godliness and righteousness might make the difference in the life of someone else. You may not save the multitude, but like Ahikam, you can make a difference in the life of another individual. God has not called you to save the world, but He has called you to make a difference for Him in the lives of the individuals He had placed around you.

Summarize what had taken place in verses 7-15.

What did some of the government officials say Jeremiah did not deserve (vs 16)?

Why didn't they think Jeremiah deserved this (vs 16)?

Who else stood with Jeremiah (vs 17)?

What does this reveal about the righteous minority?

****It is easy at times to feel all alone when you are standing up for what is right, but there are others around you who do hold to the truth.*

What prophet did they use as an example (vs 18)?

What did he prophesy (vs 18)?

How was this similar to what Jeremiah had been declaring (vs 18)?

What did Hezekiah not do in response to Micah's prophesy (vs 19)?

What did Hezekiah chose to do (vs 19)?

How did God respond (vs 19)?

What did the elders encourage the people to do (vs 19)?

What prophet did Jeremiah mention (vs 20)?

What was his message (vs 20)?

How did Jehoiakim respond to this message (vs 21)?

How much did Jehoiakim not like the message from God (vs 22)?

What did Jehoiakim order to be done to Uriah (vs 23)?

Who helped spare Jeremiah (vs 24)? What can be learned from this?

Memory Verses

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God? 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!" 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?