

THE SHEPHERD-GIVING GOD

Jeremiah 3:15
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INTRODUCTION

In the Old Testament we see Israel's continued sin and failure. This eventually leads them into exile.

What the prophets (including Jeremiah) often highlight is that this often connected to a failure of leadership. A failure to know God, know His Word, and teach His Word.

We see this in Jeremiah 2:7-8 and later in chapter 10.

I. GOD GIVES THE SHEPHERDS

- God will provide better leaders in the New Covenant.
- In 1 Peter 5:1-2 the "shepherds" are Elders.

II. GOD GIVES SHEPHERDS AFTER HIS HEART

Not "sinless perfection". But a heart that reflects, though imperfectly, something of God's love, kindness, patience, love for the lost, love for the Word, etc.

III. GOD GIVES SHEPHERDS WHO FEED

A key role or function of shepherds, of pastors, is that they feed the flock.

And we read in Ephesians 4 that indeed these shepherds are to be Shepherd-Teachers. Shepherds who shepherd by teaching.

Shepherds are a gift. God is giving us a new shepherd.

A good question to ask is: for what? What purpose in His mission?