

# **Jeremiah 23 - A Righteous Branch; Against False Prophets**

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## **Jeremiah 23**

(e) Righteous branch (23:1-8)

(i) Evil kings to be judged (23:1-2)

**1** "Woe to the shepherds who are causing the sheep of My pasture to perish and are scattering *them*!" declares the LORD.

**1** "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of My pasture!" declares the LORD.

**1** "How terrible for the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD.

**1** Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

- A figure of speech, referring to their leaders and kings

**2** Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel says concerning the shepherds who are tending My people: "You have scattered My flock and driven them away, and have not

been concerned about them; behold, I am going to call you to account for the evil of your deeds," declares the LORD.

2 Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel concerning the shepherds who are tending My people: "You have scattered My flock and driven them away, and have not attended to them; behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds," declares the LORD.

2 Therefore, this is what the LORD God of Israel says about the shepherds who are shepherding my people, "You have scattered my flock and driven them away. You haven't taken care of them, and now I'm about to take care of you because of your evil deeds," declares the LORD.

2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

- These shepherds have scattered His flock and He says *I will visit upon you the evil of your doings*. The kings have been unfaithful, the people have been unfaithful to the Lord and so they are going to reap their just rewards. The Babylonian Captivity and in a broader sense, the Diaspora.

(ii) Righteous branch's ministry (23:3-8)

(a) Regather Judah (23:3-4)

3 "Then I Myself will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the **countries** where I have driven them, and bring them back to their pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply.

3 "Then I Myself will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and bring them back to their pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply.

3 "I'll gather the remnant of my flock from all the countries where I've driven them, and bring them back to their pasture where they'll be fruitful and increase in numbers.

3 And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

- "...countries" - when Cyrus the Persian releases them, they only come out of one country. God predicts that they will be regathered not once but twice.

4 I will also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD.

4 I will also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer, nor be terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD.

4 I'll raise up shepherds over them, and they'll shepherd them. My flock will no longer be afraid or terrified, and none will be missing," declares the LORD.

4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.

- God will provide righteous leaders who will feed the people with righteousness, justice, and understanding.
- This has not happened yet. There will be twelve men sitting ruling over the twelve tribes of Israel. These are the Apostles, (don't count Paul as one of them). They are presented Biblically are going to rule over the Twelve Tribes as in Matt 19:28. That is Millennial.

(b) Deliver Judah (23:5-6)

5 "Behold, *the days are coming*," declares the LORD, "When I will raise up for David a **righteous Branch**; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.

5 "Behold, *the days are coming*," declares the LORD, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.

5 "The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I'll raise up a righteous branch for David. He will be a king who rules wisely, and he will administer justice and righteousness in the land.

5 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

- "...righteous Branch" - *tsemach*, one of the most important prophetic titles of Jesus Christ (Is 4:2-4, Zech 3:8-9)

6 "In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will live securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, '**The LORD Our Righteousness**.'

6 "In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, 'The LORD our righteousness.'

6 In his time Judah will be delivered and Israel will dwell in safety. This is the name by which he will be known: 'The LORD Our Righteousness.'

6 In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

- "...The Lord Our Righteousness" - *Jehovah Tsidheu* (1 Tim 1:16; Phil 3:9; 1 Cor 1:30)

(c) Return Judah to the land (23:7-8)

7 "Therefore behold, *the days are coming*," declares the LORD, "when they will no longer say, 'As the LORD lives, who brought the sons of Israel up from the land of Egypt,'

7 "Therefore behold, *the days are coming*," declares the LORD, "when they will no longer say, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up the sons of Israel from the land of Egypt,'

7 "Therefore, the time is coming," declares the LORD, "when people will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives who brought up the Israelites from the land of Egypt,'

7 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

8 but, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up and led the descendants of the household of Israel *back* from the north land and from all the countries where I had driven them.' Then they will live on their own soil."

8 but, 'As the LORD lives, who brought up and led back the descendants of the household of Israel from the north land and from all the countries where I had driven them.' Then they will live on their own soil."

8 but they'll say, 'As surely as the LORD lives who brought the descendants of the Israelites from the land of the north and from all the lands where I had driven them and brought them into the land.' Then they'll live in their own land."

8 But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

- His identity will be the God that brought the children of Israel out of all countries. The Lord is going to be identified as *the Lord who regathered His people in the land out of all countries even the north country*, or Russia.

(B) Eleventh message: rebuke of the false prophets (23:9-40)

(a) Corrupt character (23:9-15)

9 As for the prophets: My heart is broken within me, All my bones tremble; I have become like a drunken man, And like a man overcome by wine, Because of the LORD And because of His holy words.

9 As for the prophets: My heart is broken within me, All my bones tremble; I have become like a drunken man, Even like a man overcome with wine, Because of the LORD And because of His holy words.

9 Concerning the prophets: My heart is broken within me, and all my bones shake. I'm like a drunk man, like a person overcome with wine, because of the LORD, and because of his holy words.

9 Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness.

10 For the land is full of adulterers; For the land mourns because of the curse. The pastures of the wilderness have dried up. Their course is evil And their might is not right.

10 For the land is full of adulterers; For the land mourns because of the curse. The pastures of the wilderness have dried up. Their course also is evil And their might is not

right.

10 Indeed, the land is full of adulterers. Indeed, the land mourns because of the curse; the pastures of the wilderness have dried up. The adulterers' lifestyles are evil, and they use their strength for what is not right.

10 For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force *is* not right.

11 "For both prophet and priest are defiled; Even **in My house** I have found their wickedness," declares the LORD.

11 "For both prophet and priest are polluted; Even in My house I have found their wickedness," declares the LORD.

11 Indeed, both priest and prophet are ungodly. Even in my house I find evil," declares the LORD.

11 For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD.

— "...in My house" - even in the Temple. Jeremiah is going to be starting to renounce the false prophets.

— Equivalent passages: Is 28:7-13; Ezek 13:1-16; Micah 3:5-12

— Denouncing the false prophets, old news but specifically announcing the ruin of the nation because of the false prophets

12 "Therefore their way will be like slippery paths to them, They will be driven away into the gloom and fall down in it; For I will bring disaster upon them, The year of their punishment," declares the LORD.

12 "Therefore their way will be like slippery paths to them, They will be driven away into the gloom and fall down in it; For I will bring calamity upon them, The year of their punishment," declares the LORD.

12 Therefore their way will be slippery. They'll be driven out into the darkness, where they'll fall. For I'll bring disaster on them, the year of their judgment," declares the LORD.

12 Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation, saith the LORD.

13 "Moreover, among the prophets of Samaria I saw an offensive thing: They prophesied by Baal and led My people Israel astray.

13 "Moreover, among the prophets of Samaria I saw an offensive thing: They prophesied by Baal and led My people Israel astray.

13 "Among the prophets of Samaria I saw a disgusting thing, for they prophesied by Baal and led my people Israel astray.

13 And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err.

14 "Also among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: The committing of adultery and walking in deceit; And they strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one has turned back from his wickedness. All of them have become to Me like Sodom, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.

14 "Also among the prophets of Jerusalem I have seen a horrible thing: The committing of adultery and walking in falsehood; And they strengthen the hands of evildoers, So that no one has turned back from his wickedness. All of them have become to Me like Sodom, And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.

14 Among the prophets of Jerusalem I saw a horrible thing, for they commit adultery and live a lie. They strengthen the hands of those who do evil, so that no one repents of his evil. All of them are like Sodom to me, and her residents like Gomorrah."

14 I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

15 Therefore this is what the LORD of armies says concerning the prophets: 'Behold, I am going to feed them wormwood And make them drink poisonous water, For from the prophets of Jerusalem Ungodliness has spread into all the land."

15 "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets, 'Behold, I am going to feed them wormwood And make them drink poisonous water, For from the prophets of Jerusalem Pollution has gone forth into all the land."

15 Therefore, this is what the LORD God of the Heavenly Armies says about the prophets, "I'm about to make them eat wormwood and drink poisoned water, because godlessness has spread from the prophets of Jerusalem throughout the land."

15 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land.

- *Wormwood*, familiar phrase from Rev 9 (wormwood in Russian is *Chernobyl*). Cf. Rev 11:8. (Jerusalem = Sodom)

- Part of what he is talking about here is the prophets and the priests, the prophets are assisted by the priests, they are working together. Judgment is going to start at the house of God.

(b) Corrupt message (23:16-40)

(i) Words from their own imaginations (23:16-22)

**16** This is what the LORD of armies says: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; They tell a vision of their own imagination, Not from the mouth of the LORD.

**16** Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; They speak a vision of their own imagination, Not from the mouth of the LORD.

**16** This is what the LORD of the Heavenly Armies says: "Don't listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you; they're giving you false hopes. They declare visions from their own minds— they don't come from the LORD!

**16** Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, *and* not out of the mouth of the LORD.

**17** "They keep saying to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "You will have peace"'; And as for everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart, They say, 'Disaster will not come on you.'

**17** "They keep saying to those who despise Me, 'The LORD has said, "You will have peace"'; And as for everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart, They say, 'Calamity will not come upon you.'

**17** They keep on saying to those who despise me, 'The LORD has said, "You will have peace.'" To all who stubbornly follow their own desires they say, 'Disaster won't come upon you.'

**17** They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you.

**18** "But who has stood in the council of the LORD, That he should see and hear His word? Who has paid attention to His word and listened?

**18** "But who has stood in the council of the LORD, That he should see and hear His word? Who has given heed to His word and listened?

**18** But who has stood in the LORD's council to see and hear his message? Who has paid attention to his message and obeyed it?

**18** For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard *it*?

19 "Behold, the storm of the LORD has gone forth in wrath, Even a whirling tempest; It will swirl down on the head of the wicked.

19 "Behold, the storm of the LORD has gone forth in wrath, Even a whirling tempest; It will swirl down on the head of the wicked.

19 Look, the storm of the LORD's wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest, and it will swirl down around the head of the wicked.

19 Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked.

20 "The anger of the LORD will not turn back Until He has performed and carried out the purposes of His heart; In the last days you will clearly understand it.

20 "The anger of the LORD will not turn back Until He has performed and carried out the purposes of His heart; In the last days you will clearly understand it.

20 The LORD's anger won't turn back until he has accomplished what he intended to do. In the future you will clearly understand it.

20 The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly.

[Jer 30:23-24]

21 "I did not send *these* prophets, But they ran. I did not speak to them, But they prophesied.

21 "I did not send *these* prophets, But they ran. I did not speak to them, But they prophesied.

21 I didn't send these prophets, but they ran anyway. I didn't speak to them, but they prophesied.

21 I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.

22 "But if they had stood in My council, Then they would have announced My words to My people, And would have turned them back from their evil way And from the evil of their deeds.

22 "But if they had stood in My council, Then they would have announced My words to My people, And would have turned them back from their evil way And from the evil of their deeds.

22 If they had stood in my council and had delivered my words to my people, then they would have turned them back from their evil way, from their evil deeds."

22 But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

(ii) Dreams from their own hearts (23:23-32)

**23** "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off?

**23** "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "And not a God far off?

23 "Am I a God who is near," declares the LORD, "rather than a God who is far away?

23 *Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?*

- God is saying that He is inescapable (Ps 139:7-10)

24 "Can a person hide himself in hiding places So that I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.

24 "Can a man hide himself in hiding places So I do not see him?" declares the LORD. "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the LORD.

24 If a person hides himself in secret places, will I not see him?" declares the LORD. "I fill the heavens and the earth, do I not?" declares the LORD.

24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

- Jonah tried this. You can't get away from Him, wherever you are, He is there.

### **The Prophets Lie**

**25** "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, 'I had a dream, I had a dream!'

**25** "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy falsely in My name, saying, 'I had a dream, I had a dream!'

**25** "I've heard what the prophets who prophesy lies in my name have said: 'I had a dream; I had a dream.'

**25** I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed.

26 How long? Is there *anything* in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, *these* prophets of the deceitfulness of their own heart,

26 How long? Is there *anything* in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy falsehood, even *these* prophets of the deception of their own heart,

26 How long will this go on? Is there anything in the hearts of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy from the deceit that is in their hearts?

26 How long shall *this* be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, *they* are prophets of the deceit of their own heart;

27 who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they report to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal?

27 who intend to make My people forget My name by their dreams which they relate to one another, just as their fathers forgot My name because of Baal?

27 With their dreams that they relate to one another, they plan to make my people forget my name just as their ancestors forgot my name by embracing Baal.

27 Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal.

- Anything you put or substitute instead of the Lord is an idol

28 The prophet who has a dream may report *his* dream, but let him who has My word speak My word truthfully. What does straw have *in common* with grain?" declares the LORD.

28 The prophet who has a dream may relate *his* dream, but let him who has My word speak My word in truth. What does straw have *in common* with grain?" declares the LORD.

28 Let the prophet who has a dream relate the dream, but let whoever receives my message speak my message truthfully. What does straw have in common with wheat?" declares the LORD.

28 The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD.

29 "Is My word not like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer *which* shatters a rock?

29 "Is not My word like fire?" declares the LORD, "and like a hammer which shatters a rock?

29 "My message is like fire or like a hammer that shatters rock, is it not?" declares the LORD.

29 *Is* not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces?

30 Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who steal My words from each other.

30 Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who steal My words from each other.

30 "Therefore, look, I'm against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who steal my words from each other.

**30** Therefore, behold, I *am* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour.

31 Behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who use their tongues and declare, *'The Lord declares!'*

31 Behold, I am against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who use their tongues and declare, *'The Lord declares.'*

31 Look, I'm against the prophets," declares the LORD, "who use their tongues to issue a declaration.

31 Behold, I *am* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith.

32 Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares the LORD, "and reported them and led My people astray by their lies and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them nor command them, nor do they provide this people the slightest benefit," declares the LORD.

32 Behold, I am against those who have prophesied false dreams," declares the LORD, "and related them and led My people astray by their falsehoods and reckless boasting; yet I did not send them or command them, nor do they furnish this people the slightest benefit," declares the LORD.

32 Look, I'm against those who prophesy based on false dreams," declares the LORD, "and relate them and lead my people astray with their lies and their recklessness. I didn't send them; I didn't command them, and they provide no benefit at all to these people," declares the LORD.

32 Behold, I *am* against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.

- No matter how enticing the words are, if the Lord hasn't sent them, they are dangerous and deceptive

### (iii) Perverted oracles (23:33-40)

**33** "Now when this people or the prophet or a priest asks you, saying, 'What is the pronouncement of the LORD?' then you shall say to them, 'What pronouncement?' The LORD declares, 'I will abandon you.'

**33** "Now when this people or the prophet or a priest asks you saying, 'What is the oracle of the LORD?' then you shall say to them, 'What oracle?' The LORD declares, 'I will abandon you.'

**33** "Jeremiah, when these people, the prophet, or a priest ask you, 'What is the oracle of the LORD?' say to them, 'You are the burden, and I'll cast you out,'" declares the LORD.

33 And when this people, or the prophet, or a priest, shall ask thee, saying, What *is* the burden of the LORD? thou shalt then say unto them, What burden? I will even forsake you, saith the LORD.

34 Then as for the prophet or the priest or the people who say, 'The pronouncement of the LORD,' I will bring punishment upon that person and his household.

34 Then as for the prophet or the priest or the people who say, 'The oracle of the LORD,' I will bring punishment upon that man and his household.

34 "As for the prophet, the priest, or the people who say, 'I have an oracle of the LORD,' I'll judge that person and his household.

34 And as *for* the prophet, and the priest, and the people, that shall say, The burden of the LORD, I will even punish that man and his house.

- In the Hebrew here there is a pun, the word *massah* means oracle like a prophet, and the word pronounced with a different accent means to *lift up like a burden*. So the word *burden* and *oracle* are homonyms in the Hebrew.

35 This is what each one of you will say to his neighbor and to his brother: 'What has the LORD answered?' or, 'What has the LORD spoken?'

35 Thus will each of you say to his neighbor and to his brother, 'What has the LORD answered?' or, 'What has the LORD spoken?'

35 This is what you should say to one another and among yourselves, 'What has the LORD answered?' or 'What has the LORD said?'

35 Thus shall ye say every one to his neighbour, and every one to his brother, What hath the LORD answered? and, What hath the LORD spoken?

36 For you will no longer remember the pronouncement of the LORD, because every person's own word will become the pronouncement, and you have perverted the words of the living God, the LORD of armies, our God.

36 For you will no longer remember the oracle of the LORD, because every man's own word will become the oracle, and you have perverted the words of the living God, the LORD of hosts, our God.

36 But you are to no longer mention the oracle of the LORD, because the oracle is only for the person to whom the LORD gives his message, and you have overturned the words of the living God, the LORD of the Heavenly Armies, our God.

36 And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man's word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God.

37 This is what you will say to *that* prophet: 'What has the LORD answered you?' and, 'What has the LORD spoken?'

37 Thus you will say to *that* prophet, 'What has the LORD answered you?' and, 'What has the LORD spoken?'

37 This is what you should say to the prophet, 'What has the LORD answered?' or 'What has the LORD said?'

37 Thus shalt thou say to the prophet, What hath the LORD answered thee? and, What hath the LORD spoken?

38 And if you say, 'The pronouncement of the LORD!' for that reason the LORD says this: 'Because you said this word, "The pronouncement of the LORD!" I have also sent *word* to you, saying, "You shall not say, 'The pronouncement of the LORD!'"'

38 For if you say, 'The oracle of the LORD!' surely thus says the LORD, 'Because you said this word, "The oracle of the LORD!" I have also sent to you, saying, "You shall not say, 'The oracle of the LORD!'"'

38 Since you're saying, 'We have an oracle of the LORD,' therefore this is what the LORD says: He will answer your message with this message, 'Burden of the LORD,' and I'll send you away with these words: 'Don't say, "Oracle of the LORD."'

38 But since ye say, The burden of the LORD; therefore thus saith the LORD; Because ye say this word, The burden of the LORD, and I have sent unto you, saying, Ye shall not say, The burden of the LORD;

39 Therefore behold, I will certainly forget you and thrust you away from My presence, along with the city which I gave you and your fathers.

39 Therefore behold, I will surely forget you and cast you away from My presence, along with the city which I gave you and your fathers.

39 Therefore I'll surely forget you and cast you and the city I gave you and your ancestors out of my presence.

39 Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, *and cast you* out of my presence:

40 I will put an everlasting disgrace on you and an everlasting humiliation which will not be forgotten."

40 I will put an everlasting reproach on you and an everlasting humiliation which will not be forgotten."

40 I'll bring on you everlasting reproach and everlasting humiliation that won't ever be forgotten."

40 And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten.