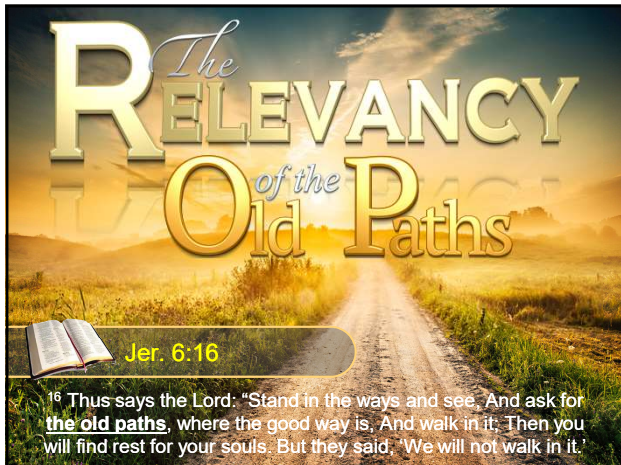


The RELEVANCY of the Old Paths



Jer. 6:16

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see. And ask for **the old paths**, where the good way is. And walk in it. Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



Jeremiah's Ministry



- Judah had rejected the Lord for idols (2:13,32; 5:19;19:4-5)
- Guilty of gross personal unrighteousness (5:1,7-8,25-28; 6:13).
- They hypocritically claimed to be God's people (5:2; 7:9-11)

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



Jeremiah's Ministry



- Jeremiah: A priest from the village of Anathoth in Benjamin just a few miles northeast of Jerusalem.
- Jeremiah's prophecies were written down by Baruch, his scribe (36:4,27-28,32).

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



Jeremiah's Ministry



- They refused to hear God's Word (6:16-19; 7:25-26; 25)
- They refused to be corrected (5:3,21; 6:15; 17:23; 44:15-18)
- Followed false prophets who spoke what the people wanted to hear (5:30-31; 6:14)

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



Jeremiah's Ministry



- Began 13th year of the reign of King Josiah (1:2; 25:3) 627 B.C.
- Prophesied after Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
- Lasted about 50 years.

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



Jeremiah's Ministry



- Called Judah to repent (3:1; 7:4-7)
 - They refused (6:16-17; 20:1-2; 32:2-5; 37:11-21; 38:1-13)
- He foretold their destruction (5:9-10,14-18,29; 6:22-26; 7:16)
- Israel was to be so destroyed as a nation that they could never be made whole again (19:10-11)

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



Rubel Shelly

“The Spirit of God is still moving and acting in the church today and we must be more open to it. The result will be exhilarating changes in the worship and mission of the church. It has been a mistake to emphasize ‘the old paths’ because we need to be open to change. . . . “The church has got to change. If it doesn’t change, my kids are not going to stay with it. I’m probably not going to stay with it... Mine was the last generation that would tolerate indoctrination.”

Rubel Shelly - "The Church In The 90's: The Challenge Of Change"- Behold The Pattern, Goebel Music, 284-322

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



The Context ...

- The people’s attitude toward God’s Word – **v. 10**
- The consequences of the people’s disobedience – **v. 11-12**

Jer. 6:11–12

The aged with him who is full of days. ¹² And their houses shall be turned over to others, Fields and wives together; For I will stretch out My hand Against the inhabitants of the land,” says the Lord.

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



The Context ...

- The people’s attitude toward God’s Word – **v. 10**

Jer. 6:10

¹⁰ To whom shall I speak and give warning, That they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, And they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the Lord is a reproach to them; They have no delight in it.

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



The Context ...

- The people’s attitude toward God’s Word – **v. 10**
- The consequences of the people’s disobedience – **v. 11-12**
- The extent of the people’s sins (least to greatest) – **v. 13**

Jer. 6:13

¹³ “Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely.

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



The Context ...

- The people’s attitude toward God’s Word – **v. 10**
- The consequences of the people’s disobedience – **v. 11-12**

Jer. 6:11–12

¹¹ Therefore I am full of the fury of the Lord. I am weary of holding it in. “I will pour it out on the children outside, And on the assembly of young men together; For even the husband shall be taken with the wife ...

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



The Context ...

- The people’s attitude toward God’s Word – **v. 10**
- The consequences of the people’s disobedience – **v. 11-12**
- The extent of the people’s sins (least to greatest) – **v. 13**
- The false message of peace the people believed – **v. 14**

Jer. 6:14

¹⁴ They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When there is no peace.

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



The Context ...

Jer. 6:15

¹⁵ Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down," says the Lord.

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



"Stand in the ways and see"

"Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

- **Stand** – Stop . . . Pause & reflect

- **In the ways** – There is more than one way to travel – **Matt. 7:13-14**

- **And see** – Understand where you are



RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



Jer. 6:16

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



"And ask for the old paths"

- **Ask** – "What has God said?" **Acts 17:11**

- **The Old Paths** – The revealed pattern – **1 Cor. 11:1-2; 2 Tim 1:13; 2 Thess. 2:5**



RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



"Thus Says The LORD"

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- **God Spoke** - to them through the prophets – **Heb. 1:1; 2 Pet. 1:20-21**

- **God Speaks** through Jesus – **Heb. 1:1-2; Matt. 17:5**

- **God Speaks** - to us through the BIBLE - the Holy Spirit guided the apostles into all truth which they wrote down – **Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13; Eph. 3:3-5; 2 Tim 3:16-17**

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



"And ask for the old paths"

- **The Good Way**

- God's way, which is revealed in the Bible, is the ONLY GOOD WAY!

- Our way, if not also God's way, is NOT good!! - (I think; I feel; I want) – **Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23; Matt. 15:7-9**



RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS

“And walk in it”

Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me...

- We have a choice – **Jos. 24:15; Deut. 30:11-20**
- Obey what the Lord says – **Jas. 1:22-25; Heb. 5:8-9**
- Staying within the revealed pattern – **Col. 3:17; 1 Pet. 4:11; 2 Tim 1:13**

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS

“But they said, we will not walk in it”

- They chose their way rather than God’s way
- The consequences – **Jer. 6:17-20**

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS

“And walk in it”

Examples of Some Who DID NOT

Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

- **Cain** – (Gen. 4:7) – Heb 11:4
- **Nadab & Abihu** – (Lev. 10:1-2)
- **Moses** – (Num 20:8-24)
- **David’s ox cart** – (1 Chr. 13:7-12; 15:2-13)
- **Uzziah** – (2 Chr. 26:16-23)
- **Warning To US** - 2 Jn. 1:9-10

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS

Will We Hear the Lord?

Man’s Way Emphasizes	God’s Way Emphasizes
Self <i>Judges 21:25</i>	Authority & Absolute Truth <i>John 8:31-32</i>
Feelings <i>1 Kings 12:33</i>	The Need For Obedience <i>Matt. 7:21; John 14:15</i>
Rationalization <i>Matt. 19:8-9</i>	The Reality of Sin <i>1 John 3:4</i>

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS

“Then you will find rest for your souls”

Jesus said

COME TO ME
all you who are
weary
&
BURDENED
and I will give you
REST

Matthew 11:28

- **ONLY IF** - we obey the Lord and stay within the revealed pattern.
 - The path of morality
 - The path of salvation
 - The path of worship
 - The path of church work

RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS

Will You Hear the Lord?

Hear	John 12:48
Believe	John 8:24
Repent	Luke 13:3
Confess	Matt. 10:32-33
Baptized	Mark 16:16
Faithful	Matt. 24:13