

"ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS"

INTRODUCTION

- I. The Israelites of old were admonished to "ask for the old path" (*ancient paths, NKV*) as seen in this passage which reads, "*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.'*"
 - A. This passage has 4 parts: **AUTHORITY** ("Thus says the LORD"), **INSTRUCTION** ("Stand in the ways, see, ask for the old paths..walk in it", **PROMISES** (where the good way is" and "Then ye shall find rest for your souls", then the predicted **RESPONSE** ("We will not walk in it.")
 - B. The "old paths" **must exist**, else the Lord would not have promised it to the people
 1. This admonition was given some 900 years after the Law of Moses was given, and 600 years before Christ.
 2. Now, what was good for Israel might well be good for those living in the gospel age. Rom. 15:4
 3. What anyone needs to each of these admonitions, contains the MIND of God, but it has been revealed in the written word, the scripture.
- II. Now let's make a more thorough study of Jeremiah's admonition.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, the AUTHORITY OF THE WORD.

Text: Jer. 6:16, "*Thus says the Lord.*"

- A. Doubtless, the appeal in ALL the Bible is to submit to the "word of the Lord, for it does contain the written "authority for **every one** in his effort to obey and please God.
- B. God has various laws in the past to guide His people, but **now** all men accountable for what He says in the Bible. Matt. 18:18-20; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; John 12:48; Col. 3:17

II. 2nd, the INSTRUCTIONS OF THE WORD.

Text: Jer. 6:16, "*Stand in the way and See, and Ask for the old Paths and Walk in them.*"

- A. Jeremiah had already warned about what happens to those who reject God's word. Jer. 5:30-31
 1. The false prophets had deceived the people. Isa. 30:1, 8-14, 21; Jer. 16:21-22
 2. Jeremiah then admonishes the people to turn back to God.
- B. Specifically, there are 2 things Jeremiah is telling the people to DO
 1. 1st, they were to **stand** in the ways of man, which were many.
 - a. There were the ways of the "Gentiles", or heathen. Jer. 10:2
 - b. There were the ways of idolatry and its false worship of idols.
 - c. There was the and is the way of the world. Rom. 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17
 - d. There are the ways of riches and greed. Jude 11; Jas. 2:11
 - e. There are the ways of sinners and the rebellious. Psalms 1:1; Prov. 14:12
 - f. There is the way of the drunkards. Prov. 20:1; 23:31-32
 - g. There is the way of the adulterers. Prov. 30:20.
 2. We today need to stand in the ways of those following evil and see the consequences, and their need for following in the way of the Lord.

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