

# The RELEVANCY Of the Old Paths



Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> 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*.’”



# THE 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).



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



## Jeremiah's Ministry



- Began 13<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Josiah (1:2; 25:3), i.e., 627 B.C., (1:6).
- Prophesied after Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C. (39:1-10; 43:7-8; 44:1),
- Lasted about 50 years.



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



## Jeremiah's Ministry



- Judah had rejected the Lord for idols (2:13,32; 5:19; 7:18,31; 17:1-2; 19:4-5).
- Guilty of gross personal unrighteousness (5:1,7-8,25-28; 6:13).
- The Jews hypocritically claimed to be God's people (5:2; 7:9-11),



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



## Jeremiah's Ministry



- They refused to hear God's word (6:16-19; 7:25-26; 25:3-7; 36:20-24),
- 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; 7:8; 14:13-14)



# THE 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; 43:1-7).
- He foretold their destruction (5:9-10, 14-18, 29; 6:22-26; 7:16, 32-34; 14:15-16; 25:8-10).
- Israel was to be so destroyed as a nation that they could never be made whole again (19:10-11).



# THE 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



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



## The Context ...

- The people's attitude toward God's word - 10

Jeremiah 6:10 (NKJV)  
<sup>10</sup> 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.



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



## The Context ...

- The people's attitude toward God's word - 10
- The consequences of the people's disobedience - 11,12

Jeremiah 6:11–12 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> 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, ...



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



## The Context ...

- The people's attitude toward God's word - 10
- The consequences of the people's disobedience - 11,12

Jeremiah 6:11–12 (NKJV)  
The aged with *him who is*  
full of days. <sup>12</sup> 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.



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



## The Context ...

- The people's attitude toward God's word - 10
- The consequences of the people's disobedience - 11,12
- The extent of the people's sins (least to greatest) - 13

Jeremiah 6:13 (NKJV)  
<sup>13</sup> “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.



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



## The Context ...

- The people's attitude toward God's word - 10
- The consequences of the people's disobedience - 11,12
- The extent of the people's sins (least to greatest) - 13
- The false message of peace the people believed - 14

Jeremiah 6:14 (NKJV)  
14 They have also  
healed the hurt of  
My people slightly,  
Saying, 'Peace,  
peace!' When *there*  
*is* no peace.



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



The Context ...

Jeremiah 6:15 (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> 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.



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Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> 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*.’



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



“Thus Says The LORD”



- **God Spoke** - to them through the prophets – Heb 1:1; 2 Pet 1:20,21
- **God Speaks** through Jesus – Deut 18:15; Mt 17:5; 28:18-20; Heb 1:1,2
- **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; 1 Co 14:37; Ep 3:3-5; 2 Tim 3:16,17; Jude 1:3



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



"Stand in the ways and see,"



- **Stand** – Stop . . .  
Pause & reflect. Haggai 1:5; 2 Cor 13:5
- **In the ways** – There is more than one way to travel – Mat 7:13,14;
- **And see** – Understand where you are – Act 17:11; 1 Jo 3:19-24



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



“And ask for the old paths,”



- **Ask** – “What has God said?” Acts 17:11; 2 Tim 3:16,17; 1 Pet 4:11
- Need to seek God & His way - Mat 5:6; John 7:17
- **The Old Paths** – The revealed pattern – 1 Cor 11:1,2; Phili 3:17; 4:9; 2 Tim 1:13; 2 The 2:5; Ju 3
- God’s Law, testimonies, judgments ... Psalm 119:97-104



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



“where the good way is,”



- **The Good Way –**

- God's way, which is revealed in the Bible, is the **ONLY GOOD WAY!** - Psalm 19:7-9; Mat 7:13,14; Jn 14:6; 2 Tim 3:16,17
- Our way, if not also God's way, is **NOT good!!** - (I think; I feel; I know; I want; etc.) - Prov 14:12; Jer 10:23; Mat 15:7-9;



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



“And walk in it;”



- We have a choice - Josh 24:15; Deut 30:11-20; Rom 6:16-18; 10:5-17
- Obey what the Lord says – Jer 7:23; Mt 7:21-27; Joh 13:17; 15:10; Rom 1:5; 6:16-18; Jam 1:22-25; Heb 5:8,9
- Staying within the revealed pattern – Col 3:17; 1 Pet 4:11; 2 Cor 5:7; 1 Tim 1:13; Mat 21:23-25



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



“And walk in it;”

## Examples of Some Who DID NOT!



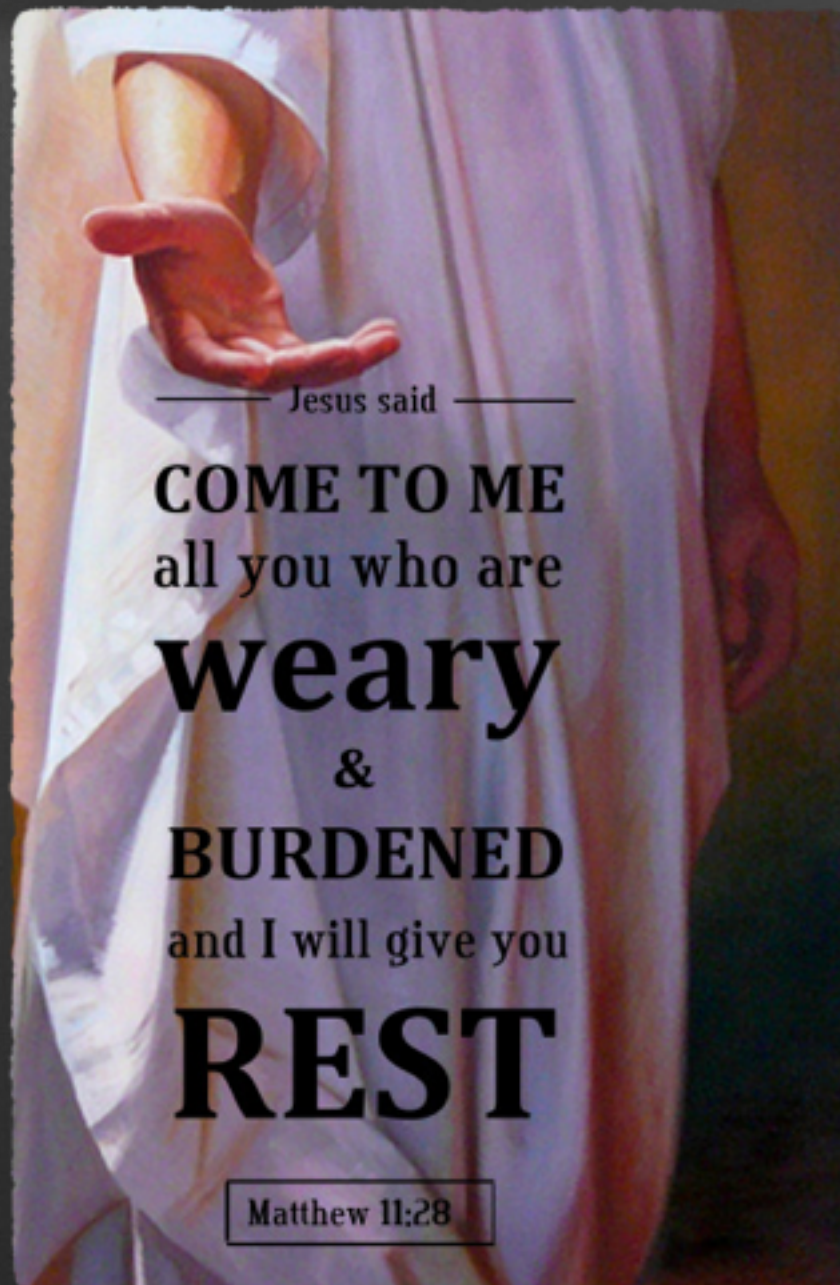
- **Cain** – (Gen. 4:7) – Heb 11:4
- **Nadab & Abihu** – (Lev. 10:1,2)
- **Moses** – (Num 20:8-24)
- **King Saul** – (1 Sam. 13 & 15)
- **David's ox cart** – (1 Chr. 13:7-12; 15:2-13)
- **Jeroboam** – (1 Kings 12:25-33)
- **Uzziah** – (2 Chr. 26:16-23)
- **Warning To US** - 2 John 1:9,10



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



“Then you will find rest for your souls”



- ONLY IF - we obey the Lord and stay within the revealed pattern will we find rest for our souls! – Rom 2:7; Heb 5:8,9; Rev 22:14
- The path of morality
- The path of salvation
- The path of worship
- The path of church work



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



“But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'”



- They chose their way rather than God's way - 2:13; 10:23; Rom 1:18-25
- The consequences – Jeremiah 6:17-20; Deut 30:17-19; Rom 2:8; 2 Thes 1:7-9; Heb 12:25



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



Will WE Hear The Lord?

- God's word is JUST as relevant today as it has ever been! - 2 Thes 2:15



<sup>15</sup> Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



## Will WE Hear The Lord?



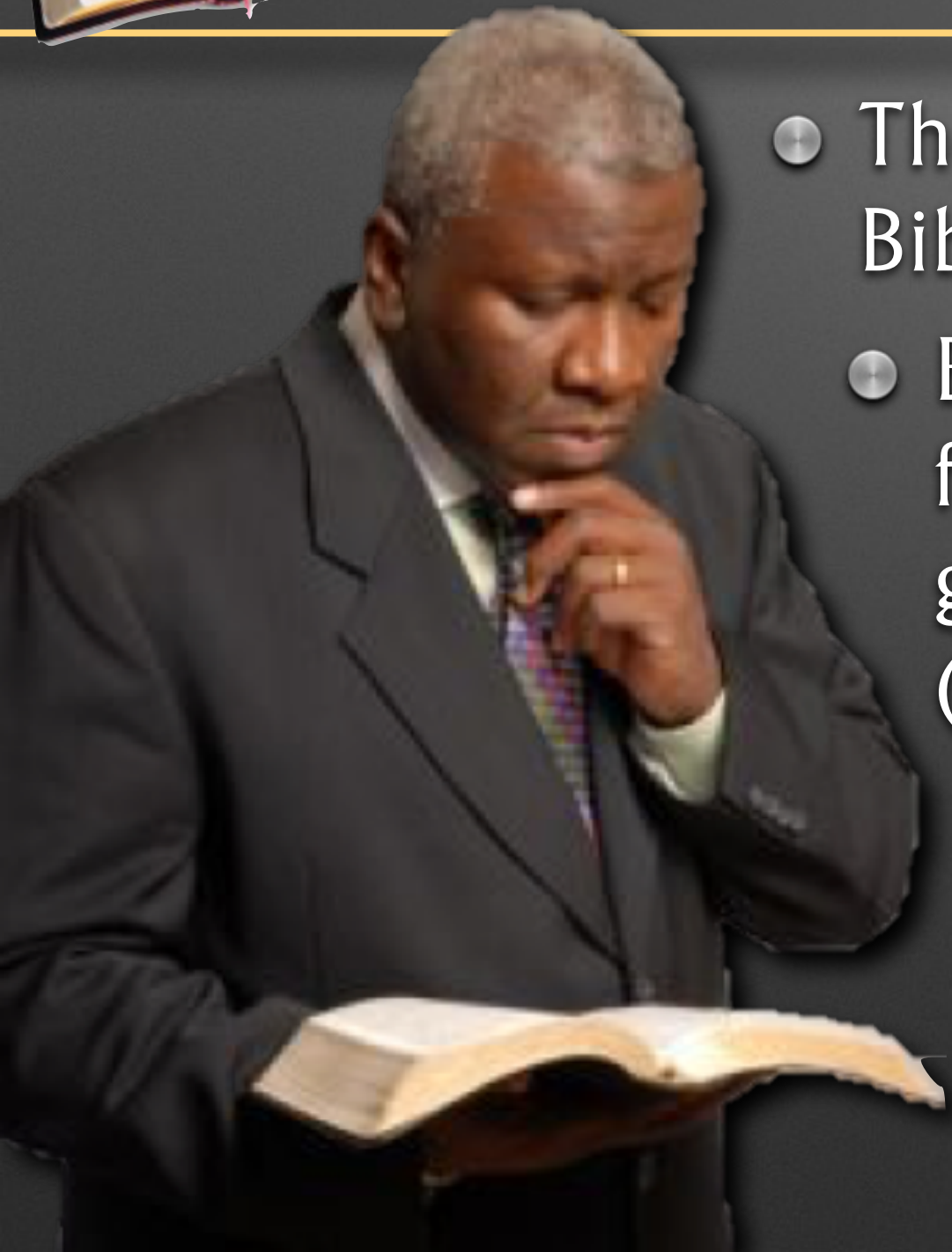
- God's word is JUST as relevant today as it has ever been! - 2 Thes 2:15
- Last forever - 1 Peter 1:22-25; Ps. 102:12, 26; Mat 24:35;
- Forever settled in heaven - 119:89; Is. 40:8;
- Will be judged by the words of Jesus - John 12:28; Rev 22:18,19



# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



## Will WE Hear The Lord?



- The restoration plea - “Back to the Bible!” - (Josiah 2 Kin 22,23; Ezra, Nehemiah)
- Being a local church committed to following the Old Paths, where the good way is, in doctrine & practice! - (Acts 2:42-47; 2 Tim 1:13)
  - Plan of salvation - (Mk 16:16)
  - Worship - (Jn 4:24; Heb 12:28)
  - Work - (1 Cor 14; 1 Thes 1:8; 2 Cor 8:1-5; 1 Cor 16:1,2)



# ***THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS***



**Will WE Hear The Lord?**

**When we move away from the firm foundation of a “thus saith the Lord” we:**

**Start to measure  
what we will do  
by what we  
have done –**

**We will move  
further and  
further away  
from God –**

**We set a  
course for  
complete  
apostasy –**

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# ***THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS***



**Will WE Hear The Lord?**

## **Man's Way Emphasizes**

**Self**  
*Judges 21:25*

**Feelings**  
*1 Kings 12:33*

**Rationalization**  
*Matt. 19:8-9*

## **God's Way Emphasizes**

**Authority & Absolute Truth**  
*John 8:31-32*

**The Need For Obedience**  
*Matt. 7:21; John 14:15*

**The Reality of Sin**  
*1 John 3:4*



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Will you hear the Lord?

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# THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



Will you hear the Lord?



- Consider where you are on the road to salvation?
- Ask for the old paths?
- Walk in them?
- Find rest for your soul?
- They didn't – will you?







# *The* RELEVANCY *of the* Old Paths



Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

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# ISAIAH 55:1-11 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you— The sure mercies of David.



# ISAIAH 55:1-11 (NKJV)

<sup>4</sup> Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people.

<sup>5</sup> Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations who do not know you shall run to you, Because of the Lord your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you.” <sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. <sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.



## ISAIAH 55:1-11 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup> “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. <sup>9</sup> “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. <sup>10</sup> “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, <sup>11</sup> So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.