

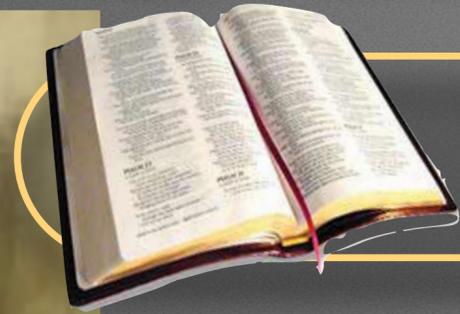
RELEVANCY of the Old Paths



Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

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*.’”

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).

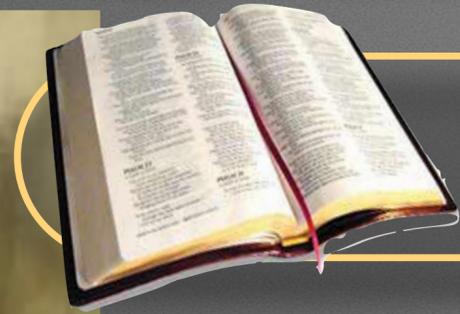
THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



Jeremiah's Ministry

- About 50 years.
- Began in 13th year of of King Josiah's reign (1:2; 25:3), i.e., 627 B.C., (1:6).
- Until after Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem in 586 B.C. (39:1-10; 43:7-8; 44:1),

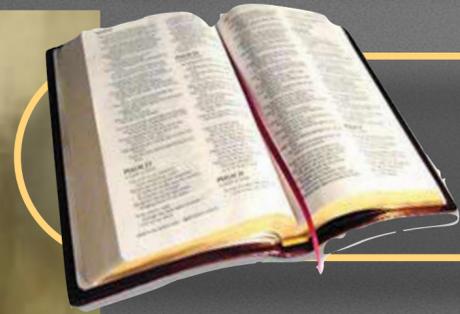
THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



Jeremiah's Ministry

- Judah 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),

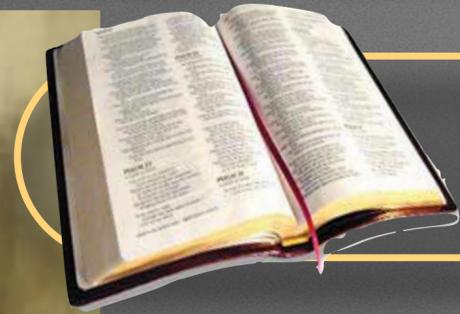
THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



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)

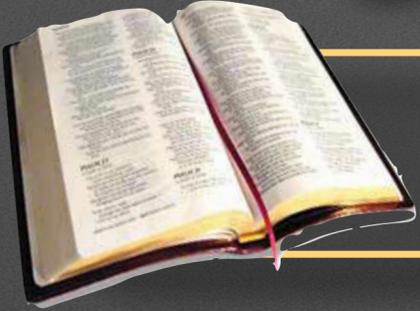
THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



Jeremiah's Ministry

- Called Judah to repent but they refused (3:1; 7:4-7; 6:16-17; 20:1-2; 32:2-5; 37:11-21; 38:1-13; 43:1-7).
- Foretold their destruction (5:9-10,14-18,29; 6:22-26; 7:16,32-34; 14:15-16; 25:8-10).
- The nation of Israel would be so totally destroyed that it would never be made whole again (19:10-11).

THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



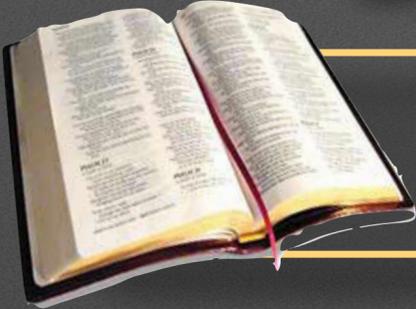
THE CONTEXT

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

Jeremiah 6:10 (NKJV)

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.

THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



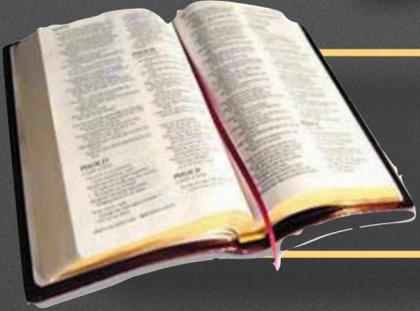
THE CONTEXT

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

Jeremiah 6:11–12 (NKJV)

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, ...

THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



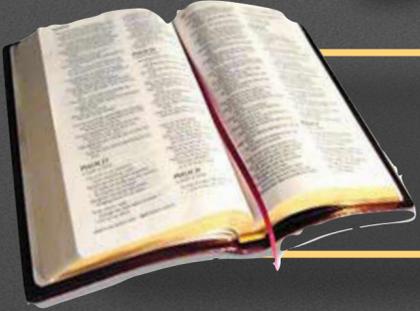
THE CONTEXT

- Their attitude toward God's word - 10
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- The extent of their sins (least to greatest) - 13
- The false message of peace they believed - 14

Jeremiah 6:11–12 (NKJV)

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.

THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



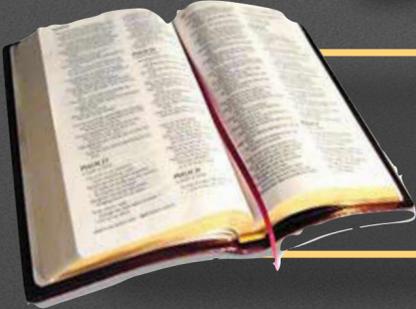
THE CONTEXT

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

Jeremiah 6:13 (NKJV)

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.

THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



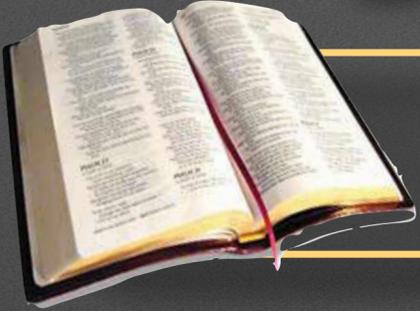
THE CONTEXT

- Their attitude toward God's word - 10
- The consequences of their disobedience - 11,12
- The extent of their sins (least to greatest) - 13
- **The false message of peace they 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

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

Jeremiah 6:15 (NKJV)

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.

THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



THE PLEA



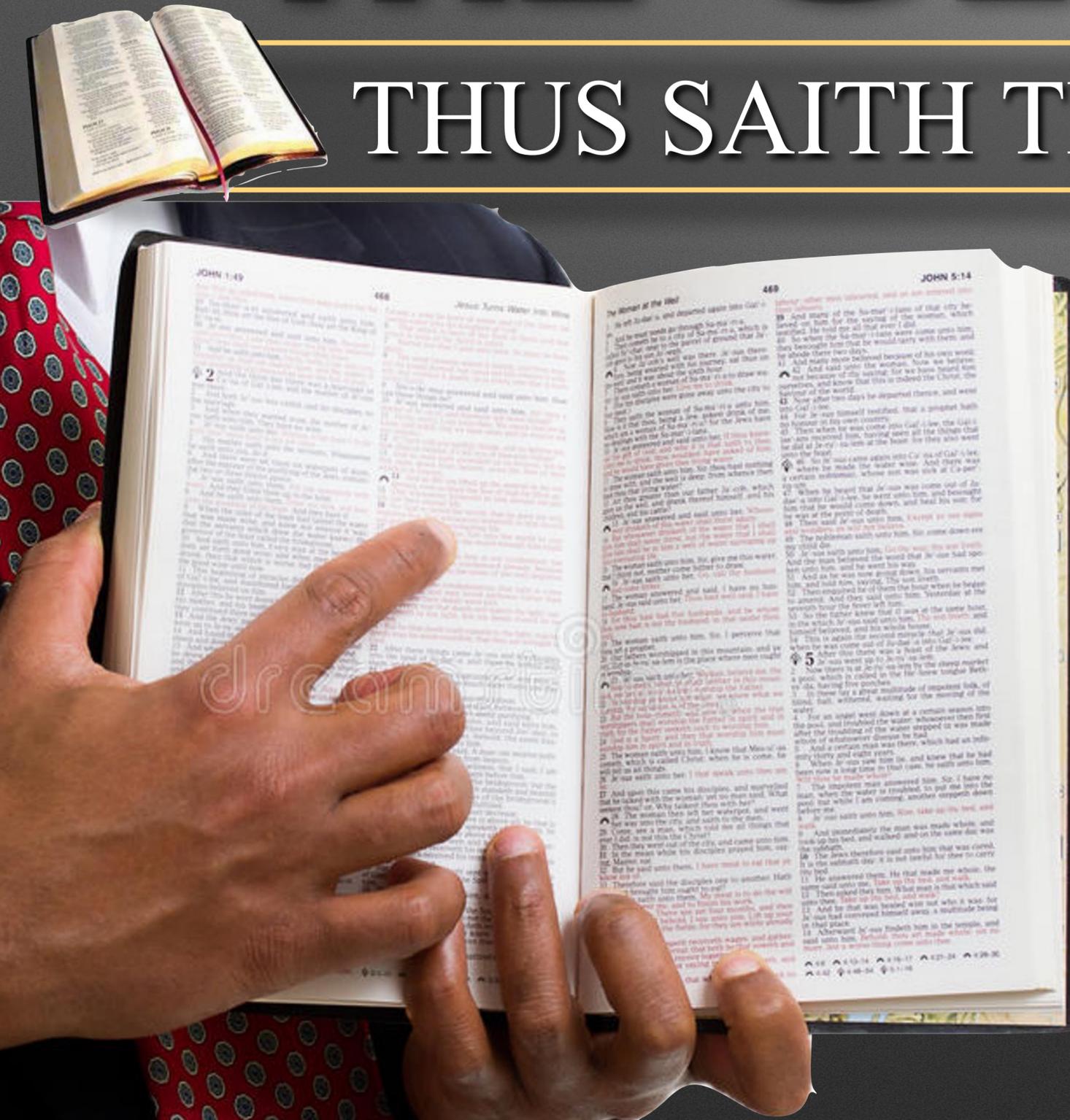
Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

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*.’”

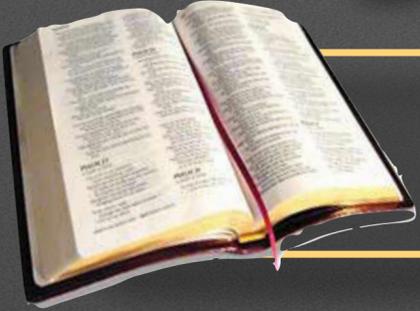
THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS

THUS SAITH 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; John 14:6; Luke 9:23-27)
- **And see** – Understand where you are and the direction you are heading (Act 17:11; 1 Jo 3:19-24)

THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



“And ask for the old paths,”

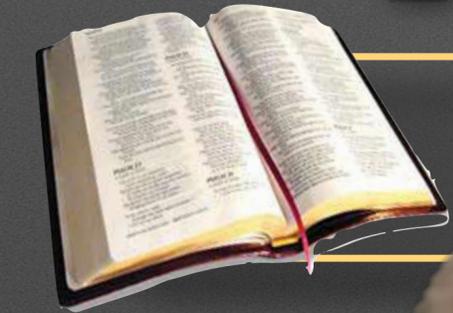
- 
- **Ask** – Need to seek God & His way —
“What has Jesus said?” (Mat 5:6; John 7:17; 12:48; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim 3:16,17; 1 Pet 4:11)
 - **The Old Paths** – The teaching of Jesus and His apostles — the revealed pattern (Psalm 119:97-104 ; 1 Cor 11:1,2; Phili 3:17; 4:9; 2 Tim 1:13; 2 Thes. 2:5; Jude 3)

THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS

“where the good way is,”

● **The Good Way –**

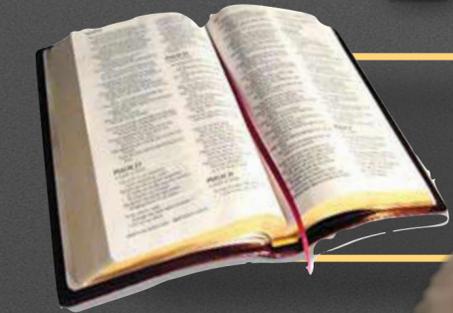
- God's way, which is revealed in the Bible, is the **ONLY GOOD WAY!** (Psalm 19:7-9; Mat 7:13,14; Jn 14:6; 2 Tim 3:16,17)
- Our way, if not also God's way, is **NOT good!!** (I think; I feel; I know; I want; etc.) (Prov 14:12; Jer 10:23; Mat 15:7-9)



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; 2 John 9)

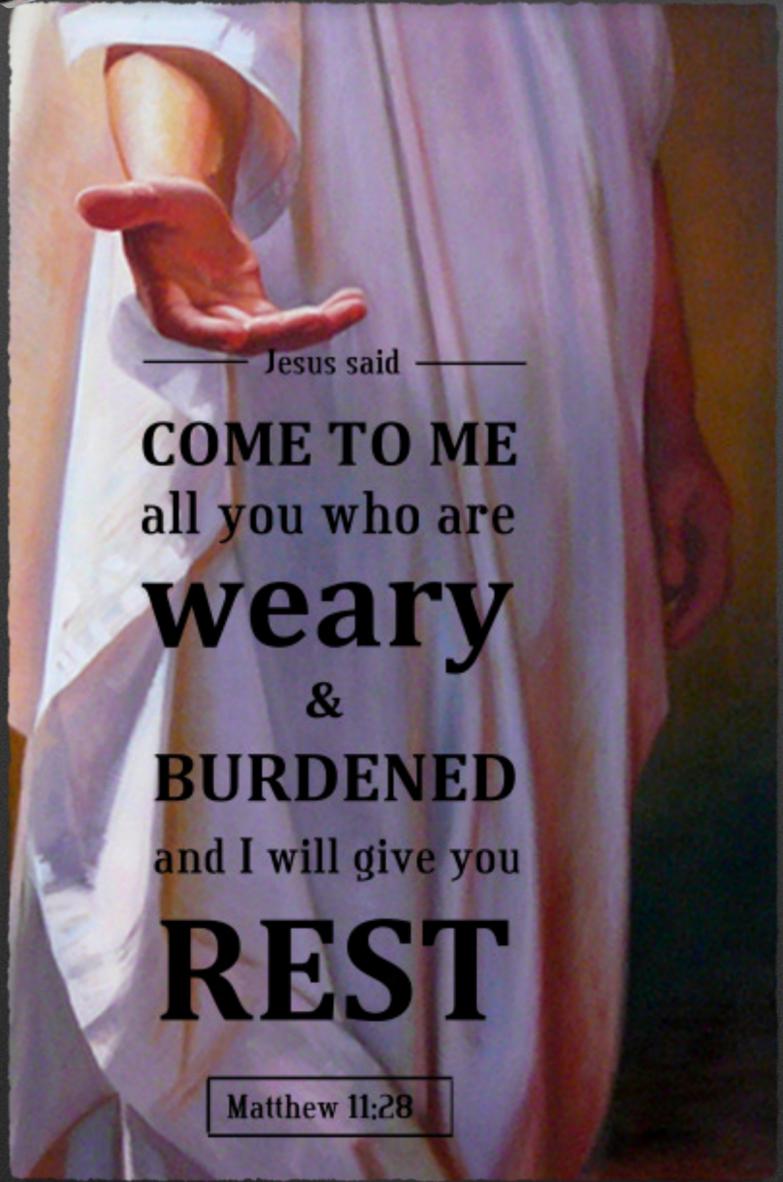


THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



“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! (Mat. 5:3-11; 7:21-27; 11:28,29; Rom 2:7; Heb 5:8,9; Rev 22:14)
- ✓ The path of stability, safety, happiness, peace ...
- ✓ The path of salvation, acceptable worship, joyful service, eternal life!



— Jesus said —

COME TO ME
all you who are

weary

&

BURDENED

and I will give you

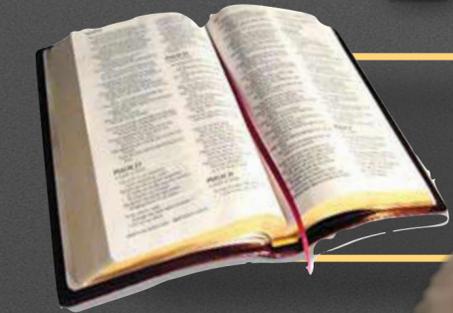
REST

Matthew 11:28

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; Mat 15:7-9; 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)



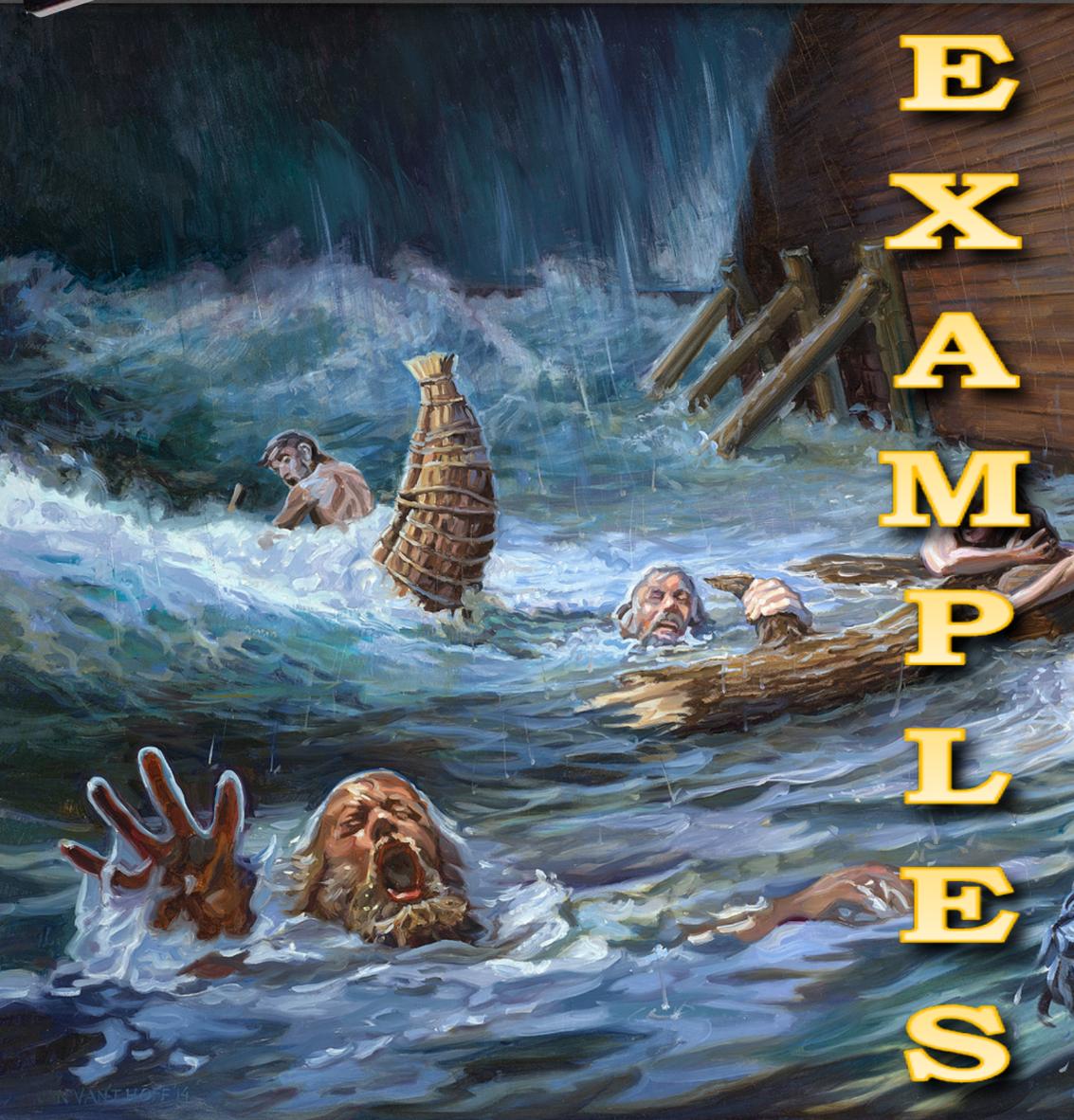
THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS

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



EXAMPLES

- **Cain** (Gen. 4:7) – Heb 11:4
- **Antediluvians of Noah's day** (Gen. 6)
- **Nadab & Abihu** (Lev. 10:1,2)
- **King Saul** (1 Sam. 13 & 15)
- **Jeroboam** (1 Kings 12:25-33)
- **Israel** (2 Kings 17:5-23)
- **Judah** (Deut. 28:15–68; Daniel 9:2-14)
- **Warning To US** (2 John 1:9,10; 2 Pet. 3:1-14)



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



March 19, 2023

“You remember lessons where the word ‘authority’ was mentioned many, many, many times. And it was dissected, and things were drilled down. And you remember lessons about gopher wood, and red heifers, and strange fire. And you remember about all of those examples that we see that talk about how God views things in relation to what He said, in relation to what He hasn't said and how He interacts with His people based on those things.

Sermon,, March 19, 2023,Non-institutional church of Christ Central Arkansas).

THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS



March 19, 2023

“....And if you have been paying attention very long at all, you know that I have not done lessons like that. I have not done lessons where I used Gopher Wood as an example of God's authority and what He has spoken. You've never heard me do a lesson on specific or generic authority. We've not had any lessons on instrumental music or how the church should spend its money. And I admit to that, that those lessons have not been taught... there's a lot of talk in this town about us being an unsound church”

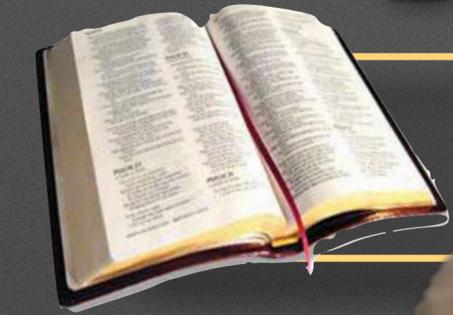
Sermon,, March 19, 2023,Non-institutional church of Christ Central Arkansas).

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)

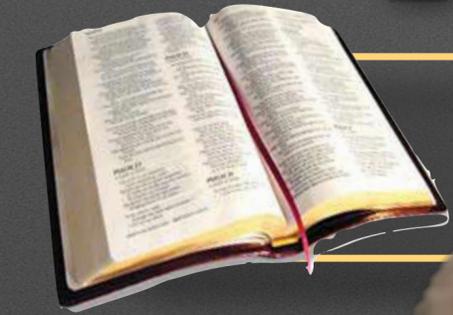
15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.



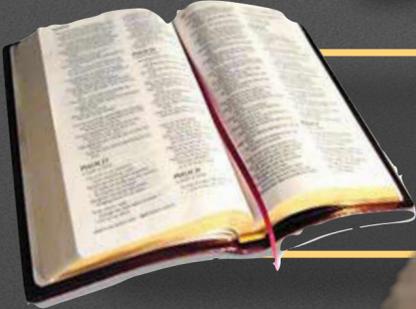
THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS

Will WE Hear The Lord?

- God's word is JUST as relevant today as it has ever been! (2 Thes 2:15)
- Will NEVER CHANGE — Forever settled (119:89; Is. 40:8; 1 Pet. 1:22-25; Ps. 102:12, 26; Mat 24:35)
- Can't ADD to it or TAKE FROM IT (Deut. 4:2; Deut. 12:32; Josh. 1:7; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18, 19)
- Will be judged by the words of Jesus (John 12:28; Rev 22:18,19)



THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS

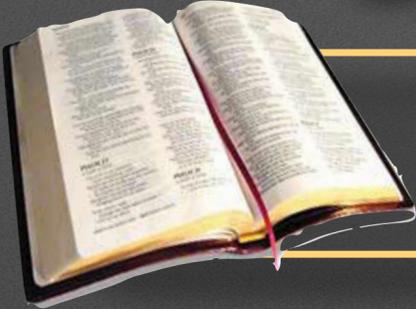


Will WE Hear The Lord?



- 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; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-16*)
 - ▶ Organization / Worship / Work - (*Phili. 1:1; Eph. 4:11-16; Jn 4:24; Heb 12:28; 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?

SHIFT

Step away from the standard of SCRIPTURE

CHANGE

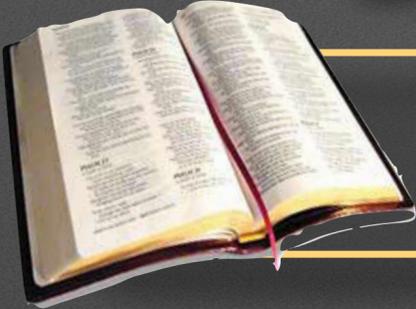
Measure belief & practice by what we have done

LEAVE

Forsake truth / Embrace error

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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

THE RELEVANCY OF THE OLD PATHS

Will YOU Hear The Lord?

Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

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*.’”



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?

HEAR

Romans 10:17

BELIEVE

John 8:24

CONFESS

Rom. 10:1,10

REPENT

Acts 17:30

BE BAPTIZED

Acts 2:38

FAITHFULNESS

1 Cor. 15:58



Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

RELEVANCY

Old Paths

of the

Charts by Don McClain

Preached April 9, 2023 / 9500 HWY 5 church of Christ / Alexander AR 72002 /

Phone: 501-568-1062 / Email - donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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Jeremiah 18:12–17 (NKJV)

¹² And they said, “That is hopeless! So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one obey the dictates of his evil heart.” ¹³ Therefore thus says the Lord: “Ask now among the Gentiles, Who has heard such things? The virgin of Israel has done a very horrible thing. ¹⁴ Will *a man* leave the snow water of Lebanon, *Which comes* from the rock of the field? Will the cold flowing waters be forsaken for strange waters?”

Jeremiah 18:12–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ “Because My people have forgotten Me, They have burned incense to worthless idols. And they have caused themselves to stumble in their ways, *From* the ancient paths, To walk in pathways and not on a highway, ¹⁶ To make their land desolate *and* a perpetual hissing; Everyone who passes by it will be astonished And shake his head. ¹⁷ I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will show them the back and not the face In the day of their calamity.”