

Jer 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

In the time of great corruption in Jerusalem and Juda and the coming judgement and destruction the Lord speaks and gives His people an opportunity to walk in His ways.

We have now the same opportunity in the increasing corrupt and violent world and the coming judgements of God. Here is what God wants us to do:

1. "Stand ye in the ways": *the first thing we need to do is to stop going down the paths that "seem right";* Prov. 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

2. "And see": examine the paths you have been going. *Is it the path of popularity?* Luk 16:15 "for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God".

Is it the path of conformity to the world's ways? Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. *Is it the path of pleasing self?* Matt.16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Once we realize that we are on the wrong paths, then we are ready to ask God to show us his paths.

3. "and ask for the old paths, where is the good way". Old paths are ancient paths (Jer. 18:15).

The Bible, a very old and ancient book, contains the old paths that are the good ways; the old paths of faith and obedience that have been proven to be true by many believers throughout the ages; the paths that lead to blessings here and hereafter. If we ask God, He will show us His paths from His Word. Mat 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find.

4. "and walk therein"; *Then he commands us to follow the paths He has shown us from His Word.*

5. "and ye shall find rest for your souls". *True peace and rest is the promised outcome of following God's paths.* Mat 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *Our paths lead to restlessness, discontentment and anguish but God's paths lead to peace and contentment.* Pro 3:17 Her ways (God's wisdom) are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

"But they said, we will not walk therein". *Why?* Joh.3:19 and this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

The old paths of God seem to be too outdated for most people and may be branded "too old fashioned"; "too strict and narrow"; "too hard to follow"; "too unrealistic or even foolish"; "too risky and embarrassing".

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

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