**Ask For The Old Paths** *(Jeremiah 6:16-19)*

**Introduction**

1. **Psalm 122:1-2** depicts the joy of worshipers upon entering the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.
	1. The fortified city of Jerusalem was wonderful to behold to those approaching.
	2. Yet, **Jeremiah 6** begins with the urgent call to flee **(v. 1),** **for her walls are no longer secure.**
	3. **The change is drastic, and alarming.**
2. **6:1-5** – Babylon would come from the North and overtake Jerusalem. War will be waged, and destruction will ensue.
3. **6:6-9** – This is set to occur due to the overflow of wickedness within the hearts of the Israelites. **Yet God pleads for her to heed the warning and turn (v. 8).**
4. **6:10-15** – The people do not listen to God’s word, because they do not love it.
	1. They will be punished in great destruction because they are covetous, and deal falsely with others **(v. 13).**
	2. The pay attention to false prophets who tickle their ears, and ignore the prophets of God **(v. 14).**
	3. Their ungodliness is brazen. They are not ashamed **(v. 15)**, so God will punish them.
5. **6:16-19** – There still remained a way to evade the destruction. Turn to God.
	1. **(v. 16) – *“ask for the old paths”*** – the old path the Israelites used to walk in – obedience to God’s word – the path of faith. (**cf. Deuteronomy 10:12-13).**
	2. **They refuse to walk in the way of righteousness, and do not heed the warning of the trumpet, so God will punish them.**
	3. **(v. 18-19)** – they become an example to all nations what God does to those who reject His word, instead of being an example of obedience and love for God.
6. Jeremiah’s call to, ***“ask for the old paths,”*** is important to consider.
	1. These ***“old paths”*** are old, in that they have been since the beginning.
	2. It is the only ***“good way,”*** and in order to please God you must walk therein.
	3. **Generally, this path is simply one of faithful obedience – one which seeks counsel, and instruction in God’s word, and applies it.**
7. **There are many things which have strayed from the *“old path.”*  We will consider a few substantial areas in which we must *“ask for the old paths...and walk in it.” 🡪***
8. Ask for the old paths…
9. The Church (Denominationalism; soft preaching)
	1. **Denominationalism – is condemned implicitly in scripture, and those who believe and practice such will be punished unless they repent, and turn to the old paths.**
		1. **1 Corinthians 1:10-13** – division according to preachers of the gospel.
			1. Division is not the design of the Lord for the church.
			2. **Modern version: I am a: Baptist, Methodist, catholic, etc.**
		2. ***“I will build My church” (Matthew 16:18)***; *The church of Christ* (**cf. Romans 16:16** – belonging to Him); **Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4** (One body).
			1. The church is Christ’s body. He has only one.
			2. **The *“old path,”* or the path of righteousness is one of ONENESS.**
		3. **How is this possible? – *“old paths”* – God’s word (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:6 – don’t think beyond what is written).**
			1. **By doing so, we can be of one mind.**
			2. This is what God intended **(cf. John 17:20-21).**
	2. **In the Lord’s church – soft preaching.**
		1. **Jeremiah 5:30-31; 6:14** – false prophesying; false security; soft message.
		2. **2 Timothy 4:2-4** – not endure sound doctrine.
		3. ***“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God” (1 Peter 4:11)***.
			1. **What does God’s word say?**
			2. **Preach it, and desire it!**
10. The Home (Divorce and Remarriage; domestic roles and child rearing)
	1. **Divorce and Remarriage** – marriage has become a temporary union (***if it is broken, abandon it, not fix it.)***
		1. **Matthew 19:3-9** – the ***“old path,”*** i.e. what was in the beginning, does not allow a temporary view of marriage.
			1. **World: “you can divorce for any reason, and marry anyone you like.”**
			2. **Jesus: only cause for divorce = fornication; only marry those who are not bound.**
	2. **Domestic Roles and Child Rearing – when society changes the structure of the home chaos ensues. When discipline is gone, society is hurt. (ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS)**
		1. **Ephesians 5:22-25, 28** – husband and wife relationship. (submission and love)
		2. **Ephesians 6:1-4** – submission of children, and instruction from father/parents. (Discipline is important.)
		3. ***The fabric of society is the home. If men asked for the old paths concerning the home, many problems would be solved.***
11. The Nation (submission to God; Romans 13)
	1. **Daniel 5:21** – the Most High God rules.
		1. **Must have humility before Him, and recognize His authority.**
		2. If He rules we must submit to His rule.
	2. ***“Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people” (Proverbs 14:34)***.
		1. **The brazen immorality of this nation will not go unpunished.**
		2. God will bring nations down who do not work righteousness.
	3. **Romans 13:1-4** – The governments must understand why they exist, and fulfill their role.
	4. **Like Israel, the only thing that will save this nation is to ask for the old paths, and return to them.**

**Conclusion – God intends for us to follow His ways. Punishment is given disobedience. He requires us to *“ask for the old paths…and walk in [them].”***