

The Old Path and the Good Way

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 this chapter, God has sent Jeremiah to tell the tribe of Benjamin; I am sending a host of enemies against Jerusalem to destroy it and punish this bunch of hypocrites. If you want to be kept from this destruction you had best be gone from here, and as you go, "**blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Bethhaccerem**" so that the rest of the obedient ones will be warned and have time to flee from the destruction.

God says; my people Judah are as a delicate woman. One, who in her abundance has forgotten where her blessings came from. One, who has been protected and kept and has no fear of any kind. One, who doesn't even know how to care for herself, because of the riches she has inherited. Therefore, she will be unable to defend herself from these enemies I am sending.

Judah is a picture today of organized religion. A picture of a people who has forgotten God, who has taking up ungodly practices and proclaiming them as "thus saith the Lord". Religious groups that are exercising in things that are directly contrary to "thus saith the Lord".

God says of them and to Benjamin; the enemies are coming in haste. They will not dawdle and waste time in carrying out my command to take this people captive. If you value your own life, you will flee this place. You will get out from among the people of Judah that are marked for destruction.

Jer 6:8 Be thou instructed, O Jerusalem, lest my soul depart from thee; lest I make thee desolate, a land not inhabited.

What a love God has for this people. Even now in the face of the destruction God is sending upon them he is explaining the great love he has: how? He tells them; listen to me, turn to me with your whole heart and follow my instruction. If you don't flee this place you will be destroyed. I will withdraw my love from thee and turn you over to the enemies for destruction and punishment. Turn to me, that I may preserve a people from among Israel; else you will become a people lost to me.

Consider what is going on in this chapter and you will see a direct application to our own lives today.

Think about these references and the inference they make to us today. Surely we can see that just as God sent the Prophet Jeremiah unto Israel, so Christ has spoken to us in these last days.

#Mt 11:25,29| 25 At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. **26** Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. **27** All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him. **28** Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

The Israelites had the law and all its commandments. The law was a revelation to them of how to walk in remembrance of God and godliness. The revelation to them of walking in ungodliness leads to death and destruction.

We today, having been born again, have the revelation of Jesus Christ. Through this revelation, we understand that we can come unto Christ and find security and rest for our souls. On the contrary side, we can also disobey and ignore Christ and we will be the recipients of death and destruction, while we live here in time.

#Lu 16:25,25-29| 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. **26**

And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. 27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Here we see that the rich man who is in hell, and the torment thereof, is crying out to Abraham, in whose bosom the beggar is, to send some relief to him. Abraham is reminding him that in your lifetime you had ample opportunity to be obedient and keep yourself from the torment you are in now. You could have been obedient, lived a righteous life, and you would not be where you are now. You have gotten what you earned by living in "***love of money***". You lived like "***a comely and delicate woman***."

The rich man then asked that Abraham send one to warn his brethren; and is reminded that they have in their life the same laws and rules that he had; and even if one that risen from the dead went to them they would not hear, just as he himself would not hear.

What a lesson to us as we consider these things and ***#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.***

Surely we can understand that this is a command to us to stand in the way of salvation by grace;

- Holding fast to Christ and his finished work;
- Holding fast to the love for God that He has given us;
- Holding fast to the revelations of Christ from the written testimony;
- Standing firm upon the ways that are taught by scripture; through which we honor our God and our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.
- We have the bible.
- We have the newness of life given in the new birth.
- We have the assurance of eternal life.
- We have the gospel preached unto us.
- We are without excuse if we fail to live the Christian life to the full. If we fail we can expect no more that Israel is warned of here, an enemy will be set upon us to bring us to destruction and thereby to humble obedience to God.

Think about what God is doing in this chapter of Jeremiah and then think about what is happening in the world at present with the plague of the corona virus. Don't you see a parallel?

Praise the Lord! that we have a God who loves us enough to rebuke us when we turn from him.

Praise the Lord! that we have a Saviour who has paid the eternal debt of sin we could not pay; though we have to suffer the consequence of our sin here in time.

Praise the Lord! for eyes that see, ears that hear, hearts that understand, and minds and bodies that are willing to walk in the way of "***thus saith the Lord***". Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

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