

ANCIENT PATHS**Introduction**

We encounter crossroads in life that require us to make important decisions about the paths we take. Each path shapes our future and impacts our destiny, positively or negatively. The Bible outlines two paths, each leading to different outcomes: the broad way, leading to destruction, and the narrow way, leading to life (Matthew 7:13-14). Every decision we make connects us to one of these paths. In a world where external influences tempt us to stray from God's way, we must consider our paths and life's direction to avoid veering off the narrow way. What disasters could be avoided, and how many lives could be spared from destruction if only we would wisely ponder (thoughtfully consider) the paths of our feet (Proverbs 4:26).

Memory Verse: Jeremiah 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.

Biblical Application

Jeremiah was chosen to deliver God's messages during Judah's moral and spiritual decline. The people had abandoned righteousness and failed to recognize that their sins led them down a path of destruction. Now facing judgment, they stood at a crossroads with an opportunity to change course. In Jeremiah 6:16, God urged them to seek the ancient paths and return to the "good way." Through Jeremiah, God provides Judah and, by extension, the Church with practical guidance for making wiser decisions for their future. First, Jeremiah advises that when we encounter a crossroads in life, we should "stand...in the ways, and see." This means we should take a moment to pause and reflect on the paths before us instead of rushing into the way. Too often, we hastily choose paths without evaluating where they might lead. This haste can cause us to lose our way (Proverbs 19:2-3).

Therefore, we must assess the conditions of these paths, understand their destinations, and consider who has traveled them before. Next, we are encouraged to "ask for the old paths, where is the good way." The "old paths" refer to the well-established ways of holiness, obedience, and faith that God has outlined from the beginning. These paths have been traveled by faithful patriarchs and matriarchs, representing the "good way." Although often less traveled, less innovative, and less

appealing to the carnal eye, these ancient paths have been proven throughout generations to lead to life and peace. We are called to seek them out by observing and following the righteous examples of those who have come before us, learning from their spiritual successes and failures. Once we discover the “good way,” we are called to walk in it. Simply knowing the way is not enough; we must actively pursue it. Walking in the "good way" not only means following the example of righteous people, but also walking in the guiding light of Jesus, our shepherd. Not only is Jesus the guide to our path, he is also the path itself that leads us to eternal rest. Therefore, let us embrace the LORD's guidance and not reject it as Judah did.

- Stand and consider the paths before you. Genesis 13:8-15; Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew 7:13-14; Proverbs 14:12
- Ask for the old paths. Deuteronomy 32:7-20; Job 8:8-13; 1 Corinthians 10:1-11
- Walk in the good way. Deuteronomy 5:32-33; Proverbs 4:11-19; Isaiah 30:8-21; John 8:12
- Jesus is the path that leads to rest. Psalm 23:1-3; Matthew 11:28-30; John 14:1-6
- Embrace the LORD's guidance. Psalm 25:4-5; Proverbs 3:5-6

Everyday Life Application

Reflect on your life's choices and consider the eternal implications of where they might lead you. If you have wandered from the “good way,” commit to rediscovering it and pursue it decisively.

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