

Week 2 - Ancient Paths

Last week I shared Jeremiah 6:16 that spoke about the ancient paths and how the ancient paths lead to God the Father, God the Son (Yeshua), and God Ruach ha-Chadesh. Jeremiah is, in itself an ancient path. We know this from the instructions contained within the verse.

The commands are: 1. Stand, 2. See, 3. Ask, and 4. Walk. Then comes the promise, “You shall find rest for your souls.” Jesus confirmed the promise in Matthew 11:29 when He referenced Jeremiah 6:16! “Stand by the ways”, Jesus said, “I am the way.” Rest for the soul?” Jesus said, “Come to Me and you will have rest for your souls”. That’s how the ancient paths work.

I had to find those ancient paths that lead to Yeshua and make the connecting link before I could get rest for my soul. You may ask, “Lonnie, you’re saved. You know Jesus. Why go down the ancient path?” Because when I went down the ancient path that led to Jesus, I understood the hope that the Old Testament crowd had in knowing Jesus and knowing Jesus took on a greater meaning beyond anything I had ever known. I found my rest.

Now, let’s look at the next verse, Jeremiah 6:17

“So, I set watchmen over you saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the shofar!’
But they said, ‘We will not listen.’”

Why is that important? Why did God appoint watchmen OVER the people to say, “Listen to the sound of the shofar!” One of the shofar’s uses was to warn people of danger. The watchman sounds the shofar to call people back to the ancient paths where the good way (Jesus, Yeshua) is. But the people were hardened of heart. In verse 16 the people said, “We will not walk in it (the good way). In verse 17 the people said, “We will not listen.” That is saddening to me. For if they were to walk the ancient paths, where the good way (Yeshua) is, they would find peace, shalom (Nothing missing, nothing broken, a place of no lack). God set watchmen to call people back when they stray off the ancient paths and, still, they won’t listen. What was the problem? People were afraid that they may have to submit to something greater than themselves. That’s the way it was then. That’s the way it still is today.

Today I’m going to share what I think is, perhaps the most needed ancient path to be traveled. It is found in the Book of Joel chapter 2.

Joel 2:12-20

Call for *Teshuvah*

¹² “Yet even now”

—it is a declaration of *Adonai*—

“turn to Me with all your heart,
with fasting, weeping and lamenting.”

¹³ Rend your heart, not your garments,
and turn to *Adonai*, your God.

For He is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger, abundant in mercy,

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and relenting about the calamity due.
14 Who knows? He may turn and relent,
and may leave a blessing behind Him
—so there may be a grain offering
and a drink offering for *Adonai*, your God.

This passage is a call for Teshuvah. Teshuvah is a period of self-evaluation. It is the aligning of oneself with family and with God. It is a time to repent but it is actually more than mere repentance. It is a time to settle one's soul, heart, and spirit and align with Ruach ha-Chadesh. Let's look at the process.

1. Turn to God with all our heart
2. With fasting
3. With weeping
4. With lamentations
5. Rend (tear) our hearts
6. Return to Adonai.

Notice then that some of the attributes of God are listed.

1. He is Gracious
2. He is Compassionate
3. He is slow to anger
4. He is abundant in mercy
5. He is relenting in the calamity that is due (which we deserve; mercy)
6. He may leave a blessing so that offering can be made to him. Today we remember the work of Christ which was God's offering for us. But God EXPECTS something!

Blow the *Shofar*

15 Blow the *shofar* in Zion!

Sanctify a fast;
proclaim an assembly.

16 Gather the people;
sanctify the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even those nursing at breasts.

Let the bridegroom come out from his bedroom
and the bride from her chamber.

17 Between the porch and the altar
let the *kohanim*, ministers of *Adonai*,
weep, and let them say:
“Have pity, *Adonai*, on Your people.
Don't make Your heritage a scorn,
a byword among the nations.

Why should the peoples say,
‘Where is their God?’”^[a]

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¹⁸ *Adonai* will be zealous for His land,
and have compassion on His people.

Adonai will answer and say to His people:

“Behold, I will send you the grain,
the new wine, and the fresh oil,
and you will be satisfied with it.

I will no longer make you a mockery among the nations.

²⁰ “But I will remove the northern invader far from you—
yes, I will banish him to a dry and desolate land—

his vanguard into the Eastern Sea
and his rearguard into the Western Sea.

His odor will go up—

Yes, his stench will rise.”

For He^h has done great things!

Now, when I read that passage, I see a House being called to prayer. It’s a prayer gathering. It’s like a prayer meeting. What is the order?

1. Blow the shofar.
2. Sanctify a fast.
3. Proclaim an assembly.
4. Gather the people
5. Sanctify the congregation
6. Assemble the elders.
7. Gather the children, the nursing babies
8. The groom come out of his room.
9. The bride come out of her chamber.
10. Let the kohanim (priests) weep between the porch and the altar.
11. Let the knoanim say, ““Have pity, *Adonai*, on Your people. Don’t make Your heritage a scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should the peoples say, ‘Where is their God?’”^h

Those are the steps of obedience.

THEN, look at the process and the order of the process, THEN

1. God will be zealous for His land.
2. He will have compassion on His people
3. He will answer the cries of His people
4. He will provide for new wine.
5. He will provide fresh oil.
6. He will see His people satisfied.
7. He will remove the invader with great judgments and their stench will rise into the air.

If you will notice, when the people were obedient to the Word of God HE BLESSED their socks off! Now, There are prayer rooms in churches all over this land and I thank God for every one of them. We need them! My question is this; How many of those

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prayer meetings are following these instructions? Nada. Will God honor and bless the prayers in those rooms? Yes. But how much more would the blessings flow if we were to follow the instructions in God's Word?

There's an ancient path for you to walk down and ponder upon.