



Standing at the Crossroads

Keith Walker

<http://www.KeithDWalker.ca>

Minister-at-Large C & MA, Mid West District

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Jeremiah 1: 4, 5: ⁴The Word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I **knew you**, before you were born I **set you apart**; I **appointed you** as a prophet to the nations.”

Jeremiah 2:13: “My people have committed **two sins**: They have **forsaken me**, the spring of living water, and have **dug** their own cisterns, **broken cisterns** that cannot hold water.”

Jeremiah 6:10-17: ¹⁰**To whom** can I speak and give warning? **Who will listen** to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The Word of the LORD is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it . . . ¹³From the least to the greatest, all are **greedy for gain**; prophets and priests alike, all **practice deceit**. ¹⁴They dress the wound of my people as though it were not **serious**. ‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace. ¹⁵Are they ashamed of their **detestable conduct**? No, they have **no shame** at all; they **do not even know how to blush**. So they will fall among the fallen; they **will be brought down** when I punish them, says the LORD.

¹⁶This is what the LORD says: **Stand** at the **crossroads** and look; **ask** for the ancient paths, **ask** where the good way is, and **walk** in it, and you will **find rest** for your souls. But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ ¹⁷I appointed watchmen over you and said, ‘**Listen** to the sound of the trumpet!’ But you said, ‘We will not listen.’

Matthew 11:28-30 ²⁸“**Come** to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹**Take** My yoke upon you and **learn** from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls**. ³⁰For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

- 1. Four Great Human Longings and Associated Questions:** **Security** (how do I win food and shelter from the environment and stay safe?), **Significance** (how do I find and make meaning?) **Community** (how do I get along with others?) and **Transcendence** (how am I to relate to the total scheme of the cosmos and its Creator? or How is it that I glorify God and to enjoy Him forever?)

2. **The Christian's Parallel Calling to Jeremiah's Call:** We, too, are formed, known, set apart, appointed.
3. **The Prophetic Message Issued to God's People:** Two Sins, Moral Muteness, Trivializing Serious, Sacred and Shameless Conduct
4. **The Ancient Paths (the Good Way GPS): A Sampling of this Metaphor**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding (Prov 3:5). In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make **your paths** straight (Prov 3:6). Watch the **path of your feet** and all **your ways** will be established. Do not turn to the right nor to the left; turn your foot from evil (Prov 4: 26, 27). There is **a way** which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the **ways of death** (Prov 16:25). With weeping they will come, and by supplication I will lead them; I will make them walk by streams of waters, on a **straight path** in which they will not stumble . . ." (Jer 31:9). You will make known to me the **path of life**; in Your presence is fullness of joy; in Your right hand there are pleasures forever (Ps 16:11). He has walled up my way so that I cannot pass, and He has put darkness on **my paths** (Job 19:8). He restores my soul; He guides me in the **paths of righteousness** for His Name's sake (Ps 23:3). Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to **my path** (Ps 119:105). You **scrutinize my path** and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all **my ways** (Ps 139: 3). I will lead the blind **by a way** they do not know, **in paths** they do not know I will guide them I will make darkness into light before them and rugged places into plains These are the things I will do, and I will not leave them undone (Is 42:16). Make me know **Your ways**, O LORD; Teach me **Your paths** (Ps 25:4). For my people have forgotten me, they burn incense to worthless gods and they have stumbled from **their ways**, from the **ancient paths**, to walk in **by-paths**, not on a highway (Jer 18:15).

5. Decision Making and the Will of God

God's ways and will are NOT as mysterious as sometimes presented: It is God's will for each of us that we: be saved, be sanctified, suffer, be spirit-filled, serve, be stewards, share, stand, submit . . .

Romans 12: 1, 2: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—**His good, pleasing and perfect will.**

6. Invitation from Our Loving God: Come, Take, Learn, and Find Rest

1 Peter 5:5b-9: All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but shows favour to the humble." **Humble yourselves**, therefore, under God's mighty hand, **that He may lift you up** in due time. **Cast all your anxiety on Him** because **He cares for you.**

7. **Essence of Message:** Say "Yes" to Jesus Christ at each and every crossroad along life's way, at each decision point (large and small) and in doing so: experience **His rest for your soul.**