

Jeremiah 42:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That the LORD thy God may shew us the way wherein we may walk, and the thing that we may do.

Analysis

The remnant asks Jeremiah to inquire of God concerning their next steps. Their request sounds pious - 'pray for us unto the LORD thy God' and desire to know 'the way wherein we may walk.' Yet verse 20 reveals they'd already decided to go to Egypt and were seeking confirmation, not direction. Seeking God's counsel while having predetermined the answer is self-deception.

Historical Context

This occurs after Gedaliah's assassination. The remnant feared Babylonian reprisal and contemplated fleeing to Egypt, despite God's previous warnings against this.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. When do you seek God's guidance while already having made up your mind?
2. How can you ensure you're truly seeking God's will rather than His endorsement of your plans?

Interlinear Text

תַּלְגַּת אֲשֶׁר רְפִידְתָּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה הַלְּכָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ יְבָא אֶת אֶלְמָנָתֶךָ	may shew	H0	That the LORD	H3068	thy God	H430	us the way	H1870	תַּלְגַּת אֲשֶׁר רְפִידְתָּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה הַלְּכָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ יְבָא אֶת אֶלְמָנָתֶךָ	H1980
וְעַשְׂתָּה בְּכָל אֲתָּה רְפִידְתָּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה הַלְּכָה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ יְבָא אֶת אֶלְמָנָתֶךָ	and the thing	H853	H1697	H834	that we may do	H6213				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 86:11 (References Lord): Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

Proverbs 3:6 (Parallel theme): In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Jeremiah 6:16 (References Lord): 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.

Micah 4:2 (References God): And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Ezra 8:21 (References God): Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.