

THE GATES OF JERUSALEM

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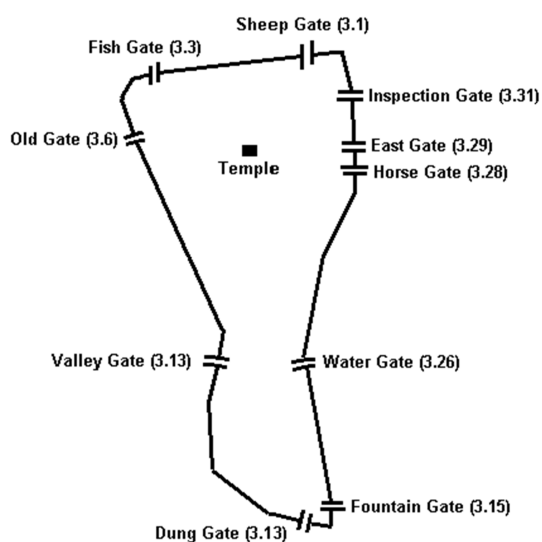
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BIBLE STUDY SUMMARY OF THE TEN GATES OF JERUSALEM

Nehemiah's Jerusalem



BACKGROUND: The book of Nehemiah takes us through the rebuilding of the walls and gates of the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was at the time in ruins with its walls and gates broken down and burned with fire. Some of the children of Jerusalem were in captivity and those that survived captivity in the province were in great distress and reproach.

Nehemiah heard of these disturbing news about Jerusalem while in exile and he was greatly troubled, he wept, fasted and prayed for Jerusalem. As a cup bearer to King Artaxerxes while in exile, he brought wine for the King and the King noticed his sadness and asked him what was wrong. He told the king about the Jerusalem and asked to go back and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. The king

granted him permission to back to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls and gates of Jerusalem. The king also gave him letters for safe travel as well as timber to make beams of the gates. Nehemiah then left to rebuild the wall and gates of Jerusalem.

In this summary study we examine of the spiritual message that proceeds from each gate. There were ten gates of Jerusalem namely:

1. The Sheep Gate,
2. The Fish Gate,
3. The Old Gate,
4. The Valley Gate,
5. The Dung Gate,
6. The Fountain Gate,
7. The Water Gate,
8. The Horse Gate,
9. The East Gate,
10. The Inspection Gate.

1. The Sheep Gate

Nehemiah 3 verse 1 – “Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built the Sheep Gate; they consecrated it and hung its doors.”

The Sheep Gate is the first gate to be mentioned as being rebuilt. This is the gate through which the sheep were brought into the city to be sacrificed at the altar. The Sheep Gate, of course, signifies the Lamb of God, whose blood was shed on the cross for us, and, therefore, it reveals the principle and the power of the cross. We are all first and foremost born again through the blood of Jesus by grace.

Notice as well that the Sheep Gate was built by high priests and priests. We know that Jesus Christ was a High Priest as the bible tells us in Hebrews 4 verse 14. This emphasizes the significance of the Sheep Gate as the gate of redemption through the High Priest, the Lamb of God which is Jesus Christ.

2. The Fish Gate

Nehemiah 3 verse 3 – “And also the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.”

Now what does the name "Fish Gate" suggest to us? Remember how the Lord Jesus said to his disciples, "Follow me and I will make you become fishers of men"? (Mark [1:17](#)) This suggests the witness of a Christian. Has that gate broken down in your life? Has the wall around the Fish Gate crumbled? If so, this gate and its wall, need to be rebuilt again, for the Lord Jesus said that every Christian is to be a witness for him. If this wall is broken down, you will find that through this the enemy will enter again and again. If you can never say a word for Christ, if there is never any witness in your life, then this wall is broken and the Fish Gate needs to be built again. This talks about evangelism and evangelical ministry in the church. Just to paraphrase what the man of God once said "that the church that does not seek the lost is lost itself". We have got to reach out to the dying world.

3. The Old Gate

Nehemiah 3 verse 6 – “Moreover Jehoiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Old Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors, with its bolts and bars.”

What does this gate symbolize? it represents truth. In many Christians' lives this gate is broken down -- they are no longer resting upon truth. These are the days when the old truth is being forsaken. Men are rapidly throwing away what the church has stood for. They are saying that we don't need these things anymore. But if we allow this old truth to go, we find that the wall crumbles and the enemies outside gain access to our soul. Truth will never change. It was true when it was uttered. It was also true a hundred thousand years before it was uttered. And it will be true a hundred thousand years from now. It was good for Paul,

then is good for me, if it was good for Elijah then is good for me. If it was good for Abram, then is good for me.

4. The Valley Gate

Nehemiah 3 verse 13 – “Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They built it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall as far as the Refuse Gate.”

Fourth gate is the Valley Gate and you can see immediately what it suggests. It is the place of humility, isn't it? It is the place of lowliness of mind and humbleness of heart. God has said in every page of Scripture that he is against the pride of men. He looks for the lowly, the humble, the contrite, and those who have learned that they are not indispensable. They have learned to have a low opinion of themselves but a high opinion of their God. It is this attitude that God seeks. This Valley Gate often needs to be repaired. The bible declares in 2 Chronicles 7 verse 14 that if we humble ourselves, turn away from our wicked ways and pray - a God will hear in heaven, forgive us and heal our land.

5. The Dung Gate

Nehemiah 3 verse 14 – “Malchijah the son of Rechab, leader of the district of Beth Haccerem, repaired the Refuse Gate [Dung Gate]; he built it and hung its doors with its bolts and bars.”

The Dung gate or the Refuse Gate, was a place through which all the refuse of the city was carried; all the rubbish, all the filth of the city was carried out through. And my friend, if you do not have a dung gate in your life, you're in bad shape because all the refuse in your life is accumulated and it will make you smell to high heaven in the sight of God and man. And if this gate is broken down so none of the rubbish can be cleansed away, this needs to be repaired. No new wine can be poured into an old wine skin. It is time for new one, but we can't receive new wine while carried bitterness, un-forgiveness and hatred etc, we have got to take it into a refuse gate,

6. The Fountain Gate

Nehemiah 3 verse 15 – “Shallum the son of Col-Hozeh, leader of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate, he built it, covered it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and repaired the wall of the Pool of Shelah by the King's Garden, as far as the stairs that go down from the City of David.”

The Fountain Gate talks about the Holy Spirit. Our Lord Jesus said to the woman at the well, "The water that I shall give [YOU] will become in [you] a spring of water a fountain] welling up to eternal life." (John [4:14](#)) It speaks of the Holy Spirit, which is the river of life in us -- the flowing of the Spirit of God in our lives, to enable us to obey his will and his word.

7. The Water Gate

Nehemiah 3 verse 26 – “Moreover the Nethinim who dwelt in Ophel made repairs as far as the place in front of the Water Gate towards the east, and on the projecting tower.”

Water is always a symbol of the word of God. The interesting thing about this Water Gate (as opposed to the one in our nation's capitol) is that it did not need to be repaired. Evidently it was the only part of the wall that was still standing. It mentions the people who lived by it, but it doesn't mention its needing repair. The word of God never breaks down. It doesn't need to be repaired. It simply needs to be re-inhabited. Jesus said heaven and earth may pass away but the word of God shall remain.

8. The Horse Gate

Nehemiah 3 verse 28 – Beyond the Horse Gate the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house.

The horse in scripture is a symbol of warfare or, in this case, the need to do battle against the forces of darkness. "We are not contending against flesh and blood," the apostle says, "but against the principalities, against the powers...the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Ephesians [6:12](#)) This is the battle! We need to arm ourselves with the sword of spirit, which is the Word of God. We overcame the enemy by the Word of our testimony and the blood of the lamb.

9. The East Gate

Nehemiah 3 verse 29 – After them Zadok the son of Immer made repairs in front of his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, made repairs.

The East Gate faced the rising sun, and is the gate of hope. It is the gate of anticipation of what is yet to come when all the trials of life and all the struggles of earth will end and the glorious new sun will rise on the new day of God. This gate needs to be rebuilt in many of us who fall under the pessimistic spirit of this age and are crushed by the hopelessness of our time. Sorrow may come at night and joy comes in the morning.

10. The Inspection Gate

Nehemiah 3 verse 31 – After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the Nethinim and of the merchants, in front of the Miphkad Gate [Inspection Gate], as far as the upper room at the corner.

The Tenth gate is the Muster Gate or Miphkad Gate, literally, the "examination gate." Or "the Inspection Gate" This was evidently the place where judgment was conducted. We need to sit and take a look at ourselves every now and then -- to stop and re-evaluate what we are doing.

Lastly the last part of the chapter, Nehemiah 3 verse 32 points back to the Sheep Gate, the gate of the cross. The cross must be at the beginning and the end of every life. Now, in this beautiful way, the book of Nehemiah is teaching us what needs to be done to strengthen the walls in our lives. Jesus is the beginning and the end, first and the last.

Amen.

**We Love You,
We Care about You
And
We See Greatness in You**

About Us:



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