

THE TEN GATES OF JERUSALEM

⇒ **Bible Reading:** Nehemiah 3

⇒ Intro:

- The gates in the wall of the old city of Jerusalem are a beautiful picture summary of the Christian life.
- Each gate needs to be open and functioning properly if we are to be all that God wants us to be.

○ **They are:**

⇒ 1. **The SHEEP GATE (3:1)**

○ It was called the sheep gate because this was the gate which the sheep and lambs used in the sacrifice were bought through.

○ The Sheep Gate speaks of the CROSS.

- The Christian life starts with “Behold the lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.” **John 1:29.**
- There can be no spiritual life without taking Christ as Saviour.
- Christ was the Lamb of God that was sacrificed to pay for everyone’s sin as our substitute.
- “I am the Good Shepherd that lays down his life for the sheep.” (**John 10:11**).
- “He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb.” (**Isaiah 53:7**).

⇒ 2. **THE FISH GATE (3:3)**

○ It was called the fish gate because the fisherman of Galilee would bring their catch in through this gate to be sold.

○ The Fish Gate speaks of SOUL WINNING.

- After we are saved, one of our first desires is to see others saved.
- Jesus promises us, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”
- Two conditions of soul-winning are that we must:
 - i) Really want to.
 - ii) Follow Christ continually.
- **Question:** Are you concerned about becoming a soul-winner?

⇒ 3. **THE OLD GATE (3:6)**

○ It was called the old gate because it had been there from the very beginning.

○ The old gate speaks to us of the old ways of truth.

○ A young Christian having experienced the sheep gate, then the fish gate soon sees the need for experiencing the old gate.

○ This means learning the old ways of truth that never change.

- **See Jeremiah 6:16**

⇒ 4. **THE VALLEY GATE (3:13)**

○ The valley gate is the one that led out of the city of Jerusalem down into the valley it could have been on any side of the city, because you have to go down into a valley to get out of Jerusalem.

○ The valley gate speaks of SUFFERING and TESTING.

- **2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

○ We learn most in the valleys of suffering.

- “Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.”

Psalm 23:4.

- Just after we are saved, we all come across suffering or testing to refine our life and to bring sins to the surface so that we can confess it and get right with God.
 - “Wherefore, let them that suffer according to the will of God, commit the keeping of their souls unto him in well-doing, as unto a faithful creator.” 1 Peter 4:19.
- ⇒ 5. **THE DUNG GATE (3:14)**
 - This is the gate that they would take all the refuse and rubbish out of Jerusalem, down to the valley of Hinnom to be burned.
 - The dung gate speaks of the WORKS OF THE FLESH. (**Galatians 5:19-21**).
 - **See Philippians 3:7-8**
 - We must count the sins we loved as unbelievers as dung, something detestable to be thrown away.
 - Paul says, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."
 - Paul dealt with this subject in the Christian life as much as any other.
 - You and I need to recognize that we need to confess our sins to God.
 - Honest confession is the means by which we get out the garbage.
 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (**1 John 1:9**).
- ⇒ 6. **THE FOUNTAIN GATE (3:15)**
 - The fountain gate speaks of the HOLY SPIRIT continuing to flow through us in blessing to others.
 - “Be filled with the Spirit.” (**Ephesians 5:18**).
 - **See John 7:37-39**
 - We must be continually filled with and led by the Holy Spirit if we are to enjoy the fruit of the Spirit of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. **Gal. 5:22-23**.
 - The gate of the fountain, therefore, teaches the fact that every believer is indwelt by the Spirit of God, and that he needs an infilling of the Spirit.
 - When a believer is filled with the Spirit, he is not just a well, but a fountain of living water which will gush out to be a blessing to other people.
 - All of us should be a blessing to others in these days in which we live.
- ⇒ 7. **THE WATER GATE (3:26)**
 - The water gate was the gate used to bring water into the city.
 - An aqueduct brought some water into the city but not all of it.
 - The remainder was carried in through the water gate.
 - The water gate speaks of the WORD OF GOD.
 - **See Ephesians 5:26**
 - **See John 15:3**
 - **Psalm 119:9**
 - **Question:**
 - Are you daily allowing God’s Word to cleanse your mind of all sins and keep you close to Christ?
 - We will never get victory over sin until we let God’s Word control our minds and lives.
 - **Question:**

- Do you read, study, memorize and meditate on God's Word daily?
- ⇒ **8. THE HORSE GATE (3:28)**
- The horse gate speaks of the believer's SPIRITUAL WARFARE because horses were for war.
 - **See Ephesians 6:11-12**
 - Soon after salvation, we must realize that God has called us to be soldiers in a very intense spiritual battle for the souls of men.
 - The prize is men's souls for all eternity, the approval of Christ, and eternal rewards.
 - This is worth fighting for.
 - Each believer is commanded to in **2 Timothy 2:3-4 - read**
 - At the Second Advent the church, the body of Christ will return with the Lord Jesus Christ to destroy the enemies of God.
 - **See Rev. 19:11-16.**
- ⇒ 9. **THE EAST GATE (3:29)**
- The east gate speaks of the RETURN OF CHRIST.
 - **See Ezekiel 43:1-4**
 - Christ returns to earth, conquers Antichrist's armies, lands on the Mount of Olives, and then enters Jerusalem by the now bricked up East Gate.
 - This gate looks toward the Mount of Olives where Christ will land.
 - **Ezekiel 44:1-2**
 - **Question:**
 - Are you looking for the Lord Jesus Christ's return?
- ⇒ **10. THE MIPHKAD GATE (3:31)**
- Miphkad means "review" or "registry."
 - When a stranger came to Jerusalem, he had to have a visa not like those we have today, but he had to stop at this gate and register.
 - It was also a gate of review.
 - When the army had been out fighting a battle and returned, they passed through this gate.
 - It was here that David reviewed his soldiers returning from battle.
 - The miphkad gate is the JUDGMENT GATE and speaks of the Judgment Seat of Christ for believers in heaven, and the judgment of the sheep and goat nations when Christ returns to earth.
 - **See Romans 14:10-12.**
 - **Question:**
 - Are you living now, knowing that you will have to give account of your actions in this life to God?
 - Let us live for Christ every day and live for eternity.