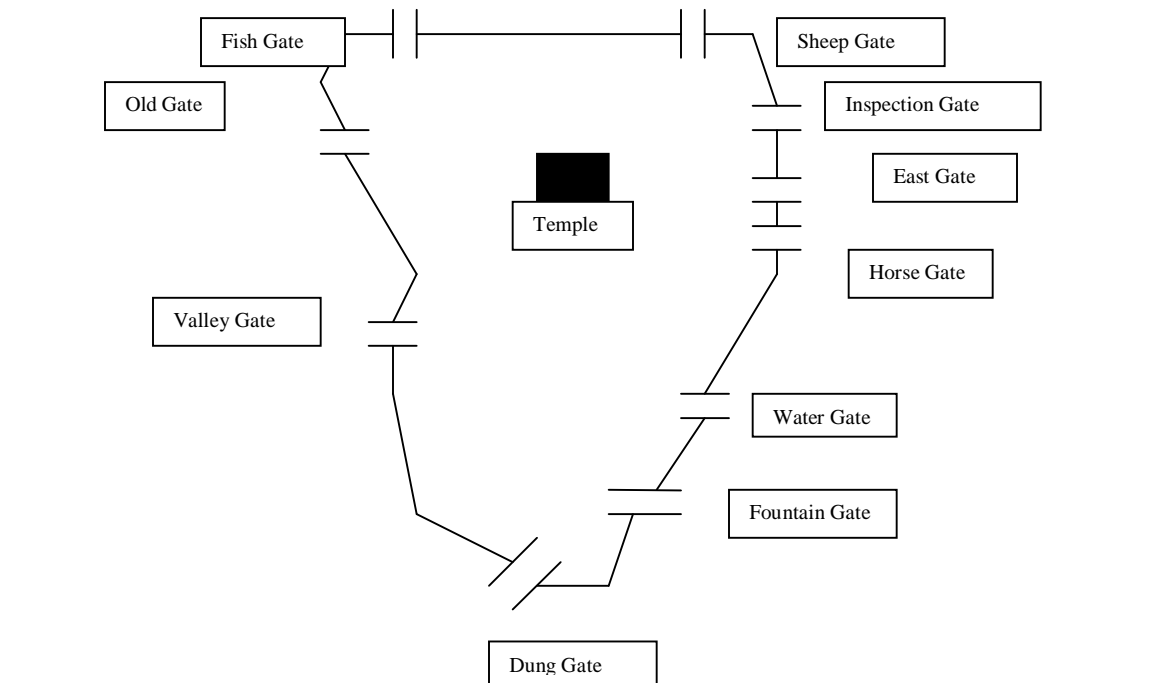


THE GATES OF SPIRITUAL PROGRESS
NEHEMIAH CHAPTER 3
Ps. Stephen Bennie

Chapter 3 concerns itself with the rebuilding of the walls and specifically the ten gates that separated each section. Each of these gates speaks of different experiences in our Christian life that we need to come into.

Their order and position is very specific and gives us insight into the journey that God takes each of His children on.



Sheep Gate (vv 1, 32)

This is the very first gate. Speaks of the very first experience we come into in our Christian life, i.e. a realization that Jesus was the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

Isa. 53:7 – He was oppressed and He was afflicted. Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter. And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers.

John 1:29 – “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

Sheep gate is also mentioned at the very end once we have come full circle. That is because everything starts and ends with Jesus’ death on the cross.

When you came to Christ you gave up control of your own life.

Gal. 2:20 – “I have been crucified with Christ ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.”

This is the gate that must be kept in repair if you want to grow into a strong Christian.

Fish Gate (v 3)

This gate is close to the spot where the present Damascus Gate is found. Fisherman of Galilee would bring their catch in through this gate to be sold.

Matt 4:19 – “Follow me, and I make you fishers of men,”

It speaks of Evangelism. After seeing that Jesus died for our sins, it is a natural progression to tell others about it. Surveys have shown that believers who have turned to Christ less than two years win the most people to the Lord.

But often this is gradually put out of use and therefore needs to be repaired.

Old Gate (v6)

Jeshanah gate, which in Hebrew means the “Old Gate”, is located somewhere near the present Jaffa Gate.

This speaks of the old ways of truth that never change.

Jer. 6:16 – Thus says the Lord, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is, and walk in it;

Old ways of truth can be the doctrines of Jesus and the apostles.

Pro 22:28 – “Do not move the ancient boundary which your fathers have set. Though this speaks about not coveting the neighbor’s fields

Pro. 23:10 – Do not move the ancient boundary Or go into the field of the fatherless.

We should not be some who reject the lesson of the law and the prophets of the Old Testament.

Valley Gate (v13)

For a new Christian the Lord allows a ‘honeymoon’ type period where he teaches you and His presence is strong in your life.

As indicated by the positioning of the Old and Valley gate. Sooner or later the valley gate must come.

Valley type experiences are used by the Lord for our personal growth.

John Stott calls humility “that rarest and fairest of Christian virtues.” If pride is the ultimate sin, then humility, its opposite, is the ultimate virtue.

I Pet. 5:5 – “God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

Matt. 11:29 – “Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls.” –

This is the first lesson in the school of the Spirit.

Dung (Refuse) Gate (v 14)

This gate is located at quite a distance from the valley gate, indicating, the valley experience can carry on for sometime.

This gate is where all the rubbish and corrupt things in the city were brought to the garbage dump in the Hinnom Valley, outside Jerusalem.

II Cor. 7:1 – Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

We don’t function as God wants us to, because we seldom use the dung gate.

Fountain Gate (v 15)

Fountain Gate is located extremely close to the dung gate. After the rubbish in our lives is cleared out, true faith comes forth, then the fountains begin to flow and it doesn't take long!

John 7:38 – “He who believes in Me, as the Scriptures have said, ‘From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.’”

A Spirit filled life, overflowing to others.

Eph 5:18 – Keep being filled with the Spirit

Water Gate (v26)

This gate is a picture of the Word of God and it's effect in our life.

Eph. 5:26 – that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.

Holy Spirit makes the Word of God alive to us personally allowing cleansing, encouragement and direction to take place in our life.

This is one gate that did not need repair. Word of God is indestructible.

Matt 4:4 – “Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”

As much as you understand the Word of God, you will live life to the full and enjoy what God intended you to have.

Horse Gate (v 28)

This gate speaks to us of warfare as horses were used in battle and became a symbol of war.

Rev. 19:11 – ‘And I saw heaven opened; and behold a white horse, and He who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

As we study the book of Nehemiah, we will see a lot of spiritual warfare. This is also true of every Christian.

Prophetically, the horse gate speaks of the day of the Lord and the end time Judgment as we see in Rev Chs 6- 19.

East Gate (v 29)

This gate is called as ‘golden gate’ today.

Ezekiel 44:1-3 ‘...Then he brought me back by the way of the outer gate of the sanctuary, which faces the east; and it was shut.

And the Lord said to me, “This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no one shall enter by it, for the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.

“As for the prince, he shall sit in it as prince to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the porch of the gate, and shall go out by the same way.”

The east gate opens and looks toward the Mount of Olives.

Zech. 14:4 – And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,

This gate speaks of the return of Jesus.

II Tim. 4:8 – in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

Luke 21:28 – “But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

This is a gate of hope in the Christian’s life.

Inspection Gate (v 31)

This gate speaks to us that the returned Lord will inspect us and rewarded us appropriately.

Prophetically this gate also speaks of the judgment of the nations.

I Cor. 3:8 – but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

I Cor. 3:14 – If any man’s work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward.

Then at the end of the chapter 3 we come again to the Sheep Gate, where we began.

Heb. 12:1,2 – Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

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CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

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