

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH
REPAIRING THE GATES FOR GOD
NEHEMIAH 3

INTRODUCTION

Here is a chapter of building for God. It is a remarkable record of rebuilding the gates that had been burned with fire!

There are many lessons we can learn from the setting up again of the gates for God!

The various gates mentioned here are in themselves a beautiful picture of some of the gates that need to be established or reestablished in our own Christian lives!

I. THE SHEEP GATE. (3:1, 32)

Through this gate the sacrificial animals were led to the altar! This gate would have given constant witness to the fact that "...without shedding of blood is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22)

This gate speaks the sacrifice of Christ who was led as "a lamb to the slaughter."

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Jesus was the blessed "Lamb of God" that John the Baptist pointed to: *John 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*

Note that this was the first gate repaired, for without the sacrifice, there is no salvation!

All that we have in Christ and that we are in Christ begins at the **sheep gate!** The person and work of Christ on the cross is the starting point of any true restoration in a person's life!

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH
REPAIRING THE GATES FOR GOD
NEHEMIAH 3

Note also that the sheep gate had no locks or bars, for the door of salvation is ever open to the sinner until he leaves this world!

Also, this is the only gate that was sanctified, setting it apart as a special gate!

At the close of this chapter, this gate is the only one mentioned again!

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

THE SHEEP GATE HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE.

II. THE FISH GATE. (3:3-5)

Through this gate fish were brought into the fish market by the fishermen.

This reminds us of the words of Christ in *Mark 1:17—"Follow me, and I will make you to become fishers of men."*

After we have passed through the sheep gate, then we must go through the fish gate!

We are first called to salvation in the Lamb of God, then we are called to be fishers of souls for Him!

THE FISH GATE HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE.

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH
REPAIRING THE GATES FOR GOD
NEHEMIAH 3

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH
REPAIRING THE GATES FOR GOD
NEHEMIAH 3

III. THE OLD GATE. (3:6)

The old gate speaks of the old paths and the old truths of the Word of God!

*Jeremiah 6:16 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.*

*Jeremiah 18:15 Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways from **the ancient paths**, to walk in paths, in a way not cast up;*

The people of the world are forever looking for "some new thing".
Acts 17:21 (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)

So many refuse to go back to the basic truths that really work.

THE OLD GATE HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE.

IV. THE VALLEY GATE. (3:13)

This gate pictures two things:

A. This Gate Pictures The Low Place Of Humility!

Jesus is our example of humility. (*Philippians 2:3-8*)

1 Peter 5:5-6—"God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he might exalt you in due time."

James 4:6-7, 10

B. This Gate Pictures The Low Place Of Suffering!

Jesus is our example of suffering.

1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

THE VALLEY GATE HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE.

V. THE DUNG GATE. (3:14)

This gate was used to carry refuse and filth out of the city!

Imagine how difficult it would be to repair a gate in such a place! Certainly this speaks to us of the cleansing of our lives!

This gate reminds us of the exhortation in
Isaiah 1:16 Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

2 Corinthians 7:1—"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."

1 Thessalonians 4:7—"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."

1 Peter 1:15-16—"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

THE DUNG GATE HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE.

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH
REPAIRING THE GATES FOR GOD
NEHEMIAH 3

VI. THE GATE OF THE FOUNTAIN. (3:15)

The fountain illustrates the ministry of the Holy Spirit! (*John 7:37-39*)

The Holy Spirit of God desires to fill us with overflowing blessing!

He gives us a continual source of satisfaction! (*John 4:14*)

The Spirit within the believer satisfies his need for God, and provides him with new life, guidance, and empowerment!

THE FOUNTAIN GATE HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE.

VII. THE WATER GATE. (3:26)

This gate speaks of the Word of God!

Water is often a symbol of the Word of God!

Psalm 119:9 Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Ephesians 5:26 says that we are sanctified and cleansed "by the washing of the water by the word."

In *John 15:3*, Jesus told His disciples, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

This is also the SEVENTH GATE...SEVEN being the perfect number of completion!

Note too, that there is no mention of repairs being made on this gate! The Word of God doesn't need fixing! We just need to get back to it!
Psalm 119:89 For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH
REPAIRING THE GATES FOR GOD
NEHEMIAH 3

VIII. THE HORSE GATE. (3:28)

The horse gate suggests warfare and victory! Certainly there are battles in the Christian life and we must be ready to fight!

In a world of evil, the people of God wage a spiritual warfare!
Ephesians 6:10-16 speaks of this spiritual battle and the need to put on the whole armour of God.

Paul speaks of our being soldiers of Christ in *2 Timothy 2:3*—"Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

2 Timothy 2:1-4

Through Christ, we can go out and conquer and come back victoriously!

THE HORSE GATE HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE.

IX. THE EAST GATE. (3:29)

From Ezekiel's prophecy we learn that the Shekina glory of God left through the east gate. (*Ezekiel 10:18-19*)

When the glory of God returns to dwell once more in the Temple during the Millennium, He will return through the east gate.
Ezekiel 43:1-2 1 *Afterward he brought me to the gate, even the gate that looketh toward the east: 2 And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.*

The east gate faces the rising of the sun and suggests the coming of the Lord for His people. We are awaiting the rising (coming) of the Son!
Matthew 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

THE EAST GATE HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE.

BOOK OF NEHEMIAH
REPAIRING THE GATES FOR GOD
NEHEMIAH 3

X. THE MIPHKAD GATE. (3:31)

Miphkad means the "*appointed place*" or the "*place of visitation.*"

It is thought to have been the gate in which the judges sat to settle disputes and controversies!

It is suggestive of the Judgment Seat of Christ! (**1 Corinthians 3:9-15**)
2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

THE MIPHKAD GATE HAD BEEN DESTROYED BY FIRE.

CONCLUSION

As you review these gates and their order, you can see the full picture of the Christian life, from the sheep gate (salvation) to the final judgment.

Praise God the Christian shall never face judgment because of his sins!

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Romans 8:1-2 1There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Are the gates intact?

Sheep Gate—The Blood Atonement...Fish Gate—Fishers of Men.

Old Gate—The Old Paths of Obedience.

Valley Gate—Humility and Suffering.

Dung Gate—Daily Confession And Cleansing Of Sin.

Gate Of The Fountain—The Filling Of The Holy Spirit.

Water Gate—The Word Of God.

Horse Gate—Spiritual Warfare And Victory.

East Gate—Second Coming Miphkad Gate—Judgment