

From Ruin to Revival

A Study of the Book of Nehemiah

LESSON THREE (Part II) Introduction: Ancient cities were often more like **fortresses** than cities as we know them. The perimeter consisted of a massive stone wall with **gates** to permit or prevent entry. Like the ancient Temple of God, each of the ten gates surrounding the old city is a picture. While the articles in the Temple pictured the life and ministry of Christ, the gates of Jerusalem pictures the Christian life and what is necessary for **genuine revival**.

1. Their **Use** of the Gates.

- a. Gates were places of **power**.
- b. Gates were places of **purity**.
- c. Gates were places of **protection and prosecution**.
- d. Gates were places of **purchase**.
- e. Gates were places of **proclamation and prayer**.
- f. Gates were places of **praise**.

2. Our **Understanding** of the Gates.

- a. The **Priority** Gates.
 - i. The Sheep Gate: **gate of sacrifice; led to Golgotha** (v.1).
 - ii. The Fish Gate: **evangelism; reminder to reach the lost** (v.3).
 - iii. The Old Gate: **old truth leads to new life-Jeremiah 6:16** (v.6).

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b. The **Purifying** Gates.

i. The Valley Gate: **valleys represent judgment/humility** (v.13).

ii. The Dung Gate: **necessary for removal of rubbish/sin** (v.13).

c. The **Power** Gates.

i. The Fountain Gate: **the Holy Spirit is our strength** (v.15).

ii. The Water Gate: **a symbol of the Bible; no repairs** (v.26).

iii. The Horse Gate: **a symbol of war/Christian warfare** (v.28).

d. The **Prophetic** Gates.

i. The East Gate: **hope & expectation w/ Christ's return** (v.29).

ii. The Inspection Gate: **appointed place of judgment** (v.31).

Conclusion: We conclude the chapter where we first began—at the place of Sacrifice (the Sheep Gate). It was Christ, Calvary's lamb, that was sacrificed to take away the sin of the world. It was on the cross that he sealed our pardon. We must always come to God by way of the cross.

