

# Nehemiah 3

<sup>1</sup> Eliashib the High Priest and his fellow priests went to work and rebuilt the **Sheep Gate**. They dedicated it and set its doors in place, building as far as the Tower of the Hundred, which they dedicated, and as far as the Tower of Hananel. <sup>2</sup> The men of Jericho built the adjoining section, and Zaccur son of Imri built next to them.

<sup>3</sup> The **Fish Gate** was rebuilt by the sons of Hassenaah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. <sup>4</sup> Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired the next section. Next to him Meshullam son of Berekiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs, and next to him Zadok son of Baana also made repairs. <sup>5</sup> The next section was repaired by the men of Tekoa, but their nobles would not put their shoulders to the work under their supervisors.

<sup>6</sup> The **Jeshanah Gate** was repaired by Joiada son of Paseah and Meshullam son of Besodeiah. They laid its beams and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. <sup>7</sup> Next to them, repairs were made by men from Gibeon and Mizpah-Melatiah of Gibeon and Jadon of Meronoth - places under the authority of the governor of Trans-Euphrates. <sup>8</sup> Uzziel son of Harhaiah, one of the goldsmiths, repaired the next section; and Hananiah, one of the perfume-makers, made repairs next to that. They restored Jerusalem as far as the Broad Wall. <sup>9</sup> Rephaiah son of Hur, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section. <sup>10</sup> Adjoining this, Jedaiah son of Harumaph made repairs opposite his house, and Hattush son of Hashabneiah made repairs next to him. <sup>11</sup> Malkijah son of Harim and Hasshub son of Pahath-Moab repaired another section and the Tower of the Ovens. <sup>12</sup> Shallum son of Hallohesh, ruler of a half-district of Jerusalem, repaired the next section with the help of his daughters.

<sup>13</sup> The **Valley Gate** was repaired by Hanun and the residents of Zanoah. They rebuilt it and put its doors and bolts and bars in place. They also repaired a thousand cubits<sup>[1]</sup> of the wall as far as the Dung Gate.

<sup>14</sup> The **Dung Gate** was repaired by Malkijah son of Recab, ruler of the district of Beth Hakkerem. He rebuilt it and put its doors and bolts and bars in place.

<sup>15</sup> The **Fountain Gate** was repaired by Shallun son of Col-Hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofing it over and putting its doors and bolts and bars in place. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Siloam, by the King's Garden, as far as the steps going down from the City of David. <sup>16</sup> Beyond him, Nehemiah son of

Azbuk, ruler of a half-district of Beth Zur, made repairs up to a point opposite the tomb of David, as far as the artificial pool and the House of the Heroes. <sup>17</sup> Next to him, the repairs were made by the Levites under Rehum son of Bani. Beside him, Hashabiah, ruler of half the district of Keilah, carried out repairs for his district. <sup>18</sup> Next to him, the repairs were made by their countrymen under Binnui<sup>[ii]</sup> son of Henadad, ruler of the other half-district of Keilah. <sup>19</sup> Next to him, Ezer son of Jeshua, ruler of Mizpah, repaired another section, from a point facing the ascent to the armory as far as the angle. <sup>20</sup> Next to him, Baruch son of Zabbai zealously repaired another section, from the angle to the entrance of the house of Eliashib the high priest. <sup>21</sup> Next to him, Meremoth son of Uriah, the son of Hakkoz, repaired another section, from the entrance of Eliashib's house to the end of it.

<sup>22</sup> The repairs next to him were made by the priests from the surrounding region. <sup>23</sup> Beyond them, Benjamin and Hasshub made repairs in front of their house; and next to them, Azariah son of Maaseiah, the son of Ananiah, made repairs beside his house. <sup>24</sup> Next to him, Binnui<sup>[ii]</sup> son of Henadad repaired another section, from Azariah's house to the angle and the corner, <sup>25</sup> and Palal son of Uzai worked opposite the angle and the tower projecting from the upper palace near the court of the guard. Next to him, Pedaiah son of Parosh <sup>26</sup> and the temple servants living on the hill of Ophel made repairs up to a point opposite the **Water Gate** toward the east and the projecting tower. <sup>27</sup> Next to them, the men of Tekoa repaired another section, from the great projecting tower to the wall of Ophel.

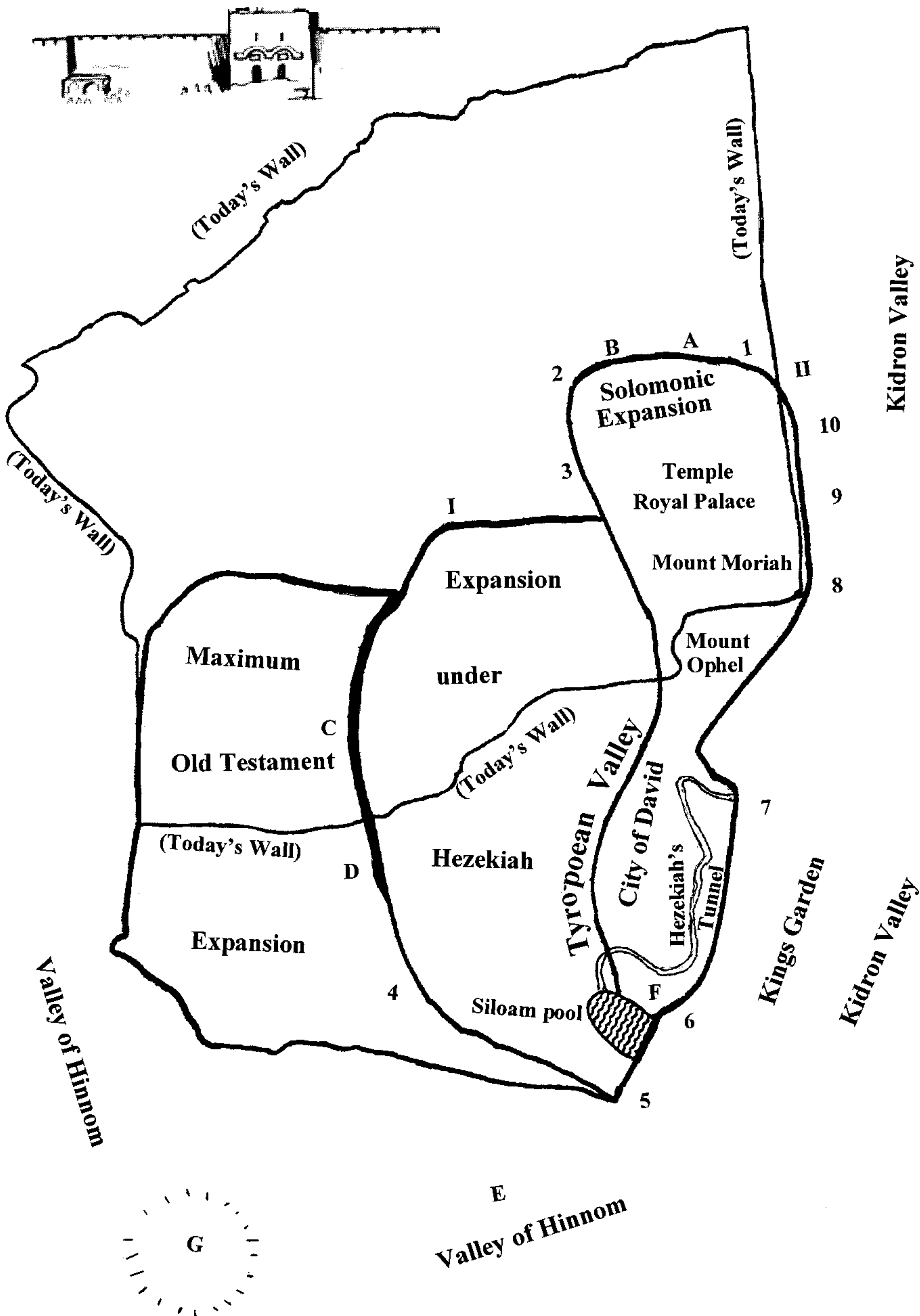
<sup>28</sup> Above the **Horse Gate**, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house. <sup>29</sup> Next to them, Zadok son of Immer made repairs opposite his house. Next to him, Shemaiah son of Shecaniah, the guard at the **East Gate**, made repairs. <sup>30</sup> Next to him, Hananiah son of Shelemiah, and Hanun, the sixth son of Zalaph, repaired another section. Next to them, Meshullam son of Berekiah made repairs opposite his living quarters. <sup>31</sup> Next to him, Malkijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the temple servants and the merchants, opposite the **Inspection Gate**, and as far as the room above the corner; <sup>32</sup> and between the room above the corner and the **Sheep Gate** the goldsmiths and merchants made repairs.

<sup>i</sup> That is about 457 meters or 1500 feet.

<sup>ii</sup> Most Hebrew manuscripts have *Bavvai*.

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# Jerusalem in the days of Nehemiah



These are **probable** locations of the various gates, at the time of Nehemiah.

**1. The Sheep Gate (3: 1; 32)**

**2. The Fish Gate (3: 3)**

**3. The Jeshanah Gate (3: 6)**

**4. The Valley Gate (3: 13)**

**5. The Dung Gate (3: 14)**

**6. The Fountain Gate (3: 15)**

**7. The Water Gate (3: 26)**

**8. The Horse Gate (3: 28)**

**9. The East Gate (3: 29)**

**10. The Gate of Miphkad (3: 31)**

**I. Gate of Ephraim (8:16; 12:39)**

**II. Gate of the Guard (12:39)**

**A. Tower of Meah (3:1)**

**B. Tower of Hananel (3:1)**

**C. Broad Wall (3:8)**

**D. Tower of Ovens (3:11)**

**E. Dragon Well (KJ, 2:12)**

**F. House of the Mighty Men (3:16)**

**G. Hill of Evil Council (late traditional)**

## Some Bible Facts, Figures and Quotes regarding the Gates:

- Lot was found sitting in the gates of the city of Sodom when the angels came (**Genesis 19:1**).
- Abraham made his deals at the gates of a city (**Genesis 23:10**).
- The city gate was also for handling legal matters (**Deuteronomy 21-22**).
- The gates of a city were built in a way such that the defenders of the city would always outnumber whoever attacked a city. This was because only so many attackers could fit and the gates were built such that the defenders of the city could easily replace their soldiers if they were injured or killed. . This must have been in mind when the people attempted to spring a surprise attack on Samson when he entered the city gates a night (**Judges 16:2-3**).
- In the description of a godly woman it was said that her husband was well known in the gates of the city, and that her works were praised there as well (**Proverbs 31:23;31**).
- Boaz went to the town gate to settle legal matters regarding the acquisition of land and his marriage to Ruth (**Ruth 4:1-11**).
- When a soldier arrived at Shiloh and reported that Philistines had captured the ark of the covenant, Eli, as a prominent city official, was sitting in the gate. When he heard the news, he fell off his chair, broke his neck, and died (**1 Samuel 4:10-18**).
- King David stood by the gate when giving last minute instructions to his army, before their fight against Absalom. After Absalom's death, David returned to his place at the gate, and the people came to him (**2 Samuel 18:1-5; 19:1-8**).
- Mordechai learned of plans to assassinate the king while "sitting at the king's *gate*," which indicates that he was a community leader. He told Queen Esther, who in turn told the king (**Esther 2:5-23**).
- The biblical term, "to be within the *gates*," referred to being under the authority of the elders of the city, who presided in the gates (**Deuteronomy 22:15; 25:7**). In battle, to "possess the *gates*" was to possess the city (**Genesis 22:17; 24:60**).
- **Revelation 21:12** were we read: "It had a great, high wall with twelve *gates*, and with twelve angels at the *gates*. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel."
- **Matthew 16:18**, "...Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
- *A song of ascents. Of David.* <sup>1</sup> I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD ." <sup>2</sup> Our feet are standing in your *gates*, O Jerusalem. **Psalm 122**
- Or another well known Psalm is **Psalm 24: A Psalm of David.**  
<sup>1</sup> The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; <sup>2</sup> for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.  
<sup>3</sup> Who may ascend the hill of the LORD ? Who may stand in His holy place? <sup>4</sup> He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false. <sup>5</sup> He will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God His Saviour. <sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek Him,  
<sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, O you *gates*; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. <sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, O you *gates*; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. <sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty He is the King of glory. Selah
- (*Mezzuzah*) A place to pause and think / reflect on God's blessing, Deut 6:9; 11:20

## **Start at the back of the Handout for an introduction about the importance of gates.**

### **Intro:**

*Legitimate way to use the symbols of Scripture.*

Paul used examples or symbols talking to Corinthians referring to Israel –Red Sea + Desert ***"all these things happened to Israel as examples (or symbols) for us, upon whom the fulfilment of the ages has come," {cf, 1 Cor 10:11}.***

We must make sure we don't go beyond Scripture and let it must interpret itself, Then we can proceed safely. All of these symbols have been used elsewhere in Scripture. They are consistently used. That is our guideline as we look at the gates..

### **1. THE SHEEP GATE v1: A PLACE FOR SACRIFICE**

Leviticus

Deuteronomy

It was where sheep to be sacrificed in the temple courts were kept.

Recall Isaiah's words about Yeshua the , ***"as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth," {cf, Isa 53:7}.***

Remember John the Baptist pointed to Yeshua the , ***"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," {cf, John 1:29}.***

Sheep are a symbol of sacrifice - The Sheep Gate a reminder of the Cross. It's where you began your life as a Believer. The Cross is a reminder that we too must dies to our natural selves.

***"You are not your own, you are bought with a price,"***

The cross is at work. Have you acknowledged that? ] When you came to Messiah you gave up control of your own life. You are no longer do only what you feel like doing but call is to obey and follow him It means that some of your desires and your natural longings, must be put to death. Paul reminds us we are crucified with Messiah to the world, and the world is crucified to us. Is that how things are in your life or is your sinful nature well and truly alive? This is gate must be kept in good repair if you want to grow in your walk with God

### **2. THE FISH GATE v3: A PLACE FOR WITNESS**

Fish Gate because fishermen from Galilee and the coast brought their fish into the city through this gate. Reminds me of what Yeshua said to his disciples:

***"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men," Matt 4:19.***

Fishing is a symbol of witnessing to others, of making it known you belong to Yeshua the Messiah by your witness by your words and actions.

I once asked someone how they got on as a Believer at work and got the reply, "Oh, they don't know I am a Believer." A sure sign the Fish Gate needs repair! Is that how things are in your life? Are you bearing witness to your faith? This is gate must be kept in good repair if you want to grow in your walk with God

**(Time permits talk about the early symbol "ICTUS")**

### 3. THE JESHANAH GATE v6: A PLACE FOR TRUTH

Jeshanah in Hebrew = the "Old Gate."

Represents old ways of truth as opposed to new illusions of error. The world always looks for something new – e.g. New Age movement, Scripture calls us back to the old way to God's truth.

*Jeremiah says, "Ask for the old paths. Ask for the good way and walk therein,"  
Jer 6:16*

It's been said, "If something is new, it is not true; and if it is true, then it is now new." Truth remains the same throughout the centuries. Truth never changes. This gate calls us back to the basics of life, back to old time-tested paths. Calls us to truth that gives us stability, security, and order. What are some of these truths?

Truth that we are under a sovereign God, and He will fulfil His plans:

Truth we can come to God only through Yeshua, and believe in Him, to be born again by faith as in the days of OLD.

Truth we can receive is that He loves us and as His disciplines we can know His **GRACE**, Truth, Power, .... that we can discover zeal that can wait, and hope that endures,

Truth that he provides strength that helps others.

**Q?** Are you confident in the truth or is this gate in need of repair in your life?

### 4. THE VALLEY GATE v13: A PLACE FOR HUMILITY

**(Time permits Talk about the Valley of Hinnom - Ben Hinnom - GeHennah)**

Valleys in Scripture represent humility and the judgment of our conceit John Stott calls humility *"that rarest and fairest of Christian virtues."*

If pride is the ultimate sin, then humility, is its opposite, - the ultimate virtue. *"God resists the proud, but he gives grace to the humble," 1 Pet 5:5.*

Good to remember that verse when we're tempted to be proud. When pride starts taking over it means God will start resisting me.

**Q?** Do you want God working against you? Then go on with your pride.

He has ways of resisting that you can never be overcome.

God resists the proud, but He gives grace and help to the humble!

Our goal as believers must be to maintain a sense of humility:

We don't have it all together. We don't have all the answers ourselves.

We don't know how to handle all the difficulties into which we come.

The world applauds pride and makes us feel capable of handling everything

It even applauds arrogance. But God applauds humility.

Yeshua the said, *"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly of heart, and you will find rest to your soul," {cf, Matt 11:29}.*

A reason why many are restless is they've not learnt to be humble, meek and lowly.

**Q?** Are you learning humility or is this gate in need of repair in your life?



**2 Chronicles 7:14** If my people, which are called by my name, (1) shall humble themselves, and (2) pray, and (3) seek my face, and (4) turn from their wicked ways; then (5) will I hear from heaven, and (6) will forgive their sin, and (7) will heal their land.

Humble your self in the sight of the Lord (**James 4:10**)

## 5. THE DUNG GATE v14: A PLACE FOR CONFESSION

Not a very pleasant name, but it is a necessary activity. It's where all the rubbish in the city was brought to the dump in the Hinnom Valley. It's necessary to have such a gate in our lives as well.

*Paul urges us, "Cleanse yourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit," {cf, 2 Cor 7:1}.*

One reason many Believers fail is because they seldom use the Dung Gate. Neglect to deal with secret sin, with private corruption in their lives. Yeshua the warned it may be very painful, like cutting off an arm or plucking out an eye. But it is something that has to be done or otherwise it leads to ruin.

**Q?** Do you spend time in confession or is this gate in need of repair in your life?

## 6. THE FOUNTAIN GATE v15: A PLACE FOR THE SPIRIT.

This is at the South end near the Pool of Siloam. Reminds us of a fountain springing up in our lives

Yeshua the spoke of "*rivers of living water*" **John 7:37-38** which would come from believers in him. He was talking about the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Reminder of the Spirit-filled life, overflowing to others. Paul said, "*Keep being filled with the Spirit,*" **{cf, Eph 5:18}**. Notice it comes immediately after the Dung Gate. After the corruption is cleansed, then comes the cleansing of the Holy Spirit who washes us clean.

**Q?** Are you filled with the Spirit or is this gate in need of repair in your life?

## 7. THE WATER GATE v26: A PLACE FOR GOD'S WORD

At the spring of Gihon, where Hezekiah's tunnel begins. Neh 8 says this is the place where Ezra reads God's Law to the people. Water, in Scripture, sometimes used as a symbol of God's Word. For example Ephesians 5:26, see also Jer. 2:13 , Rev 21:6 It is also where the word was preached, if there was no Synagogue in town they community of faith would meet at the water edge of a river. Probably always close to the water gate.

We talk about the meat and the bread of the word , but even the Rabbi's acknowledged that sometimes it is the water; R. Berechiah on a totally different verse made that connection;

- “R. Berechiah applied to the Yetser Ha Ra, the impulse to evil this verse (Prov.25:21-22). If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat (Prov.25:21) - that is, if your enemy be hungry, that is have him eat the bread of Torah; if he be thirsty, give him water to drink that is the water of Torah. Why? Because you will heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord will reward (yeshallem) you (Prov.25:22), by which is meant that 'the Lord will make the Impulse to evil be at peace with you" (Pirke Rabbi Kahana 11.1).”

So this gate reminds us of our need for the Word of God.

**Interesting** thing it doesn't say they repaired the Water Gate. It didn't need repair! God's Word never needs improvement or repair!! It lasts forever. It is indestructible. What it needs is to be re-inhabited!! I wonder how many of us need to re-inhabit this gate regularly? Titus 3: 5; washing then renewing. Ephesians 5:26, John 17:17.

**Q?** Are you studying God's Word or is this gate in need of repair in your life?

## 8. THE HORSE GATE v28. A PLACE FOR BATTLE

This is on the eastern wall of Jerusalem.

Horses are often symbols of battle in Scripture so this gate reminds us we are not on a picnic or a Sydney harbour cruise!!

We are on a battlefield and under attack and will assaulted by surprising events. There is so much joy in the Believer life, but it won't always be without struggle. We will all face battle and need to be alert to the fact of spiritual warfare. Yeshua talked about the Gates of Hell, we need to be ever aware that those who posses those gates do not rest.

Paul reminds us to put on the full armour of God to stand against the devil, not our weapons but His.

**Alexander the Great**

**Revelation**

**Q?** Are you equipped to stand against the enemy or is this gate in need of repair?

## 9. THE EAST GATE v29: A PLACE FOR HOPE.

The Mercy Gate or better know as the Golden Gate is build on top of this gate. Opposite the temple, facing the rising sun- speaks of hope and expectation. The gate through which the returning Messiah will enter the city of Jerusalem. This gate is often in ruins in many people's lives today:

People defeated and in despair with no hope wanting to give up on life

A Newspaper once recorded the tragic story of a mother who lost hope and actually put her two children to death because she saw them having to live in a world that was hopeless. So many people around us feel like that - they've lost hope. The East Gate tells us God has yet a glory awaiting those who trust him. Life does not end in despair and tragedy.



*Yeshua the said to his disciples, "When you see all these things coming to pass, lift up your heads and rejoice, for your redemption is drawing near," Luk 21:28.*

Q? Are you full of hope and assurance or is this gate in need of repair?

Ought to be like kettles even when we're up to our necks in hot water, we still sing!

*Sun worship or Son Worship*

**Ezekiel** Chapter 8 & 10

## 10. THE INSPECTION GATE v31: A PLACE FOR REWARDS

The Hebrew means *"the appointed place." Or Visitation!*

In the book of Hebrews, it says **9:27**, *"It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that the judgment" Heb 9:27 -- the inspection!*

A reminder we must give an account of our journey: and hear God's verdict Yet as Believers we're assured it's not a place of condemnation, but rather,

**1 Cor 3:8 & 14** says, **"everyone shall receive commendation" from God**

A place for rewards, for the acknowledging faithful service. At the end of the chapter we come again to the Sheep Gate, where we began. The Sheep Gate stands for the cross -at the beginning and at the end of our lives. It under girds everything, out of death comes life. Out of the subjection of our natural desires to the will of God comes the life of God filling us full and blessing our hearts. As we travel round the walls of Jerusalem, each gate teaches us part of our life which needs to be watched, and rebuilt, and repaired. You may find some areas needing repair as you look at your own life today.

This is what Nehemiah calls us to do: to repair these gates and help not just ourselves but all within the body to become all that God intended us to be together.

**How does this relate to us who pray for Israel?**

Prophetic Prayer, ie praying for Israel with these gates as a guide.

- 1. Sheep – Yeshua**
- 2. Fisher 144.000**
- 3. Old - Old Truth Moses not Talmud**
- 4. Valley – Hinnon – Humbling**
- 5. Dung – Repentance of the rejection of Messiah**
- 6. Fountain - Spirit**
- 7. Water - Word**
- 8. Horse – Anti-christ**
- 9. East – Mercy – Return of the Fullness of the prophetic word**
- 10. Visitation – Return of the Messiah**

**IF you do not pass Sheep gate (like monopoly) you go to jail, gate II, ie 70 AD**