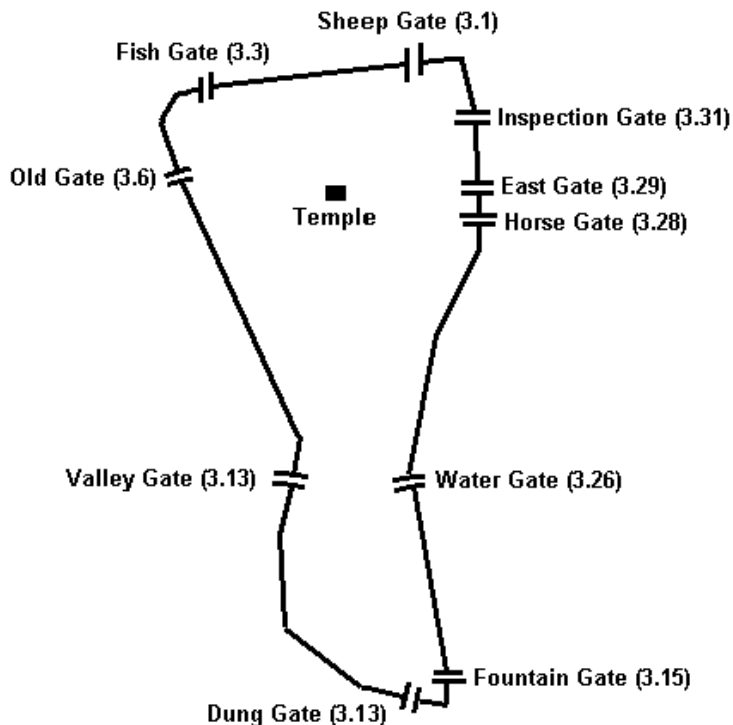


NEHEMIAH'S TEMPLE

Nehemiah's Jerusalem



In the following brief article I will look at the metaphor and thematic connections of the names of Nehemiah's Temple gates in relation to our spiritual walk. In this case it is a circular understanding. The ten gates formed a circle around the Holy City, just like the Torah forms a circular fence around the community of Believers in Yahveh and Yeshua.

At the time of Nehemiah's temple there were ten gates around the city of Yerusalayim. When we look at the names of these gates we can see that they are descriptive of our spiritual walk in the Kingdom of Yah. The Book of Nehemiah..The 10 Gates

The book of Nehemiah really is divided into two sections. The first six chapters cover the reconstruction of the wall and gates while chapters seven through thirteen deal with the re-instruction of the people. Let's go to the beginning and look at the gates.

1 First of all is the Sheep Gate.

Neh. 3:1 "Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built the **Sheep Gate**; they consecrated it and hung its doors. They built as far as the Tower of the Hundred, and consecrated it, then as far as the Tower of Hananel." The sheep were brought into the city to be sacrificed at the altar through this gate. The Sheep Gate, of course, speaks of the Lamb of Yah whose blood was shed on the stake for us, and it reveals the principle of the stake. That's the starting place for spiritual strength in our life. We have to recognize the principle of the stake -- the fact that Yah will be moving in our life to utterly cancel out our own ego, our own plans, and our own self-interest. The stake is that instrument in Yah's program that puts our ego to death and it's where we begin building the strength of our faith.

2 The next gate is the Fish Gate

Neh. 3:2-5 "Next to Eliashib the men of Jericho built. And next to them Zaccur the son of Imri built. 3. Also the sons of Hassenaah built the **Fish Gate**; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars. 4. And next to them Meremoth the son of Urijah, the son of Koz, made repairs. Next to them Meshullam the son of Berechiah, the son of Meshezabel, made repairs. Next to them Zadok the son of Baana made repairs. 5. Next to them the Tekoites made repairs; but their nobles did not put their shoulders to the work of their Lord." The name "Fish Gate" makes me think of what Yeshua said to His disciples. **Mark 1:17** "And Yeshua said unto them, **Come after me, and I will make you to fishers of men.**" Yeshua also stated that every Believer is to be a witness for Him. I think this fish gate represents the witness of every born again believer. If

this gate is broken down, we'll find Satan entering through this gate again and again. If we don't witness for Messiah, if we never tell our loved ones and our friends how to be saved, this gate is broken down.

3 The next gate is the Old Gate.

Neh. 3:6 *"Moreover Jehoiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the **Old Gate**; they laid its beams and hung its doors, with its bolts and bars."* This gate symbolizes and represents truth. Truth is always old, and everything new rests on old things. It has often been said concerning the Scriptures, "If it's true it's not new, and if it's new it's not true." And that's true! In our modern world with its modern thinking, truth is being forsaken. What the Living Word of Yah stands for, men are rapidly throwing away. They say we don't need these things anymore. But if the old truth goes, walls crumble and the enemy gains access to our soul. Dad's truth will never change. It was true when it was uttered. It was true a hundred thousand years before it was uttered. And it will be true a hundred thousand years from now. It never changes. We need to rebuild the old gates of truth.

4 The next gate is the Valley Gate.

Neh. 3:13 *Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the **Valley Gate**. They built it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall as far as the Refuse Gate."* You can see what it suggests. It's in a valley and that portrays lowliness. Lowliness of mind and humbleness of heart go along with humility. Yahveh has said that He is against the pride of men. He looks for the lowly, the humble, the contrite, and those who have learned that they are not indispensable. Only those who have learned to have an honest opinion of themselves are able to have a high opinion of their Father. There are also valleys in our lives when we need comfort and consolation for the low times we all experience. That's another reason this Valley Gate often needs repairs.

5 The Refuse gate. (Dung Gate)

Neh. 3:14 *"Malchijah the son of Rechab, leader of the district of Beth Haccerem, repaired the **Refuse Gate**; he built it and hung its doors with its bolts and bars."* The Refuse Gate led to the Hinnom Valley where all sorts of garbage, refuse, and filth were taken and burned. In **2Cor. 7:1**, Paul warned; *"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."* When we recognize our sins and confess them to Yah, that honest confession gets rid of the garbage we seem to pick up from the world daily. Our body and mind alike are to be preserved in purity for the glory of Yah.

6 The Fountain Gate.

Neh. 3:15 *"Shallun the son of Col-Hozeh, leader of the district of Mizpah, repaired the **Fountain Gate**; he built it, covered it, hung its doors with its bolts and bars, and repaired the wall of the Pool of Shelah by the King's Garden, as far as the stairs that go down from the City of David."* That name "Fountain Gate" brings to mind the words of Yeshua to the woman at the well, *"the water that I shall give (you) shall be a well of water springing up into everlasting life."* (John 4:14) The Ruach (Holy Spirit) is the well within the believer and the Holy Spirit of El Shaddai in our lives enables us to obey His will and His word.

7 The next gate is the Water Gate.

Neh. 3:26 *"Moreover the Nethinim who dwelt in Ophel made repairs as far as the place in front of the **Water Gate** toward the east, and on the projecting tower."* Water is a symbol of the word of Yah, the Torah. The interesting thing about this Water Gate is that it didn't need to be repaired! Evidently it was in the only part of the wall that was still standing. The Nethinim were servants entrusted to maintain the Water Gate and they evidently had done so. It mentions the people who lived by it, but it doesn't mention it needing repair.

Those who live by the Word of God find it never breaks down or needs repair. The word of Yah is everlasting. It doesn't need to be repaired. It simply needs regular use.

8 The Horse Gate.

Neh. 3:28 *"Beyond the **Horse Gate** the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house."* The horse in scripture is a symbol of battle, or in this case, the need to join the battle against the forces of darkness. **Eph. 6:12** *"We are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers...the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."* This is the battle we are in. We face the forces of Satan in this world every hour of every day. This spiritual warfare is all around us whether we believe it, or understand it. We are in this battle 24-7 and must use our power and authority as the Bride (person of the way), to subdue Satan's principalities, powers and rulers in our lives and the lives of our brothers and sisters. Failure to fight in this battle results in what we see today, dead souls calling themselves Christians, and purely secular people. They are one in the same, the only difference between them is that the Christians claim to believe in the Holy One of Israel, most secular people and atheists don't claim such hypocrisy.

9 Then comes the East Gate.

Neh. 3:29 *"After him Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the **East Gate**, made repairs."* The Eastern Gate has a long history in Israel. Ezekiel records the Spirit of Yah departing from Israel by way of the Eastern Gate and that the Messiah will return through that same gate for His 1000 year reign.

10 The 10th gate is called the Gate Miphkad...(Inspection Gate, Judgement Gate, Mustering Gate)

Neh. 3:31 "After him Malchijah, one of the goldsmiths, made repairs as far as the house of the Nethinim and of the merchants, in front of the **Miphkad Gate**, and as far as the upper room at the corner." (KJV) "Miphkad" is also translated as the Gate of Judgment. This is where disputes were tried and judgment was declared here.

When Yeshua returns all believers will appear at the Judgment Seat of Messiah and give an account of our service for Him. Our works will be judged. The works done in sincere service for Him will be rewarded and those done for reward here on earth will be burned up. We need to evaluate our service for Yeshua regularly.

The final judgment for the unsaved will come at the Great White Throne judgment where all verdicts will be guilty and eternal hell is the reward.

This brings us full circle back to the Sheep Gate.

THE TEMPLE TREASURES

The Temple in Jerusalem was not just a great place to enjoy the presence of Yah, it was the place where all the Jewish gold and silver was kept secure. It was also the Fort Knox of Jerusalem. In it were countless amounts of gold and silver bricks (talents). In today's marketplace these precious minerals would be worth perhaps hundreds of billions of dollars. When the second Temple was destroyed by the Romans in about 70 CE, not only were the most precious treasures in the world stolen from the Temple, but what we would now call hundreds of billions of dollars was also stolen.

The one piece Menorah was solid gold, weighing around 150 lbs.. The Table of Shewbread was solid gold and weighted far more than the menorah. The pure silver trumpets would have been worth a fortune also, along with all the vessels and containers in the holy place.

There have been many theories in regards to what happened to the Temple treasures.

The Romans conquered Jerusalem and pillaged all its valuables in 70 CE. They never managed to find the ark of the covenant but they did steal everything else in the Temple. These most precious treasures in the world (not the gold and silver bullion), were then paraded through Rome and kept on public display for over 300 years in the Roman Peace church. Money from the Temple was used by the Roman Catholics to purchase land throughout Rome and many other parts of the world. Rome got its greatness from stolen Temple treasures.

The Roman Coliseum held 70,000 people. It was the largest in the world by far. It was built with the money stolen from the Temple in Jerusalem. It took about eight years to complete the structure. It was built by thousands of the Jews that were taken when the Temple was destroyed. The Jewish people were slaves that built that wonder of the world with money stolen from their own Temple.

Then in 436 CE the Germanic Barbarians came up the Tiber River and took Rome by surprise. They pillaged it from one end to the other for 14 days before leaving to Carthage in North Africa. According to one theory, as the Temple treasures were being shipped on a boat some Roman soldiers managed to throw them overboard into the Tiber River. The Roman Empire crashed at the end of the 4th century. Years later the Vatican sent men to dredge the Tiber River and they located them and took them back to Rome, where there were hidden in the caves beneath the Vatican. For many years various Israeli leaders and politicians have been trying to get access into the caves of the Vatican because they believe all the Temple treasures are hidden there. The Vatican has denied all inquiries to search the caves beneath the Vatican proper.

A famous historian from about 1400 years ago by the name of Procopius told in his accounts the following: Procopius said that the Barbarians sailed from Sicily to North Africa with the gold and silver treasure.

In 533 CE the Barbarian Emperor Justinian attacked the city of Carthage in North Africa and took the treasures to Constantinople (modern Istanbul and Turkey).

Justinian noted that Jerusalem, Rome, and Carthage were all destroyed because of the Temple treasures so he had the treasures sent back to a newly constructed Christian complex in Jerusalem called "The Church Of Nea". The Church Of Nea was a huge complex which included a huge church, hospital, hospices, and many homes for the workers. It was a huge complex that included spectacular underground cisterns for collecting water. These cisterns still exist today hidden under the old Jewish Quarter in Jerusalem.

In 638 CE the Arab Muslims lead by Caliph Umar, conquered Jerusalem and tore apart the Complex at Nea looking for the Temple treasures, to no avail. Then then used the huge stones of the church to build the muslim palace on the temple mount.

Many people think that Justinian sent the treasures to the proclaimed holiest place on earth for the last 1700 years, the Church Of The Holy Sepulchre, but this has never been verified even though the place has been searched for many years. In fact the Knights Templar during the Crusades went through the Church Of The Holy Sepulchre with a fine tooth comb and found nothing whatsoever.

To this day, no one knows exactly where these buried treasures are. They are said to be under the foundations of what is now called the southern end of the Old City.

There is no doubt though that the Roman Catholic Vatican was able to become the huge Empire it is to this day from the stolen treasures of the Jewish people of old. It used the Second Temple treasures of gold and silver to become the satanic monster it is to this very day.

SUMMARY

What happens in the spiritual first takes place in the physical. Originally Adonai wanted a place to symbolically reside with His people. He established His Tent of Meeting, then His Tabernacle in the Wilderness, then His Temple of brick and mortar. He has always wanted a personal relationship with His bride, those who honor His wedding contract. The ultimate goal was for us to be His Temple in the flesh.

The physical Temple of old was no longer a dwelling place for Yahveh, His dwelling place became the dwelling place of His born again people. When His torah became part of their heart, His temple became within. He was showing them that His Ruach cannot any longer be contained, that His Spirit would move among His people. Yeshua became the light of the world and those who are people of His way reflect that eternal flame from within. The eternal flame (of the menorah in the temple) did not go out, it simple transferred from the physical brick and mortar building to the temple within His people. His people became the eternal light of the world.

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