

# The Symbolism of Nehemiah's Gates!

## Part 2

Series: "Close Ups – Life is in the details!"

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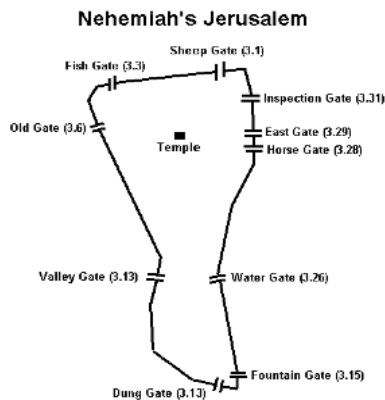
New Life Church

## God loves gates.

*Ps 87:2 (NIV) <sup>2</sup> the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.*

*Matt 7:13-14 (NIV) <sup>13</sup> "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup> But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.*

## PROGRESSION OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE...



## 1. Sheep Gate. Neh 3:1

**This is the gate representing SALVATION.**

*Jn 1:29 (NIV) <sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"*

*Jn 10:9 (NIV) <sup>9</sup> I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.*

## 2. Fish Gate. Neh 3:3

*Matt 4:19 (NIV) <sup>19</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."*

**This is the gate representing SHARING THE GOSPEL.**

### **3. Old Gate.** Neh 3:6

**This is the gate representing SURRENDERED LIFE.**

*Jer 6:16 (NIV) <sup>16</sup> This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'*

### **4. Valley Gate.** Neh 3:13

**This is the gate representing HUMILITY.**

*Jam 4:6 (NIV) <sup>6</sup> But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."*

### **5. Dung Gate.** Neh 3:14

**This is the gate representing CLEANSING.**

*2 Cor 7:1 (NIV) <sup>1</sup> Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

### **6. Fountain Gate.**

*Neh 3:15 (NIV) <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...*

- **The Fountain Gate** was on the east wall, just north of the Dung Gate, in a very strategic location near the Pool of Siloam, the old City of David, and the water tunnel built by King Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:20). The Gihon Spring that fed the water system was an important source of water in the city.

**This is the gate representing THE FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT.**

## **Water for drinking is a picture of the Holy Spirit.**

### **Woman at the well...**

*John 4:7-14 (NIV) <sup>7</sup> When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> "Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."*

### **Jesus said...**

*John 7:37-39 (NIV) <sup>37</sup> On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink." <sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." <sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*

## **Holy Spirit is given at Salvation:**

*Rom 8:9 (NIV) <sup>9</sup> You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

*Rom 8:11 (NIV) <sup>11</sup>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

*Gal 4:6 (NIV) <sup>6</sup> Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."*

## **Baptism in the Holy Spirit:**

### **Jesus gave H.S. for salvation when he rose...**

*John 20:21-22 (NIV) <sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

### **Jesus instructs disciples to wait for another work of Spirit...**

*Luke 24:49 (NIV) <sup>49</sup> I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

*Acts 1:8 (NIV) <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

## **Another dimension for prayer and worship...**

*1 Cor 14:14-15 (NIV) <sup>14</sup> For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup> So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.*

## **Fruit of the Spirit**

*Gal 5:22-23 (NIV) <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

## **7. Water Gate.**

*Neh 3:26 (NIV) <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.*

**Water for drinking is a picture of H.S. – Water for washing is a picture of the Word of God.**

**This is the gate representing THE WORD OF GOD.**

*Ps 119:9 (NKJV) <sup>9</sup> How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*

*Eph 5:25-26 (NIV) <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,*

*John 15:3 (NIV) <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.*

## **NO REPAIRS MENTIONED:**

*Matt 24:35 (NIV) <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*

*Isa 40:8 (NIV) <sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."*

*Eph 5:18-19 (NIV) <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,*

*Col 3:16 (NIV) <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*

*2 Pet 1:21 (NIV) <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

2 Tim 3:16-17 (NKJV) <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

## 8. Horse Gate.

Neh 3:28 (NIV) <sup>28</sup> Above the Horse Gate, the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house.

**This is the gate representing SPIRITUAL WARFARE.**

Job 39:19-22 (NIV) <sup>19</sup> "Do you give the horse his strength or clothe his neck with a flowing mane? <sup>20</sup> Do you make him leap like a locust, striking terror with his proud snorting? <sup>21</sup> He paws fiercely, rejoicing in his strength, and charges into the fray. <sup>22</sup> He laughs at fear, afraid of nothing; he does not shy away from the sword.

Ps 20:7 (NIV) <sup>7</sup> Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

**The Christian life is a battlefield in an evil world.**

Gal 5:17 (NIV) <sup>17</sup> For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

### Solomon's Compromise...

Deut 17:16 (NIV) <sup>16</sup> The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the LORD has told you, "You are not to go back that way again."

1 Kings 10:28 (NIV) <sup>28</sup> Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and from Kue--the royal merchants purchased them from Kue.

### We are soldiers in Christ!

2 Tim 2:3-4 (NIV) <sup>3</sup> Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. <sup>4</sup> No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs--he wants to please his commanding officer.

## 9. East Gate.

Neh 3:29 (NIV) <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.

**This is the gate representing CHRIST'S RETURN.**

*Ezek 44:1-3 (NIV) <sup>1</sup> Then the man brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, the one facing east, and it was shut. <sup>2</sup> The LORD said to me, "This gate is to remain shut. It must not be opened; no one may enter through it. It is to remain shut because the LORD, the God of Israel, has entered through it. <sup>3</sup> The prince himself is the only one who may sit inside the gateway to eat in the presence of the LORD. He is to enter by way of the portico of the gateway and go out the same way."*

*Zech 14:4 (NIV) <sup>4</sup> On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.*

*Ezek 43:1-5 (NIV) <sup>1</sup> Then the man brought me to the gate facing east, <sup>2</sup> and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters, and the land was radiant with his glory. <sup>3</sup> The vision I saw was like the vision I had seen when he came to destroy the city and like the visions I had seen by the Kebar River, and I fell facedown. <sup>4</sup> The glory of the LORD entered the temple through the gate facing east. <sup>5</sup> Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.*

*1 John 3:2 (NIV) <sup>2</sup> Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.*

## **10. Inspection Gate.**

*Nehemiah 3:31 (NIV) <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;*

### **This is the gate representing JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST.**

*2 Cor 5:10 (NIV) <sup>10</sup> For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.*

*Heb 9:27 (NIV) <sup>27</sup> Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,*

#### **Progression of the Christian Life:**

1. Sheep gate - Salvation – the cross.
2. Fish gate - Sharing the Gospel
3. Old gate – Surrendered Life
4. Valley gate – Humility
5. Dung gate – Cleansing
6. Fountain gate – The Fullness of the Spirit
7. Water gate - The Word of God and its power
8. Horse gate – Spiritual Warfare
9. East gate – Christ's Return
10. Inspection gate - Judgment Seat of Christ.