

The Gates Nehemiah 3

In Jerusalem, at the time of Nehemiah 3, there were 10 gates to the city that the workers repaired. In Hebrew, each of the gates had a significant name, which related to its use. The names can be symbolic for Christians today. Consider these six gates.

- The **Sheep Gate** was where the sheep were herded into the city to be used as altar sacrifices in the temple. Sacrificial lambs were slaughtered, and the blood was splashed on the sides of the altar to become a pure gift to the Lord as atonement for sin. For Christians, the **Sheep Gate** can represent Jesus Christ and His Passion, death, and resurrection for our sins. He is our gate to eternal life. In John 10: 8-10, Jesus says: *Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep... I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.* **Prayer:** Jesus, help me to remember always, YOU are my Sheep Gate. YOU are my gate to eternal life.
- The **Fish Gate** was where fish were brought into the city from the Mediterranean Sea and where people would buy fish for their homes. As Christians, fish is always symbolic. The **Fish Gate** can symbolize Jesus calling the disciples to become fishers of men and women. **Prayer:** Jesus, I want to be a fisherwoman (or fisherman) in partnership with YOU.
- The **Dung Gate** was the place where the garbage and manure were carried out of the city of Jerusalem. If garbage built up, a huge stink would smell everywhere, and people's health would be threatened. For Christians, the **Dung Gate** can represent Jesus who carries the sin and garbage from our lives through confession and repentance. **Prayer:** Jesus, I repent of my sins and thank you for forgiving me. I receive your forgiveness.

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- **The Fountain Gate**, near the pool of Siloam, was the place where the people would get water. For Christians, the **Fountain Gate** can remind us Jesus is the *Fountain of Eternal Life*. In John 4: 13, Jesus told the woman at the well: *Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.* **Prayer:** Jesus, You are my fountain gushing up to eternal life. I eat your body and drink your blood. I receive You as the Word of life. I will never be thirsty again.
- **The Horse Gate**, located next to the horse stables, was the place where the riders on horses would depart into battle to defend the city from attacks. For Christians, the **Horse Gate** can remind us of the spiritual battles we face every day. Ephesians 6: 10-17 reminds us: *Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God...* **Prayer:** Jesus, help me to remember that I face a spiritual battle every day, not alone but with you. By your grace, I will put on your armor.
- **The East Gate** faces the Mount of Olives and the rising sun, so it was the first gate opened each morning. For Christians, the **East Gate** can symbolize the importance of Morning Prayer or meeting the Lord at the start of every day. Psalm 143:8 reveals the importance of Morning Prayer or meeting the Lord at the start of every day. Psalm 143:8 says, *O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning, I plead my case to you and watch.* **Prayer:** Jesus, help me begin each day with prayer and surrender my life to you.