



Reflection & Prayer

Journal



Lady Tirtzah Lewis

Introduction

“Beauty at the Gate” is taken from the account in Acts 3:1–10 of a man who had been unable to walk from birth. Each day, he was carried and laid at the gate of the holy Temple called Beautiful, where he asked those entering the Temple for charity/tzedakah. He was positioned near the place of prayer and worship, yet he remained outside, dependent upon others to carry him to the threshold.

When Peter and John approached the gate at the hour of prayer, the man expected to receive charity. Instead, he encountered the transforming power of Yeshua HaMoshiach. Peter took him by the right hand and lifted him. Immediately, his feet and ankle bones received strength. The man who had never stood on his own was suddenly able not only to stand and walk, but also to leap. He entered the Temple with Peter and John, walking, leaping, and praising Yahweh.

There was beauty at the gate.

The beauty of this moment was not merely the beauty of an impressive gate or a magnificent structure. The true beauty was the transformation that occurred there. Weakness was exchanged for strength. Brokenness was made whole. What had never functioned properly was restored to its intended purpose. A man who had always been carried was now able to stand, walk, and enter the place of worship for himself.

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A gate is a threshold between two places. There is an outside and an inside, a place from which we have come and a place into which we are entering. Gates can represent transition, decision, examination, proclamation, and entrance. At the gate, Yah meets us, strengthens us, and prepares us to enter what He has appointed for us. We cannot cross the threshold and remain exactly as we were. There are things Yah will heal, reorder, mature, or strengthen so that we can walk fully in His purpose.

The Greek word translated “Beautiful” in the name Beautiful Gate is horaioi. It carries a deeper meaning than outward attractiveness. Related to the word hōra, meaning an appointed time or season, horaioi describes something that is timely, blooming, flourishing, ripe, and beautiful because it has reached its proper season.

Think about fruit in its proper season. Before it is ripe, it may be hard, sour, and difficult to enjoy. After its season has passed, it may become soft, spoiled, or unable to nourish. But in due season, fruit is sweet, firm, juicy, nourishing, and pleasing. It has matured into what it was created to become.

Yah performs this same transforming work in us. His beauty is not limited to how we appear on the outside. He heals what is broken, strengthens what is weak, matures what is undeveloped, restores what has been lost, and brings us into the proper season of our purpose. His beauty is connected to wholeness, fruitfulness, flourishing, and function.

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The seven days of this journal will take us on a journey through transformation at the gate. We will begin with the man who was strengthened and invited to rise and enter worship. We will reflect on the Bridegroom's power to turn ashes into beauty. We will consider women who experienced Yah's transforming power. And, at the end of our journey, we will return to the beautiful gate with thanksgiving, remembering that Yah's transforming work should produce testimony, praise, worship, and service to others.

There is beauty at the gate.

B'Y'shua HaMoshiach,

Lady Tirtzah Lewis

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Day 1

THERE'S BEAUTY AT THE

Gate

ACTS 3:1-10

The gate is a threshold between where we have been and where Yah is inviting us to go. The man arrived at the beautiful gate, carried by friends, and expecting temporary charity, but Yah gave him transformation, strength, and entrance into worship. Although it is not clear which exact gate at the holy Temple is referenced in these verses, it is likely to be the Nicanor Gate, which required walking up steps to enter. After receiving his healing, the man answered the call to worship, and ascended the steps to worship.

- What gate is Yah calling me to walk into? Where do I feel as though I am sitting outside instead of entering in?
- What is He inviting me to rise from and walk into?
- What area of my life needs to be strengthened?

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Day 2

BEAUTY FOR

Ashes

ISAIAH 61:1-3, 10

Yeshua HaMoshiach performs the transforming work of the Bridegroom. He takes the scattered ashes—e'pher אפר in Hebrew and *rearranges* them into beauty and adornment—pe'er פאר. As you can see, the two Hebrew words have the same letters, but reordered. He does not discard the broken pieces and start again, but He transforms them.

- Which broken pieces do I need to place in Yah's hands?
- What might beauty, wholeness, and restoration look like in this area?
- What has Yah called me to do?

[illegible]

Day 3

KNOWN AT THE

Well

JOHN 4:4-30, 39-42

The Samaritan woman came to the well carrying an identity shaped by her history. Yeshua knew her past and present, and revealed Himself to her as the Messiah. She was the first person that He outright revealed His identity as the Bridegroom to. She had all these “husbands,” and yet this was her introduction to THE bridegroom. He gave her a new purpose to be a witness. She left her water vessel, and whatever purpose she originally had to come to the well to carried Yeshua’s testimony instead.

- What is my identity in Messiah?
- What revelation has Yah given me that could bring others to Him?
- Am I flexible enough that Yah can change my plans and use me as a vessel for His glory?

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Day 4

DAUGHTER, BE MADE

Whole

MARK 5:25-34

After twelve years of suffering and spending all she had, an unnamed woman with the issue of blood reached for Yeshua, the Bridegroom. Her desire was for healing in her body and freedom, deliverance and salvation. The power of the Bridegroom did more than stop her bleeding—He named her “Daughter,” restored her into favor publicly, and sent her away in *shalom* - peace and wholeness.

- The unnamed woman began with a status of “unclean” with the infirmity of blood. Her status after encounter with the Bridegroom involved a new name, Daughter. What areas of my life has the Bridegroom transformed, for His glory? What areas of my life is the Bridegroom transforming now?
- Reflect on what it means to press through distractions to reach the Bridegroom.

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Day 5

POUR WHAT YOU

Have

2 KINGS 4:1-7

The widow brought her distress to the Man of God, Elisha. She needed a breakthrough in her situation. As a widow, she stood to lose her two sons, who could take care of her when they grew older. Elisha didn't tell her to go and find something new. He asked her what she *already had* - what was inside of her house? She says she has nothing BUT a jar of oil. This was small in her sight. What was small in her sight, Yah transformed into an abundance, as long as there were jars, there was oil to fill the jars. Her limitation was not in the oil, but in the jars to be filled with the oil. Yah took the little she had, and transformed it into overflowing.

- Am I making room in the vessel of my heart for the Bridegroom to fill?
- What has gifts Yah given to me, and am I using them to their fullest potential for His glory?

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Day 6

BEAUTIFUL IN DUE

Season

GENESIS 2:9; PSALM 1:3; PROVERBS 31:31

The Greek word translated “Beautiful” in the name Beautiful Gate is *horaiois* and describes something that is timely, blooming, flourishing, ripe, and beautiful because it has reached its proper season. In the Septuagint, this word is used in Genesis 2:9 to describe the trees Yah caused to grow in the Garden —trees that were pleasing to behold and good for food. Their beauty was connected not only to how they looked, but also to their fruitfulness and function.

Yah’s transforming power does not merely make us appear beautiful on the outside. He heals what is broken, strengthens what is weak, matures what is undeveloped, and brings us into the proper season of our purpose.

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Day 6

Proverbs 31:31 says, “Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.” The final verse of this acrostic begins with the Hebrew letter *Tav*, which is associated with a mark or sign. What marks this woman’s life? Her fruit and her testimony. Her works testify at the gate that Yah has matured her, transformed her, and brought her into due season.

There is Beauty at the gate of transformation that is talked about. Like a fire, it can ignite the next sister to walk in her calling in the Bridegroom. We are a living testimony of the transformational power of the Messiah.

- What season of life am I currently in?
- What fruit is Yah presently cultivating in me?
- What fruit should be visible in my home, congregation, and community?
- Does my life reflect the transforming work of the Bridegroom?

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Day 7

ENTER HIS GATES WITH

Thanksgiving

PSALM 100:4; ACTS 3:8-9

The man healed at the gate could have walked away to pursue everything he had missed in his life. Instead, he entered the holy Temple walking, leaping, and praising Yah. Throughout this prayer journal, we have witnessed transformation that produces testimony, thanksgiving, and worship.

Peter and John could have entered the prayer alone, but instead they stopped to help their brother. Peter extended a hand and lifted the man up. Sometimes beauty at the gate involves us helping another person enter the call to worship. As a sisterhood, it may involve helping nurse a sister's brokenness so that she can heal, walk, and enter His gates. As we enter Yah's Gates together, let us offer Thanksgiving for all He is doing and has done. He is faithful!

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Beauty

AT THE GATE

Proverbs 31:31

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