



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

Concealed to Revealed: Nehemiah Part 2

OPENING & PRAYER:

Today's journey took us through the ten gates of Jerusalem as described in Nehemiah, exploring how their order and meaning reflect both our personal walk with God and the mission of the church. Each gate, restored in a specific sequence, reveals a spiritual progression that mirrors the way God rebuilds broken lives and establishes His church.

"Father, I thank you for Your word and Your promises. Continue to guide me as we piece together Your Word throughout the Bible. Bring clarity and understanding as we move through our study. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

Then Eliashib the high priest rose up with his brethren the priests and built the Sheep Gate; **Nehemiah 3:1**

Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who have ever come before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. **John 10:7-9**

Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. **Psalms 100:3**

Also the sons of Hassenaah built the Fish Gate; they laid its beams and hung its doors with its bolts and bars. **Nehemiah 3:3**

Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." **Matthew 4:19**

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. **Nehemiah 3:6**

And next to him was Shallum the son of Hallohesh, leader of half the district of Jerusalem; he and his daughters made repairs. **Nehemiah 3:12**

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. **Nehemiah 3:13**

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. **Galatians 6:1-3**

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. **Nehemiah 3:14**

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. **Ephesians 5:8-12**

Shallun the son of Col-Hozeh, leader of the district of Mizpah, repaired the Fountain Gate **Nehemiah 3:15**

He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. **John 7:38-39**

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. **Nehemiah 3:26**

How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. **Psalms 119:9**

Beyond the Horse Gate the priests made repairs, each in front of his own house. **Nehemiah 3:28**

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. **Ephesians 6:12**

Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. **Luke 10:19**

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. **Revelation 19:11**

After them Zadok the son of Immer made repairs in front of his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, made repairs. **Nehemiah 3:29**

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. **Zechariah 14:4**

Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it was shut. And the Lord said to me, "This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut. **Ezekiel 44:1-2**

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. **Nehemiah 3:31**

Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. **2 Timothy 4:8**

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. **Matthew 25:31-33**

GO DEEPER:

We began at the Sheep Gate, recognizing that all restoration starts with Jesus, our Great Shepherd and the Lamb of God. He is the only door to salvation, and our relationship with Him is the foundation for everything else. From there, we moved to the Fish Gate, where we are called to become fishers of men—sharing our faith and participating in God’s plan to reach the world. The Old Gate reminded us to hold fast to the unchanging, foundational truths of Scripture, refusing to compromise even when culture pressures us to do so.

The Valley Gate taught us that valleys are inevitable, but they are also where growth happens. God uses these low places to expose what needs to change in us. The Dung Gate follows, representing the need to remove the things in our lives that the valley has revealed—taking out the spiritual trash so we don’t stagnate. This cleansing makes room for the Fountain Gate, where the Spirit of God flows in, and the Water Gate, where the Word of God washes and renews us.

The final three gates—Horse, Eastern, and Inspection—shift our focus to spiritual warfare, the return of Christ, and the final evaluation of our lives. The Horse Gate reminds us that we are in a spiritual battle, but Jesus has given us authority and victory. The Eastern Gate points to the hope of Christ’s return, when He will set all things right. Finally, the Inspection Gate assures us that there will be a day of reckoning, not for condemnation if we are in Christ, but for reward and accountability.

This journey through the gates is not just a history lesson; it’s a blueprint for spiritual growth and church life. God’s order is intentional, and as we walk through each gate, we are invited to deeper transformation, greater purpose, and unwavering hope in Christ.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Restoration begins and ends with Jesus. Every spiritual journey starts at the Sheep Gate, recognizing Jesus as both Shepherd and Sacrifice. Without this foundation, nothing else in our lives or churches can be truly rebuilt or restored. Our security, identity, and future are anchored in Him alone. [04:45]

2. Sharing faith is essential for spiritual vitality. The Fish Gate teaches that witnessing is not just a duty but a source of spiritual fire. When we share what Jesus has done for us, it keeps our hearts alive and aligns us with God's mission. The church is God's plan A for reaching the world, and there is no plan B. [10:01]

3. Unchanging truth is the bedrock of spiritual life. The Old Gate calls us to stand firm on the foundational doctrines of Scripture, even when culture shifts or pressures us to compromise. True compassion never requires us to abandon truth; rather, it compels us to hold fast to what God has revealed, trusting that His ways are best. [14:25]

4. Valleys and cleansing are necessary for growth. The Valley and Dung Gates reveal that God uses difficult seasons to expose what needs to change in us. Growth happens when we allow God to show us our weaknesses and then actively remove what hinders us, making room for the Spirit and the Word to renew us. Stagnation comes from refusing to change, but transformation follows repentance. [23:24]

5. Spiritual warfare, hope, and accountability shape our destiny. The Horse, Eastern, and Inspection Gates remind us that we are in a real spiritual battle, but victory is assured in Christ. We live with the hope of His return and the reality that our lives will be inspected—not for condemnation, but for reward. This perspective calls us to live intentionally, courageously, and with eternity in view. [36:31]

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. According to John 10, what does Jesus mean when He says, "I am the door of the sheep"? How does this relate to the role of a shepherd?
2. Why does the restoration of the Sheep Gate (representing Jesus as the foundation) have to come before any other gate in our spiritual journey or in the life of the church?
3. The Valley and Dung Gates are about growth through hardship and cleansing. How does going through difficult seasons expose what needs to change in us, and why is it important to "take out the trash" spiritually?
4. Sharing faith is described as essential for spiritual vitality. When was the last time you shared your faith story with someone? What holds you back, and what is one step you could take this week to be a "fisher of men"?
5. The Eastern and Inspection Gates point to Christ's return and final accountability. How does living with eternity in mind change your daily decisions? Is there something you would do differently if you remembered that your life will be "inspected" for reward, not condemnation?

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. As we read through what is to come, we put our faith and trust in You. There may be questions, but when we lean on You, those questions seem small and insignificant. Thank you for guiding us through this world and guiding us to You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."