

Nehemiah 3:1-31 – Study Leader’s Questions

What can we learn from the various gates that are mentioned here in connection with our Christian life today?

Gate 1: The Sheep Gate, Nehemiah 3:1-2

Gate 2: The Fish Gate, Nehemiah 3:3-5

Gate 3: The Old Gate, Nehemiah 3:6-12

Gate 4: The Valley Gate, Nehemiah 3:13

Gate 5: The Dung/Refuse Gate, Nehemiah 3:14

Gate 6: The Fountain Gate, Nehemiah 3:15-25

Gate 7: The Water Gate, Nehemiah 3:26-27

Gate 8: The Horse Gate, Nehemiah 3:28

Gate 9: The East Gate, Nehemiah 3:29-30

Gate 10: The Inspection Gate, Nehemiah 3:31-32

Nehemiah 3 Part 1 – Answers to Questions

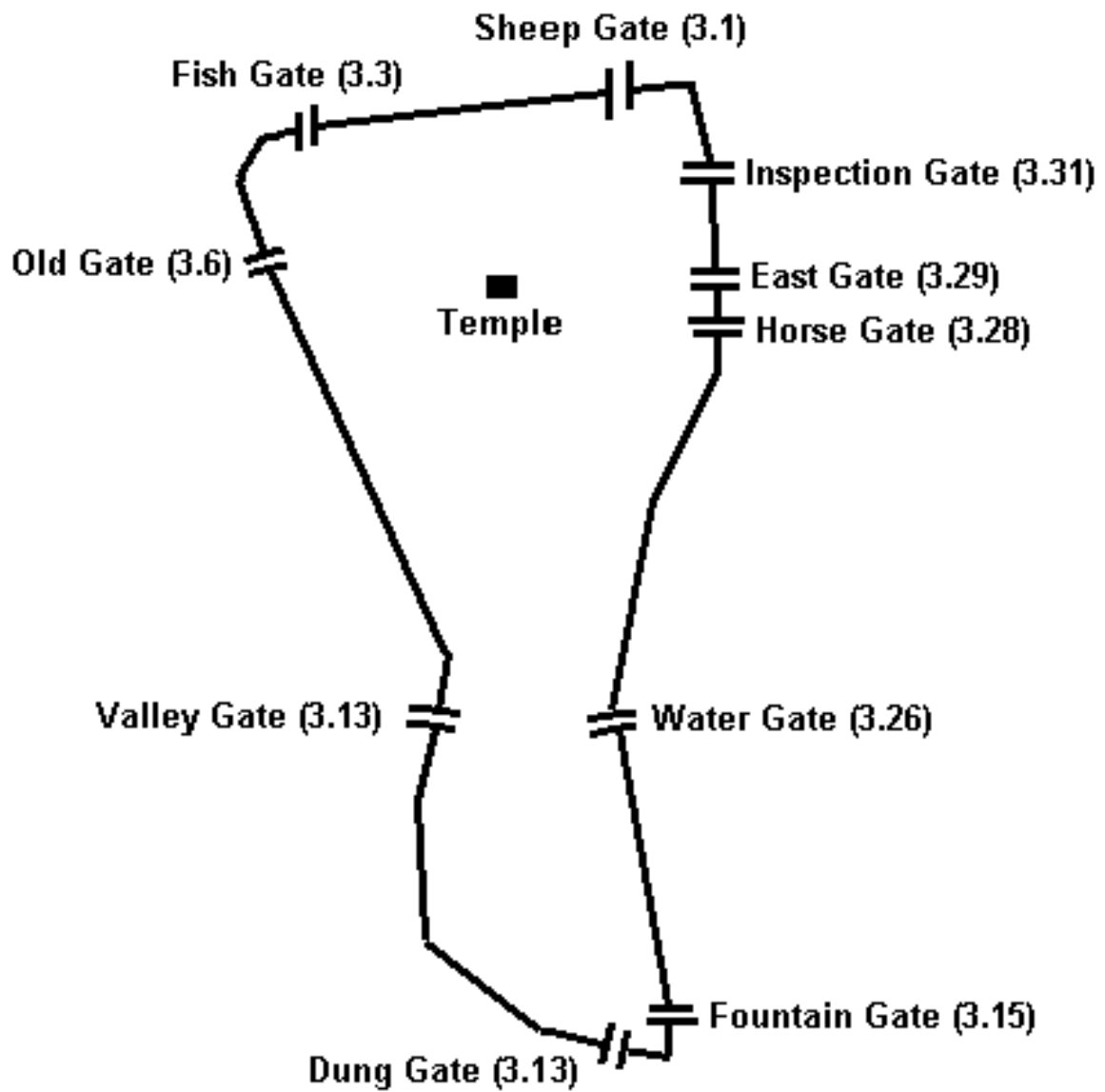
Writer's Note. This writer doesn't usually copy other articles verbatim but the web sources for Nehemiah 3 have proved extremely useful and informative. They have therefore been directly used for this study. The web resources used are:

www.jesusplusnothing.com/studies/online/nehem3.htm *Nehemiah's Jerusalem*

www.christianshepherd.org/meditations/doctrinal_meditations/twelve_gates_of_nehemiah.pdf *The Message of Nehemiah's Twelve Gates of Jerusalem*

www.godfire.net/rayknight/78_nehemiahsgates.pdf *Re-think No. 78 **NEHEMIAH'S 12 GATES OF GOD'S PROCESSING*** [Most of this study accords with scripture but see explanatory note under **THE DUNG GATE (Gate No.5)** and this writer's warning against the false doctrine of tongues-speaking for Christians today under **THE GATE OF THE FOUNTAIN (Gate No.6)**. See also references added in italics under **THE EAST GATE (Gate No.9)** and **THE GATE MIPHKAD (Gate No.10)** together with notes and note at the end of the **SUMMARY**]

Nehemiah's Jerusalem



THE MESSAGE OF NEHEMIAH'S TWELVE GATES OF JERUSALEM

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Mat. 7:13, 14

#	GATE	SCRIPTURE	APPLICATION	COMMENT
1.	Sheep Gate	Neh. 3:1, 32; 12:39; Jn. 5:2; 10:7-18; 21:8-11	Jesus is the true Sheep Gate and all must come by trusting in Him to be saved.	Peter fed the sheep precious ministry by being occupied with the Lord. It is full of warnings for us who like sheep easily lose our way.
2.	Fish Gate	2 Chron. 33:14; Neh. 3:3; 12:39; Zeph. 1:10; Mt. 4:19; 13:47; Mk. 16:15; Jn. 21:8-11	The Lord Jesus said to His disciples, "follow me and I will make you fishers of men"	Peter in a millennial picture of the remnant who are used to lead the nations to Christ.
3.	Old Gate	Neh. 3:6; 12:39; Jer. 6:16; Mt. 13:52; Lk. 5:36-39	God's moral ways do not change with dispensations and the old paths are important for us to walk in.	The old covenant – law gives way to the new covenant founded on grace. Also we must guard ourselves. See Prov. 16:32; 25:28
4.	Valley Gate	2 Chron. 26:9; Neh. 3:13	This gate led out to the valley of Hinnon and is where Ghenna a type of hell is located.	The valley is looked at in Scripture as one of: Weeping, Decision, and Shadow of death.
5.	Dung Gate	Neh. 3:13, 14; 12:31; 1 Jn. 1:9; Php. 3:8	This gate is where the refuse was taken away.	The things of this world whether good or bad are but dung when compared with the glory of the Lord.
6.	Fountain Gate	Neh. 3:15; 12:37; Jn. 3:5; 4:14; 9:1-8	This gate was next to the Pool of Siloam.	This gate represents the Holy Spirit which works with the Word to save and wells up within giving energy to the new life in Christ.
7.	Water Gate	Neh. 3:26; 8:3; 12:37; Eph. 2:10; 5:25, 26; Rev. 19:8	The Gibeonites, who were bearers of water, carried water through this gate for the city.	The Water Gate speaks of the Word of God which saves, cleanses defilement and sanctifies.
8.	Horse Gate	Neh. 3:28; 2 Chron. 23:15; Jer. 31:40; Rev. 19:14	This gate was next to the King's palace and where the soldiers of the King rode through going in and out to battle.	The Lord Jesus will come out of heaven on a white horse to make battle. We will be with Him but the battle is the Lord's.
9.	East Gate	Neh. 3:29; Ez. 10:19; 11:1; 40:44; Acts 3:2, 10; Zech. 14:4	This gate is also called Golden or Beautiful.	The Lord will enter Jerusalem through this gate in a future day
10.	Miphkad Gate	Neh. 3:31; 1 Cor. 3:13-16; Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; Mt. 25:31-46	This is the gate of inspection, numbering and gathering	This may represent both the judgment seat of Christ for the believer and also the judgment of the living nations.
11.	Ephraim Gate	2 Kings 14:13; 2 Chron. 25:23	North gate looking out to the fruitful land of Ephraim.	Ephraim means doubly fruitful (Jew and Gentile) Earthly and Heavenly)
12.	Prison Gate	Neh. 12:39; Acts 12:10; 1 Pet. 3:19	This is where they kept prisoners. Peter is seen in Acts 12 being led of an angel through this gate.	This gate may speak of the judging wickedness in our lives, in the family and also the assembly.

**Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. Jn. 10:7
Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. Jn. 14:6**

Re-think No. 78 [on the whole, a helpful and thought-provoking devotional study –AJO'R]

NEHEMIAH'S 12 GATES OF GOD'S PROCESSING

Each gate represents an experience which we are called to go through in order to bring forth the change determined by the Lord. Upon entering in through each gate, each one will have a testimony regarding that gate or dealing. The exact order one goes through each gate may well vary but the twelfth gate is the climax as we take our journey beginning at the **SHEEP GATE** all the way to the **PRISON GATE**.

THE SHEEP GATE (Gate No.1)

Nehemiah 3:1

Through this gate of Jerusalem the shepherds brought their flocks to the safety of the folds within the city's walls. The denomination pens are a place of security for the flocks. Sheep not led by someone with greater experience, authority and wisdom will certainly stray and go their own way. We were as sheep without a shepherd, but now the Lord Jesus Christ is our Shepherd who has laid down His life for us that we might follow Him as He leads us on to maturity. God's mercy and grace will teach us to know conviction, repentance and forgiveness. We will not only become 'believers' but, hopefully, 'believing-believers'!...believing what God has said about Himself and also what He has said about us. Assurance and the 'cross-principle' will be evident in our daily walk. We will no longer find ourselves under the demands of the law because as His sheep we have been redeemed from those demands. We now start the process of being saved in every area of our lives by His Life provided within His blood. **My sheep hear My voice**, Jesus said. The cry now deposited within each sheep is that we might really and truly hear Him speak to us...**that still, small voice** within.

THE FISH GATE (Gate No.2)

Nehemiah 3:3

When 'fish' is mentioned in the scriptures, it connects with two major links. Fish are a provision of food for we certainly need to grow. Fish also symbolizes a people with a special calling who will be involved in feeding the hungry. Remember the 153 great fish that gave up their 'lake-life' [and] became separate from their brethren in order to be food for the hungry (John 21). [That special number is unveiled in re-think No.30]. Jesus told us to be '**fishers of men**'...Is not our Father the greatest Fisherman of men? This Fish Gate also points towards the need to feed on the Living Word (Christ Jesus) thus becoming a witness of all that flows from Him '24/7'!

THE OLD GATE (Gate No.3)

Nehemiah 3:6

'Old' speaks of that which is past. It also speaks of that which is solid and unchangeable like a foundation. There are many things labelled 'old' that need renewing as well as many things that are 'old' that should be discarded...and quickly! Some 'old' things can be revived and we call that 'revival'!...but many 'revivals' are trying to renew that which has [passed] away! God does not change but His ways of accomplishing change progress. Isaiah 55:8...we desire to know His thoughts over and above ours'. For example:- the old testament Tabernacle that Moses erected in the wilderness is a parable for today as we begin to experience each part of which that tabernacle pointed towards. Similarly the three major feasts of Israel also depict the progressive dealing that the Lord is working in those He is apprehending...**every man in his own order**. There are therefore things old and new in God's people of this hour. Most certainly your 'old man' must be replaced by the new man, Christ [and] then you will be a

new creation and all unwanted old things shall pass away. There is always more positive expressions of God's grace than the 'valley' you might feel you are going through. This gate will have you check up on your foundations that make up Christ Who is your true foundation.

THE VALLEY GATE (Gate No.4)

Nehemiah 3:13

This valley gate would be at the low point in the terrain around the city. It speaks of where we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and learn in experience that Christ is my life and that He doesn't wish to share the throne of your [proud self] with you! It is also the place of growing...not much in the way of growth comes from the mountains! There are the high places in our walk and testimony and remember, it takes two mountains to form a valley. As Psalm 23 declares, the valley is something you walk through. Do not stop and dwell in those dealings but rejoice in the Light that produces the shadow! The 'old' testament acts as a sort of foundation to the new testament provided that one does not try to literally reproduce the old in any form. The fruit of the Spirit will be the evidence that you have been through the dealings of God in relation to this gate. This then points directly to whether or not Jesus Christ within you is truly Lord! The 'battles' of the valley scenario have already been won by Christ at Calvary...faith enters the picture to believe such and walk in the effect of such a provision.

THE DUNG GATE (Gate No.5)

Nehemiah 3:14.

It is recorded that Jesus ran just once and that was when He cleaned up the temple [*The writer here appears to be referring to the Lord's zeal. The word "zeal" only occurs once in the Gospels and it is used with respect to the Lord cleansing the temple. "And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up" John 2:17*]. The rubbish out of your temple leaves you through this gate just as the waste from Jerusalem went to the dump via this gate. The traditional religious Church systems from man-made efforts need to have a cleansing and this gate awaits them all. All the filth of our 'city', just like the seven nations of Canaan which had to be removed to allow the purposes of God to come forth, bitterness, fear, pride, religiosity, lust, stubbornness and rebellion — every last vestige of these filthy bits of 'dung' must go. 'Dung' is all that is left over from yesterday's manna! Old teachings have given up their nutrition and now need to be discarded. When grace starts to replace law in your walk, then the letter-law becomes dung and out it goes. Overcome evil with good...push out all items that do not produce life with those that do. The dung gate also represents the incorrect image that folk have of themselves (answer this: Are you a sinner or a saint?) and even of God Himself. So without quoting (parrot-fashion) scriptures, what is your God really like?

THE GATE OF THE FOUNTAIN (Gate No.6)

Nehemiah 3:15

The fountain gate is put before the water gate...and one cannot have a fountain without water! Water relates to the 'word'. A fountain speaks of water under some pressure to be seen...thus this gate speaks of the moving of the Spirit of God on a person to reveal Himself to them. One's conversion is likened to a well of water springing up into everlasting life. God so spoke to your heart that you were compelled to open up to Him. [*A segment of this paragraph has been deleted by this writer because it teaches falsely that tongues-speaking is for Christians today. See www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/ Tongues for a detailed refuta-*

tion of the false doctrine of tongues-speaking for Christians today. The remainder of the study appears to be devotionally quite scriptural.]

This gate checks up on your full surrender to the Lordship of Christ within. If any rebellion remains through fear, then back to the dung gate you must go!

THE WATER GATE (Gate No.7)

Nehemiah 3:26

Water starts with a well and gets released to form a river then rivers! Water is used for life (drinking) and washing our thinking...water primarily speaks of the living word as Ephesians 5:26 says, the Church is **cleansed by the washing of water by the word**. This gate is the constant challenge for each one of us to hear what God is saying with His word and a check-up as to how much we truly believe...with our hearts not just our heads! This water gate will lead you to become enthralled with what God has done and get excited with what He is doing now. Be established in present truth. The letter-word of what God said and did must become the living-word in you revealing more and more His life in you. The Spirit desires **to teach us ALL things** including how to read the scriptures and hear His indwelling voice unveil His secrets to those who have ears to hear!

THE HORSE GATE (Gate No. 8)

Nehemiah 3:28

The 'horse' in the word always speaks of discipline, strength, endurance and speed. The horse that is not 'broken' is not of too much use! When discipline has been worked into its life, a man can ride on him, the horse can pull a cart or chariot and be an asset to any group. The one who is used to 'break' the horse has a special relationship with it. The horse will know the voice of the one that cares and feeds it. God will develop each one of us to be strong, be quick to obey and go wherever He sends and basically be strong for others. We as a horse will know intimately his Master...learning to recognize His voice and be always ready to do His bidding. The horse-gate dealing of God in our lives will develop our discipline via a sincere willingness to please Him. It concludes with the fact that before God you no longer have any rights! **For me to live is Christ and to die out to self is gain! O that I might know Him...**was Paul's cry, is it yours?

THE EAST GATE (Gate No.9)

Nehemiah 3:29

'East' speaks of where a new day begins for us. By innuendo it speaks of yesterday being gone and God's new purposes coming forth. The sun appears over the horizon to warm the earth and give light to creation. In Genesis chapter one we are given the seven new days depicting God's great plan of the ages. Each day was new to the day that was...this whole week of new days is like a contents list of His dealing in you and I. Looking east carries with it an expectation of something new. God has promised to do a 'new thing' in these last days. Please note that if a thing is 'new' then it has not been seen before...so folks, please don't try to resurrect [any] yesterdays! The east gate speaks of focussing on the light with a spirit-induced expectation of what the Lord will accomplish through His people this day. In the initial coming forth of Jesus (Matthew 2:2) we are told that the wise men saw His star in the east and they followed it. Now we know that his first coming patterns for us His second coming! Do you see His star in the east? Do you see the signs that He is here within His saints? If not, you must be void of wisdom! Jesus came in the form of a babe and now He comes in the form of a corporate mature man! Are you a part of this 'new man' who is in a

new covenant having a new song [Revelation 5:9, 14:3] in their heart and [who has] drunk with new wine of His reality here and now?

THE GATE MIPHKAD (Gate No.10)

Nehemiah 3:31

The name ‘miphkad’ means assignment, appointment or numbering. What were you ‘saved’ for? What is your assignment from the Lord? Each one of us is in an ‘order’ with a part to fulfil in God’s great plan. God’s people do not get everything all at once together as we have been taught. God has an assignment...His will...for each — we are appointed to a position and it is over to us to open up and walk in it. Have you a revelation to what you have been called? Are [you] included in the first-fruits company of over-comers? This gate of Miphkad is for us to be numbered among those who know who they are and why they are here at this time in this tangible realm called earth. Miphkad continuously reminds of our obligation to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil within our thinking and receive the appropriate promises. ‘Come up higher’ John was told in the book of Revelation [**“hither”** Revelation 4:1] having just completed the overcoming steps [see Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:5, 12, 21]. The throne of God where Christ is and we are in Him is the vision God has brought forth a remnant for. Such a revelation will release the faith, wisdom and understanding to experience that great provision of Calvary.

Nehemiah 3:31 reads “After him repaired Malchiah the goldsmith’s son unto the place of the Nethinims, and of the merchants, over against the gate Miphkad, and to the going up of the corner.” “The Nethinims” were “ministers of this house of God” Ezra 7:24 and “ministers for this house of God” Ezra 8:17 “whom David and the princes had appointed for the service of the Levites” Ezra 8:20 and “the Levites were appointed unto all manner of service of the tabernacle of the house of God” 1 Chronicles 6:48.

The Levites’ duties included “bearing the ark of the covenant of God” 2 Samuel 15:24 “and all the holy vessels that were in the tabernacle” 1 Kings 8:4. They “were over the chambers and treasuries of the house of God” 1 Chronicles 9:26, “had the set office over the things that were made in the pans” 1 Chronicles 9:31 and “they were employed in that work day and night” 1 Chronicles 9:33. They were “the singers with instruments of musick, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy” 1 Chronicles 15:16 “And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skilful” 1 Chronicles 15:22 i.e. the Levites had to train their own singers. David also “appointed certain of the Levites to minister before the ark of the LORD, and to record, and to thank and praise the LORD God of Israel” 1 Chronicles 16:24. The Levites also assisted the wardens or watchmen “for every gate” 1 Chronicles 26:13 in that “Eastward were six Levites, northward four a day, southward four a day, and toward Asuppim two and two. At Parbar westward, four at the causeway, and two at Parbar” 1 Chronicles 26:17-18.

In sum, the Levites, no doubt together with their assistants the Nethinims, were responsible “for all the work of the service of the house of the LORD, and for all the vessels of service in the house of the LORD” 1 Chronicles 28:13, as David declared to Solomon in 1 Chronicles 28:21.

“And, behold, the courses of the priests and the Levites, even they shall be with thee for all the service of the house of God: and there shall be with thee for all manner of workmanship every willing skilful man, for any manner of service: also the princes and all the people will be wholly at thy commandment.”

The Levites, no doubt together with their assistants the Nethinims were therefore trusted professional multi-taskers “unto all manner of service of the tabernacle of the house of God” 1

Chronicles 6:48; at the centre of national processions and great state occasions “bearing the ark of the covenant of God” 2 Samuel 15:24 (this being like a coronation remembrance, as a reminder that God was King of Israel or He was meant to be 1 Samuel 8:7, 12:12), safeguarding the national treasures, like the crown jewels, preparing food for national occasions, leading national worship and training ministers for national worship, keeping national archives and maintaining national security. With respect to the responsibility of national security, the reference in Nehemiah 3:31 to “the merchants” suggests that “the gate Miphkad” was used for the conveyance of merchandise other than livestock via “the sheep gate” Nehemiah 3:1 or edibles e.g. via “the fish gate” Nehemiah 3:3. See Nehemiah 13:20.

“So the merchants and sellers of all kind of ware lodged without Jerusalem once or twice.”

The reference, therefore, in Nehemiah 3:31 to “the merchants” in association with “the place of the Nethinims” suggests that the Nethinims were also customs officers to ensure that no contraband, unclean or dangerous goods entered the city, or persons with such goods. That function is implied by the term inspection, indicating that the Nethinims were equivalent to a form of His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Customs and Excise.

See www.hmic.gov.uk/inspections/specialist-inspections/her-majestys-revenue-and-customs/.

*The above analysis gives good insight into the essentials for national organisation and infrastructure, which suggests a sound reason why Biblically-based nations, e.g. the Protestant English-speaking nations, have historically been far better organised and advanced and in turn, practically speaking, far more prosperous than any other nations. See **Appendix**.*

*For the Christian, who should be one of those “**as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart**” Ephesians 6:6, Philippians 4:13 should be applied to with respect to God-given multi-tasking and should be memorised.*

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

THE GATE OF EPHRAIM (Gate No. 11)

Nehemiah 8:16

Here we have a gate with a name of a person or tribe. The meaning of the word ‘Ephraim’ is double-fruit and speaks of the first-born who receive a double portion of the inheritance as Elisha did via Elijah. Joseph of old was Ephraim’s father and his life depicted the double portion experience for he was the firstborn of Jacob and Rachel. Joseph had the promise and went through all the processings to see the vision fulfilled.

The double-portion is given to the firstborn at the time they are adopted of the Father. Jesus as the Pattern-Son will become even more alive to us. Doubly-blessed with the mind of Christ and the Life to express all that He is. The man-child made up of over-comers will progress or grow into the fullness of Christ which is like inheriting the promised land...the kingdom of God. What glorious provision has been given to us via the cross!

THE PRISON GATE (Gate No.12)

Nehemiah 12:39

This last gate is like the epitome of our experiences with Christ. Remember how it was at the end of his life that Paul referred to himself as ‘A prisoner of the Lord Jesus Christ’? A prisoner does not have a will of his own for he can only do what the Jailer decides. ‘Not my will be done, but Thine’ was the example that Jesus gave us. We will experience going through this gate when we know that we have been apprehended (arrested) by Christ-Jesus. A prisoner always has a broken and a contrite heart and walking with such, will find himself being

changed from glory to glory into the image of God's Firstborn. John was a prisoner on the Isle of Patmos and it was there that he came forth with such revelation from the heart of God. Remember that in the parable of Joseph back in Genesis...as a type and pattern...went from the prison to the throne. No prison experience will lead to no throne experience. Being a prisoner declares that one is truly free! The liberty of being in Christ will lead you to experiencing the jubilee receiving again all that was lost in Eden. What a glorious conclusion to the unchangeable plan of God spread over the ages.

SUMMARY

This brief look at the twelve gates that the Lord had Nehemiah record just touches the 'headlines' of God's dealings with each because of His love for each. Having passed through these twelve gates, one can now reckon that they are a part of the city of God...the New Jerusalem. The Kingdom of God will have a corporate Christ-King and the Kingdom will be entirely His.

Last thought...there is a creation out there waiting for the sons of God to come forth into full maturity so that they can be the vehicles whereby creation is set free...for they are a prisoner of the carnal mind that Adam bequeathed them...they have not yet learned that Christ has set them free. Every man will learn in his own order [*the expression "Every man in his own order" 1 Corinthians 15:23 applies to the rapture of Church Age saints and at the Second Advent, the rapture of Tribulations saints. See the Ruckman Reference Bible p 1528 and Dr Ruckman's commentary The Books of First and Second Corinthians pp 325-327. What the writer appears to be referring to is the Lord's Millennial reign and the fulfilment of Habakkuk 2:14 "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea" in which case this writer would agree with the writer's closing statement*].

Praise the Lord.

Appendix

“The Good Shepherd” John 10:11 vs. “the Idol Shepherd” Zechariah 11:17

I quote from a book entitled *Out Of The Labyrinth*, ISBN 0-937958-13-1, first published [1947](#), p 191, by L.H. Lehmann, a former Catholic priest of many years standing and for several years a negotiator in legal matters at the Vatican before he became a New Testament Christian.

He compares social and educational outcomes for each of the two American continents. Lehmann has no nationalist axe to grind, although he was born in Dublin and refers simply to “*Two Continents, One Bible!*” Nationalistically, therefore, he is neutral.

But the Bible, of course, accompanied the British colonisation of the northern American continent. That Book, the 1611 Authorised King James Holy Bible was, naturally, absent from the Spanish Catholic colonisation (conquest) of the southern American continent.

Lehmann writes:

“The two American Continents were discovered and colonised at about the same time. Any difference of opportunity or of resources that may have existed between them was in favor of the southern Continent. However, the northern land prospered greatly from the very beginning in all those things that make life worthwhile. The southern countries grovelled for four centuries, and still grovel, in almost universal destitution, illiteracy and illegitimacy. WHY? The answer is clear. The countries above the Rio Grande were given the Bible and the Protestant faith of the Pilgrim Fathers. Those to the south were given the sword of the Spaniard and the idols of the priests of Rome...”

“North American Continent, including Canada: Illiteracy 6%, Illegitimacy 2.4% [in the 1940s]

“South American Continent, including Mexico: Illiteracy 60-80%, Illegitimacy 25-50% [in the 1940s]

“The percentages shown for the countries north of the Rio Grande would be even lower were it not for Roman Catholic Quebec in Canada, and the foreign-born Romanists in the United States. The figures for the Latin American countries are, on the whole, approximate, due to the fact that some of the more backward nations down there do not keep careful records of vital statistics. However, the percentages given are those of the most conservative estimates from authoritative sources.”

Thank God for today’s faithful Nethinims who ministered in all things by means of “*the Bible and the Protestant faith of the Pilgrim Fathers.*”

Alan O’Reilly
April 2012

Additional Thoughts Following Mid-Week Bible Discussion May 1st 2012

Re: THE OLD GATE (Gate No. 3) [Nehemiah 3:6](#)

Devotionally speaking, Jeremiah 6:16 should be kept in balance with Hebrews 8:13.

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein...”

“...Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away...”

Re: THE VALLEY GATE (Gate No.4), THE DUNG GATE (Gate No.5) [Nehemiah 3:13](#)

Note Nehemiah 3:13. ***“The valley gate repaired Hanun, and the inhabitants of Zanoah; they built it, and set up the doors thereof, the locks thereof, and the bars thereof, and a thousand cubits on the wall unto the dung gate.”*** “The valley gate” and “the dung gate” both have bad connotations being close by ***“Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom”*** Jeremiah 7:31 and which typifies hell according to Isaiah 30:33. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 948 and Mark 9:43-48 for “hell.”

“For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.”

Note that “the valley gate” and “the dung gate” are mentioned in Nehemiah 3:13, just as “the dragon well” is “by the gate of the valley” and “the dung port” in Nehemiah 2:13. See *Note on Nehemiah 2:13* in the study www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/ Nehemiah 2 p 6, *Bible Numerics* pp 36-38, *Mark of the Beast* Chapter 4 and *The Bible Babel* Chapter 6 by Dr Peter S. Ruckman for the significance of the number 13 in scripture.

Re: THE EAST GATE (Gate No.9) [Nehemiah 3:29](#)

The East Gate has the significance of looking towards the sunrise that in scripture may be likened to both the Lord’s Resurrection and the Second Advent, according to Malachi 4:2. ***“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.”***

Christian Bible-based belief (and possibly even pre-Christian Old Testament belief, though dismissed in the linked article as Pagan belief) has therefore resulted in Western cemeteries laid out with headstones facing east. See www.ehow.co.uk/about_6671751_do-tombstones-face-east_.html and note the Church of England burial service *The Order for the Burial of the Dead*, this writer’s emphases, www.ccel.org/h/herbert/temple/Burial1559GH.html.

FORASMUCH as it hath pleased Almighty God of his great mercy to take unto himself the soul of our dear brother here departed: we therefore commit his body to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in sure and certain hope of resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body that it may be like to his glorious body, according to the mighty working, whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours...”
Revelation 14:13.

Though ***“men loved darkness rather than light”*** John 3:19, pray that consciences may be pricked, Acts 9:5, 6, with respect to ***“the hope and resurrection of the dead”*** Acts 23:6.

See related study www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/ *God’s East-West Direction for Blessing*.