

## ENTERING BY THE GATE

Text: Psalm 24:7-10

**Key Word:** Gate

**Key Thought:** There Are Important and Symbolic Gates That God's People MUST Enter

**GATE.** The gates and gateways of eastern cities anciently held and still hold an important part, not only in the defense but in the public economy of the place. Among the special purposes for which they were used may be mentioned—

1. As places of public resort. Genesis 19:1; 23:10; 34:20, 24; 1 Samuel 4:18, etc.
2. Places for public deliberation, administration of justice, or of audience for kings and rulers or ambassadors. Deuteronomy 16:18; 21:19; 25:7; Joshua 20:4; Judges 9:35, etc.
3. Public markets. 2 Kings 7:1. In heathen towns the open spaces near the gates appear to have been sometimes used as places for sacrifice. Acts 14:13; comp. 2 Kings 23:8.

Regarded therefore as positions of great importance, the gates of cities were carefully guarded, and closed at nightfall. Deuteronomy 3:5; Joshua 2:5, 7; Judges 9:40, 44.

They contained chambers over the gateway. 2 Samuel 18:24.

The doors themselves of the larger gates mentioned in Scripture were two-leaved, plated with metal, closed with locks and fastened with metal bars. Deuteronomy 3:5; Psalm 107:16; Isaiah 45:1, 2. Gates not defended by iron were of course liable to be set on fire by an enemy. Judges 9:52.

The gateways of royal palaces and even of private houses were often richly ornamented. Sentences from the law were inscribed on and above the gates. Deuteronomy 6:9; Isaiah 54:12; Revelation 21:21.

The gates of Solomon's temple were very massive and costly, being overlaid with gold and carvings. 1 Kings 6:34, 35; 2 Kings 18:16. Those of the holy place were of live wood, two-leaved and overlaid with gold; those of the temple of fir. 1 Kings 6:31, 32, 34; Ezekiel 41:23, 24.

William Smith; revised and edited by F.N. and M.A. Peloubet,  
*Smith's Bible dictionary [computer file], electronic ed., Logos Library System,*  
(Nashville: Thomas Nelson) 1997

Psalm 24 enhances our appreciation of the gates of Jerusalem and especially what/who would enter through them. It is believed that this song was sung when the Ark of the Covenant was taken from the house of Obed-Edom to return it to the hill of Zion. It has been called by some "*The Psalm the Ascension.*"

**Psalm 24** was sung on **the Lord's Day – our Sunday**

**Psalm 48** was sung on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day

**Psalm 82** was sung on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day

**Psalm 94** was sung on the 4<sup>th</sup> day

**Psalm 81** was sung on the 5<sup>th</sup> day

**Psalm 93** was sung on the 6<sup>th</sup> day

**Psalm 92** was sung on the 7<sup>th</sup> day – **the Jewish Sabbath.**

## What Type of Gates must We Enter to Gain the Fulness of the Lord?

### **I. The Gate of Righteousness (Psalm 118:19-21)**

### **II. The Gate of Restriction (Matthew 7:14)**

### **III. The Gate of Reward (Revelation 21:12)**

#### **I. The Gate of Righteousness (Psalm 118:19-21)**

*“Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.*

*20. This is the Gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.*

*21. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.”*

*Psalm 118:19 – 21*

The first gate that we all must enter is the Gate of Righteousness. **This is where we are unrobed of our old nature in order to put on the new man.**

***“Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature; sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.***

***6. Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.***

*7. You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.*

*8. But you must rid yourself of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.*

*9. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices*

*10. and have put on the new self, which is **being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator** . . .*

***12. Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience,***

*13. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.*

*14. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them altogether in perfect unity.*

*15. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.*

*16. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual psalms with gratitude in hearts to God.”*

*Colossians 3:5–10, 12–16*

## **I. The Gate of Righteousness (Psalm 118:19-21) (Contd.)**

None of us like to be unrobed of our old nature. It takes an act of surrender to release those things that once controlled our thoughts, words and actions. Some people still have skeletons in their closets. Others are proud to have come out of their closet without making any changes and mocking God's Holy Word. So it is imperative that we be completely honest with ourselves and with God when we enter this Gate. **Many people have tried and are still trying to dance their way into God's splendour on the heels of emotionalism.**

God is not impressed with a heart that is not what it appears to be. He is the exposor of any thoughts and intentions which are not sincere. This was proven to the people of Jerusalem and surrounding area on the first Palm Sunday. In all four gospels (Matthew 21:1-9; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-38; John 12:12-15) **Jesus accepts the praise from those who had a sincere heart while rejecting and exposing the hardness of the chief priests and the teachers of the Law. God cannot be fooled.** What goes around – come around.

**\*\*\*** **Max Jukes** lived in New York. He did not believe in Christ or in Christian training. He refused to take his children to church, even when they asked to go. He has had 1,026 descendants; 300 were sent to prison for an average term of thirteen years; 190 were public prostitutes; 680 were admitted alcoholics. His family, thus far, has cost the state in excess of \$420,000. They made no contribution to society.

**Jonathan Edwards** lived in the same state, at the same time as Jukes. He loved the Lord and saw that his children were in church every Sunday, as he served the Lord to the best of his ability. He has had 929 descendants, and of these 430 were ministers; 86 became university professors; 13 became university presidents; 75 authored good books; 7 were elected to the United States Congress. One was vice president of his nation. His family never cost the state one cent but has contributed immeasurably to the life of plenty in this land today. **\*\*\***

James S. Hewett  
*"Illustrations Unlimited" p. 1*

As Jesus made His way along the road that led from Jericho after healing blind Bartimaeus He eventually approached Bethphage or Bethany. He sent His disciples ahead to bring the donkey that was prepared for this special day. He then was carried by the young donkey passed the Mount of Olives through the Eastern Gate that led to the Temple.

This fulfilled that which was prophesied by the prophet in Zechariah 9:9. It also fulfilled the Messianic prophecy found in Psalm 118:26. **Their shouts of Hosanna and blessing quickly faded into oblivion.** Our Lord's short stay indicated that His work was not yet completed. **He simply surveyed the damage and left to prepare His plan of action.**

## II. The Gate of Restriction (Matthew 7:14)

*“But the gate to life is very narrow. The road that leads there is so hard to follow that only a few people find it.”*

*Matthew 7:14*

*The Contemporary English [computer file]  
electronic ed., Logos Library System  
(Nashville: Thomas Nelson)  
1997, c 1995 by the American Bible Society*

The Gate of Righteousness will funnel our walk to and through the Gate of Restriction. I am not referring to becoming narrow-minded with some sort of righteous pride. What I am suggesting is that it is one that will lead us into a walk that is focussed on God's will - not ours.

“Always do right. This will gratify most people, and astonish the rest.”

Mark Twain

James S. Hewett

*“Illustrations Unlimited”*

p. 54

Some things in life need to be much more restricted than they presently are. There are some things which are restricted which need to be unrestricted. One such case was a Billy Graham movie titled **“The Prodigal”** that was produced in the 1980's which was unfortunately set as a “Restricted + 18” movie that prevented youth to attend while at the same time much more violent and degrading movies were given a PG-13 rating. The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association has continued to be a wonderful refuge for those who have depleted all their possible resources after having taken the wrong road and entered the wrong gate.

Our present lawmakers are trying to restrict the good and penalize them for even thinking they can promote their goodness. At the same time they are opening the floodgates of hell into the hearts and minds of decent citizens until they become corrupted. Ministries with proven and untainted reputation are being attacked with a viciousness that can only be Satanic in nature.

Why would we attack a ministry team like the BGEA when they work so hard at getting people back on track as the following illustration shows?

**Tuesday April 3, 2001**

**Dear Mr. Graham:**

I know I wasn't a very good father, but now I have three grandchildren I never get to see because my children don't want anything to do with me, and haven't since I left their mother for another woman. I don't even know why I'm writing, but maybe you can pray for me, that things will get better somehow. -- J.W.

## II. The Gate of Restriction (Matthew 7:14) (Contd.)

Dear J.W. :

One reason I wanted to reprint your letter is because it sadly underlines an important truth we often forget: **When we make bad decisions in life, we have to live with the consequences.** Perhaps your words will help someone avoid the mistakes you've made.

**You cannot change the past. But with God's help you can change the future -- and you need to, because from what you say elsewhere in your letter you are continuing down the same wrong road you've followed all your life.** Jesus warned, *"wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it" (Matthew 7:13)*. Why stay on it any longer?

By a simple prayer of faith, turn to Christ, confessing your sins to Him and asking Him to come into your life. **You need His forgiveness -- and He has promised to give it, if you will sincerely commit your life to Him.** Then make it your goal to follow Him every day, instead of following your own selfish desires.

**Then reach out to your children, letting them know that you regret the past and want to reestablish contact. I can't guarantee that their attitude will instantly change. But God can overcome these barriers as you ask Him to change your own life -- and change them as well.**

2000 Tribune Media Services

The Dung (Refuse) Gate for centuries only allowed one way travel to the Valley of Hinnom. It eventually became the place where they sacrificed their children to Molech's heated arms where they would scream out before dying. It is where the people of Jerusalem would take their dump and then return through the Valley Gate or Fountain Gate a short distance on the Southeast corner.

This gate was modernized by the Jordanians after the 1967 war. It now allows vehicles to travel both ways (but the exception is ONLY to allow authorised vehicles). There are only 8 gates in Jerusalem today. **It was not designed for two way travel - it was modernized to accept it!**

**It is imperative to see that we must live a life on a straight pathway and a narrow gate.** There is no other way that is acceptable to God. It does not mean that we cannot enjoy life. In fact, have you noticed how those who do walk the straight and narrow often keep themselves from many different trials, troubles and temptations? And there is one other very important thing to know. **There is an awesome Gate of Reward awaiting us.**

### III. The Gate of Reward (Revelation 21:12)

I want you to think for a moment about the crowd of people who shouted Hosanna to the Lord on that day of celebration almost 2000 years ago. I'm referring to those who celebrated from their heart. And they kept on the road that was straight until the time of their death. They did not waver in the truth that had grasped their hearts. They would not allow the influence of the ungodly to warp their beliefs. I want to show you the last Gate that they entered. **I have chosen to call it the Gate of Reward.**

*“And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.*

*11. It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.*

*12. It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. **On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.***

*13. There were three gates on the East, the three on the north, three on the South and three on the West.*

*21. The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was up of gold, like transparent glass.*

*27. Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.*

*Revelation 21:10-13,21,27*

There will be 12 gates to choose from in the Holy City known as the Jerusalem of heaven. One of those pearls will guide our entrance into this city that is built four square. It is hard for our mortal minds to comprehend a city that has a wall made of jasper and streets of pure gold that look like transparent glass (Revelation 21:18, 21). It is hard to imagine that the foundation of this city is made of twelve precious stones.

I can't comprehend how there can be no need of either a sun or a moon because the glory of God is its ONLY lamp (Revelation 21: 23). And I can't wait to enter into that city where the gates will never be closed (Revelation 21: 25).

I can't wait to see the river of the water of life that flows clear as crystal from the throne of God and of the Lamb down through the middle of the great street of this city. It will be amazing to look at either side of this river and see the trees of life bearing twelve crops of fruit, one every month (Revelation 22:1-2).

### III. The Gate of Reward (Revelation 21:12) (Contd)

There will be no more night  
There will be no more curse  
There will be no more death  
There will be no more pain  
There will be no more lies  
There will be no more magic arts  
There will be no more sexual immorality  
There will be no more idolatry  
There will be no more sin or sorrow

Don't give up heading toward this gate for anything. Nothing but nothing is worth its replacement. Set your eyes on heaven and never let them grow dim. **There is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun.**

Which way are you heading? Do you have a 100% assurance that you are heading in the right direction? There is only one way to go – UPWARD and ONWARD. Jesus led the way. He is the Only Way. He no longer rides upon a donkey as He did on the first Palm Sunday. His steed is now a majestic white horse of victory. **Let us celebrate the One who paved the way and who is the Gate.**

*“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.”*

*John 10:9*

That He should leave His throne on high,  
And come for sinful man to die:  
You count it strange? So once did I –  
Before I knew my Saviour.

**What Type of Gate must We Enter and What Gate must We Depart from to Gain the Fulness of the Lord?**

**I. The Gate of Righteousness (Psalm 118:19-21)**

**II. The Gate of Restriction (Matthew 7:14)**

**III. The Gate of Reward (Revelation 21:12)**

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Date: March 24/24

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: To Him Who Sits on the Throne - C

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**II. The Gate of Restriction (Matthew 7:14)**

**III. The Gate of Reward (Revelation 21:12)** - *Revelation 21:10-13,21,27; Revelation 21:18, 21, 23, 25; 22:1–2*