

Gate - Shaarim

Guarding Our Gates

Psalm 24:7-10. In Israel the city gate was the center of community activity. Very few important things happened elsewhere in Israel. The gate served as the seat of judgement, where justice was dispensed (Josh 20:4) ^{Deut 16:18-20} and heard! It also served as the pulpit or bema area for the preaching of the word. (Neh 8:1-6). The city gate was the point of open air rallies to prepare the people & soldiers of Israel for battle. (2 Annals 32:6-8). The city gate was the place for most major business transactions to be negotiated. (Amos 5:10-15). Both honest & dishonest. The city gate was a contact point for news & information. It served as a newscenter of fact & fiction. (Psalms 69:12). Shopping markets flourished at the gates. "Fish & Sheep markets" (Neh 3:3 & 3:11), & imports (Isa 3:18-24). Prophets & priests delivered prophetic rebuke. The city gate was the best place to kill a prophet! Kings held audiences (2 Sam 19:8). 1 Kings 22:10. City elders were appointed and seated. (Prov 31:23, Dan 2:49).

The city gate was the easiest access point by enemies set on Israel's destruction. Therefore it had to be the most fortified. Doors were metal & wood with secured iron cross bars. The city gates were flanked by towers manned by watchmen 24 hrs a day, against the enemy. Gates signified authority. Gen 28:17, Matt 16:18. All Israel's battles were won or lost at the gates.

Close - The gate in N.C. Israel is our heart & our home. The heart is the weak link in our city. Your body is the city. Your heart is the gate or entry point. Prov 4:23. What we allow in our gate (heart) ~~will~~ either plants itself there or will come out. Mark 7:15-23. We must guard ~~our~~ our gate or these sins

that we allow in, will come out & defile others. We can exert authority & control over the inner gate of the heart, by standing watch. (Deut. 11-18-20). The same way a mezuzah (the word) guards the gate to our physical home, so must His Word guard our & His temple. We are called to guard the doorway to the heart as well as the gate to our heart.

The following will guard & protect both the gate of your heart & of your home.

① Lamb's blood ② Torah-mezuzah ③ Severely restricting, T.V, radio, videos, music, & reading material ④ Child training. You not the state ⑤ The mouths of those in your home (Psalm 141:3). ⑥ Refuse the unrighteous entry. Make your home a "higher ground". Be like an elder at Israel's gate. ⑦ Make your gates a place of peace, joy, righteousness & praise. Rom 14:17, Psalm 118:20, Psalms:4.

* Our gates should be guarded & most often closed to all darts of Satan & should be opened only for the King & His business only!
Psalm 24:7-10!