

9 Gates

If you visit Jerusalem today, you will find 9 gates that enter the Old City. Most people grasp the deep significance of the Old City. Few pinpoint the deep love the Father holds for its gates. As we consider these scriptures, we begin to target our sights on those places the Father loves the most in all the world.

The Lord's eyes are on this land Israel continually. (Deuteronomy 11:12)

The thrones of judgement and the thrones of the House of David are there (Psalm 122:5)

It is the dwelling place He chose for His name (Nehemiah 1:9)

He loves Jacob. Israel is the apple of His eye. (Zechariah 2:8)

The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. (Psalm 87:2)

The word "Israel" occurs 2,294 times in the King James Version of the Bible. Adonai deeply loves the land of Israel. And, He calls the gates of Zion more precious than any other place. In fact, the one thing He longs with all His heart and soul to do is plant the Jewish people in His land (Jeremiah 32:41). With all His heart and all His soul, He will plant them in Israel. The Jewish people are so precious in His sight (Isaiah 43:4)

Now, you may not be Jewish. You may wonder if there is a home for you in this precious, cherished, beloved plan. I assure you, you are deeply wanted. There is a place for you.

Thus says the LORD: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who holds it fast, who keeps the sabbath, not profaning it, and keeps his hand from doing any evil." Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from his people"; and let not the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who keep my sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name which shall not be cut off. "And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, every one who keeps the sabbath, and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. (Isaiah 56:1-7)

With an understanding of the strategic importance of the nine existing gates of Zion, we can pray. Our prayers begin with four small words; “Thy will be done.” Only a surrendered soul can truly embrace this sacrificial prayer that comes from loving the Father with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.

THY: The desires and motives of my heart are not mine, but thine.

WILL: I devote my thoughts and intents of all my mind.

BE: All I am, my soul, every dream — His will is the essence of my very being.

DONE: The strength of my hands dedicated to His hopes and plans.

Perhaps, His greatest dream will be the salvation of all Israel. Romans 11:26 Pray for it.

Genesis 15:18 - In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

Ezekiel 37:21 - And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:

Amos 9:14-15 - And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit [them]; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. (Read More...)

Ezekiel 11:17 - Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

Genesis 17:7-8 - And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

Acts 1:6 - When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

The Beautiful Gate

יָפָה שַׁעַר

This gate faces East.
We know it existed from the
time of the earliest believers
(Acts 3:2)

Messiah returns through
this gate.

A crown is promised for
those who wait
for His reappearing
(2 Timothy 4:8)

This gate reminds us to pray
for His return.



The Dung Gate

פֶּרֶשׁ שַׁעַר

We know this gate existed at least to the time of Nehemiah. It is located in the South East of the Old City, as the current gateway to the Western Wall and Temple Mount, the Hebrew word for this gate is Peresh which means “eliminated”.

This gate reminds us that so many precious unborn children are thrown out like trash and compels us to pray for the unborn. The Father hates the shedding of innocent blood (Proverbs 6:7)



The Tanners Gate

עֹר שַׁעַר

Almost too small to notice,
and facing south,
this Medieval Gate is wide
enough for pedestrians.
This gate reminds us to
pray for the widows;
their leathery skin
is only too precious to our King
who is their defender (Psalm 68:5)

The Zion Gate

שַׁעַר צִיּוֹן

This gate faces almost precisely South. The facade is riddled with bullet holes, deep scars from war. It reminds us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may those who love her prosper (Psalm 122:6). And to pray for the return of the Jewish people; the Father longs for this with all His heart and soul (Jeremiah 32:41).



Jaffa Gate

שַׁעַר יָפוֹ

The oldest Christian Church in the Middle East stands inside this gate that faces West to the port of Jaffa. The seat of Israeli government is also in the West. The name Jaffa, which means beauty, reminds us to pray for the Father to send laborers to His harvest (Matthew 9:38) and pray for the beauty of holiness in our leaders (1 Timothy 2:1).



The New Gate

שַׁעַר הַחַדָּשׁ

This northwest gate is the only one leading into the Christian Quarter of the Old City.

A shield of David is embedded in the gate;
our King is a shield
to the Fatherless. (Psalm 82:3)
The New Gate reminds us
to pray for the Orphans.



Damascus Gate

שַׁעַר דַּמָּשֶׁק

The name Damascus means “silent is the sackcloth weaver.” This gate faces due North to Damascus. This most elaborate and bustling of all the gates is teeming with Arab families and reminds us to pray for the strangers who our Father loves. (Deuteronomy 10:18)



Sheep Gate/ Flower Gate

שַׁעַר צֹאן

Facing North East, this gate is considered to be the Old City's weakest defensive point. Once the sight of a weekly sheep market, it reminds us to pray for the shepherds. Those pastors and Rabbis who labor in the word and doctrine are worthy of double honor. (1 Timothy 5:17)



The Lion Gate

שַׁעַר אֲרִי

Four lions adorn this East facing entrance into the Old City. It is also called Stephen's Gate, since it is said to be the site of Stephen's martyrdom. This gate reminds us to pray for the persecuted believers and the prisoners (Hebrews 13:3).

