

Take Out the Trash
Nehemiah 3:14
Built to Last – Part 8
Wednesday, May 16, 2018

The Meaning of the name “Jerusalem”

- The name "Shalem" is derived from the same root as the word "shalom", meaning peace
- The common interpretation of the name is now "The City of Peace" or "Abode of Peace"

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever

- At which time there will be perfect peace throughout the world because the world will be ruled by the Prince of Peace – He will be in complete control

Isaiah 65:25

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust [shall be] the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.

I don't believe this is figurative language – this is the literal Kingdom that is yet to come

- But remember what Jesus commanded us to pray:

Matthew 6:10

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as [it is] in heaven.

I don't believe Jesus is talking about praying for the literal Kingdom – He is teaching us to pray for the spiritual Kingdom of God to come

- As His followers – we are the ones responsible to bring the spiritual power and principles of the Kingdom of God to this earth

Luke 17:21

Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Nehemiah's mission was to rebuild the physical City of Jerusalem which had been plundered by the enemy through the Babylonian Captivity

- Our mission is to rebuild the “spiritual” city of Jerusalem – the spiritual Kingdom of Jesus within us

Background of the Dung Gate

This is the gate that they would take all the rubbish out of Jerusalem, down to the valley of Hinnom to be burned

This is what happens in the life of the believer

God uses the “Valley Experiences” in the life of the Believer to clear away the rubbish so that true faith can come forth to produce the fruit necessary for us to receive the blessing of God

After this gate – after the rubbish is removed – the next gate is that of the Fountain Gate

- The Fountain Gate will speak to us of the blessing of the Holy Spirit in our lives

It is the will of God for you to experience the uninhibited and unhindered flow of the Holy Spirit in your life every day

John 7:37-39

In the last day, that great [day] of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet [given]; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

**This comes through the experience of being filled with the Holy Ghost
It is an experience that God wants every believer to have**

That is what the Fountain Gate is all about –

- An experience completely separate and subsequent to salvation

Before we get to the Fountain Gate...We must pass through the Dung Gate

- In other words – before we experience the blessing of the flow of the Holy Ghost in our lives and in our church
- There are some things that must be removed in order for the Holy Spirit to have the freedom to flow in our lives and in our services
- There are some things that will hinder the flow of God’s presence in our lives

Therefore – this was a necessary gate of elimination

Without elimination – there can be no multiplication

Growth will not come until the issues that have limited my growth have been eliminated and removed

Trials are many times the means by which God eliminates the unnecessary issues in your life

Three Biblical reasons God allows difficulty into our lives

Reason #1: God allows trials to strengthen us –

Romans 5:3

And not only [so], but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience

Philippians 1:12

But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things [which happened] unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel

Reason #2: God allows trials to discipline us

Proverbs 3:11

My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

Hebrews 12:7

If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected [us], and we paid [them] respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live

Discipline is a sign of two things:

- The incredible love of God
- The fact that we are the sons of God

Reason #3: God allows trials to purify us –

1Peter 1:7

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Purification is necessary for perfection

Character is not developed in crisis – character is revealed in crisis

So my question to you tonight is this:

- What trash needs to be taken out of your life so you can experience the unlimited flow of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- What relationship is standing in the way of God moving in your life the way He wants to move?
- What thoughts are keeping you from the move of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- Are there issues that need to be removed from your life before you can really experience the power of the Holy Ghost?

The Process by Which This Happens:

The Spirit

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us [fn] with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit [is], because He makes intercession for the saints according to [the will of] God. That is why praying in the Holy Ghost is important

John 16:7

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you

The Scriptures

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- The Word of God is one of the most important pieces of the spiritual armor listed in Ephesians 6

Ephesians 6:17

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

We come against these in order to destroy them – not merely delay them

Colossians 3:5

Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

The Struggle

Examine to see what issues must be brought through the Dung Gate

- Let the prayer of the Psalmist become your prayer

Psalm 139:23

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts