

I AM

the Gate

Exodus 27:9-21

John 10:1-18

Matthew 7:13-29

Pressing Forward into 2023



18 June 2023

Eternal Purpose

God's Desire to Dwell with His People (Handout)

The Exodus: The Greatest Miracle in the Old Testament

- Our view of Biblical events and acts of God is SO SMALL!
 - Creation, Grace, Mercy, Love, Faith, Salvation, the EXODUS, etc., etc.
 - Our view of GOD is SO SMALL that it is blasphemous.
- Consider the logistics of the Exodus.

What We Have Learned So Far?

- Over 50 chapters of the Word of God speak to the Tabernacle.
- The Tabernacle was the meeting place for God and His people.
- God took the initiative.
- The plan was a very detailed plan - a very exact plan. (Consider Gal 1:6-9)
- The Tabernacle was a tent - temporary dwelling.
- The Tabernacle was placed in the middle of the Camp.
- It was prophesied over 500 hundred years that the materials needed for the Tabernacle would be provided by the Egyptians!!!!!! (Genesis 15)
- God provided gifted artisans to make sure that His Tabernacle (that foreshadowed Christ and Salvation) would be built EXACTLY according to HIS PLAN.

How Does One Get to God

 (Handout)

- **The Layout**
 - Outer Court
 - Holy Place
 - Holy of Holies
- Either you are OUTSIDE of Christ with absolutely no way to God or you are IN CHRIST and have access to God through Christ.
- God demonstrated in the Tabernacle that there is ONLY ONE EXACT way to Him - HIS WAY and ONLY HIS WAY.

- ▶ The way is said to be EXACT because over and over we hear God say, “According to all that I show you, that is, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make it.” (Exodus 25:9, 40; 26:30; Numbers 8:4; Acts 7:44; Hebrews 8:5)

The TENT of MEETING (Exodus 25:22)

The Outer Court

- This court was for the chosen and redeemed people. (Psalm 65:4; 100:4)
- It's linens - these spoke of Christ's purity/righteousness. (1 John 2:1; 3:5; 2 Cor 5:21; Jeremiah 23:6; Isaiah 45:24-25; 54:17; Romans 3:22; Philip 3:9)
- It's sockets - these were made of brass/bronze and speak of judgment. See Revelation 1:15; 2:18.
- It's pillars - these spoke of strength and Christ's ability to TAKE the judgment of God. (Proverbs 18:10; Isaiah 32:2)
- It's hooks and fillets - these were made of silver which spoke of redemption. Earthbound the foundation was brass/judgment. Heavenly there was the results of taking the judgment for others - redemption of our souls. See Exodus 30:13-16; 38:38:25 - Same price for everyone.
- It's ropes and “nails” or “pegs” - There is no evidence that the Tabernacle fell or blown away by desert winds. The ropes and nails SECURED IT.
 - ▶ The ropes remind us of Hosea 11:4 (Deut 7:7-8; Eph 2:4-5; Jer 31:3)
 - ▶ The “nails” remind us of Isaiah 22:20-25 - Eliakim (“God sets up”), a picture of the Messiah - the Christ.
 - ▶ We are SECURED in Christ - consider John 10:27-28!

The ONE Gate - NO OTHER WAY!

- Fine linen, blue, red and purple.

Christ Is the Tabernacle of God

- He “tabernacled” dwelt with His people. (John 1:1, 14)
- God was manifest in the flesh! Paul calls it a great mystery. (1 Tim 3:16; John 14:9, 10, 11)
- In Jesus was the fullness of the Godhead (Colossians 1:19; 2:9).
- God in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:19)
- ONLY through Christ does one have fellowship/peace with God.
- Christ is where God and His people meet. **Christ IS the “tent of meeting”.**
- (Exodus 25:9) God is approached and enjoyed in HIS WAY! One comes to God to worship, commune, and fellowship HIS WAY - in strict accordance to His written Word - Will.

Christ Is the Gate (John 10:7-9)

- (John 10:7, 9) "I AM the **GATE**" (Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 10:19-22)
 - This is a very bold statement that Christ makes.
 - He prefixes His statement with the words, "MOST ASSUREDLY" or "THIS IS THE TRUTH". One either must accept these words or he/she must call Christ a LIAR. **There is no middle ground.**
 - In the eastern sheep pen there was only ONE DOOR/GATE.
 - Just like there was only one door on the Ark of Noah.
 - Just like there was only one gate to enter the Tabernacle.
- Christ was declaring that HE, and HE alone, is the way to God.
 - In John 14:6, Christ declared, "I AM **the** way, **the** truth, and **the** life."
 - Christ did not come to **show** the way but HE came to be the one and only way to God.
- The "sheep's door" - this is a personal door. Christ is saying, "I AM the sheep's door." We are not to focus on an object but a person!
- There is NO OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN by which one MUST be saved. (Acts 4:12)
- SO THERE IS NO OTHER WAY TO GOD EXCEPT THROUGH CHRIST.

Christ, the Gate for His Sheep (John 10:27-29)

- Christ's sheep are those whom the Father gave Him **before the foundation of the world.** (John 10:29; 17:2, 6, 9, 11, 24; Eph 1:3-6) **READ John 10:26.**
- Christ died for **EVERY ONE** of His sheep - only those given to Him by the Father. (John 10:11, 15, 18)
- **EVERY SINGLE** one of Christ's sheep WILL come to Him. (John 6:37, 39; John 6:44, 45)
- **EVERY SINGLE** one of Christ's sheep HEAR (hear and obey) His voice (the Holy Spirit). (John 10:4, 16, 27-28)
- **EVERY SINGLE** one of Christ's sheep is KNOWN by Christ. (John 10:3, 14, 27; 2 Timothy 2:19; Galatians 4:9) **IN CONTRAST TO MATTHEW 7:23.**
- **EVERY SINGLE** one of Christ's sheep FOLLOW Him. (John 10:4, 27; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23; 1 John 2:28-3:10)
- To **EVERY SINGLE** one of His sheep who hear Him and follow Him He gives three promises:
 - ① He gives **them** eternal life - **new life to serve God.** (Romans 6:23; John 17:2; 1 John 2:25; 5:11-12; Romans 6:11-22; 8:29)
 - ② **They** shall never perish. (John 3:14; Romans 8:1, 33-39; Hebrews 7:25)
 - ③ **They** are secure in His hand and **no one** shall snatch **them** out of His hand.

Christ, the Gate to Salvation (John 10:9)

- “IF *any* man enter in *by ME*, he shall be saved.”
- Up to this point Christ had been speaking to the *elect* of Israel. But here He speaks to the *elect* of the world.
- This is the door to the presence of God.
- We were alienated (separated) from God (Ephesians 4:18; Colossians 1:21) but now are able to draw near through Christ (Ephesians 2:13)
- A gate speaks of an easy entrance as compared to high walls to climb.
- A gate speaks of an easy entrance as compared to a long passage.
- Jesus said, “**BY ME** if anyone enters in . . .”
 - ✗ NOT by baptism
 - ✗ NOT by a personal testimony
 - ✗ NOT by tradition or custom
- Jesus is the ONE who brings us to God - not ourselves. (John 10:16; 1 Peter 3:18; Luke 15:5,6)
- (1 Timothy 2:5) Christ is the ONLY Mediator between God and men.
- (John 14:6) NO ONE comes to the Father EXCEPT by ME!

The Gate that Leads to Life (Matthew 7:13-14)

- The Gate leads to **THE** Way (John 14:6) that leads to Life (John 14:6; 1 John 5:11-12)
 - Eternal Life:
 - ★ Quantity of life - FOREVER - John 10:27-30
 - ★ Quality of life - a new creature; a new man. (2 Cor 5:17; 1 Jn 3:1-10)
- The WAY is a life journeying on the “Highway of holiness”. (Isaiah 35:8)
- The WAY is a life in the pursuit of holiness. (Hebrews 12:14)
- The WAY is a life practicing/living the righteousness of God. (1 John 2:28-3:10; Romans 6:6-22)
- The WAY is a life of obeying God’s commandments. (Psalm 112:1; 119:6, 10, 32, 35, 47, 131; 1 John 2:3-4; John 14:15, 21, 23-24; 15:10, 13-14)
- The WAY is a life of serving the living God. (Romans 6:13-14; 7:6; 12:1-2, 11; Colossians 3:24; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Hebrews 12:28-29)
- The WAY is a life of serving as a bondservant the brothers and sisters in church. (Matthew 20:28 with Philippians 2:5-7 with 1 John 2:6)

Only a FEW Find this Gate

- ONLY a few find and enter this gate, Christ. (Matthew 7:14)
- ONLY a few are yoked to Him along the Way. (Matthew 11:25-30)
- ONLY a few FOLLOW Him. (Luke 9:23; 14:26-33; John 10:27-28)
- ONLY the few ON THE WAY are given eternal life. (Matt 7:14; Rom 2:5-11)
- **WARNING:** One day this gate/door will be closed. (Luke 13:22-30)