

Summer Topical Series #10
‘Opening the Gates of Jerusalem’
Psalm 96:1-6; 122:1-9

0.0 Introduction

- 0.1 Gates of the city in classical times: essential ingress/egress, needing defense in wartime
- 0.2 Walled “old city” of Jerusalem today has eight gates (4 in Crusader era), and similar number in Jesus’ day (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gates_of_the_Old_City_of_Jerusalem)
- 0.3 The cool side of ancient gates: giant room with two massive double doorways w soldiers; gates essential for daily people movement, incl. trade (hence: ‘elders in the gate’)
- 0.4 The request the led to all this? *How to be drawn into worship*

1.0 Things to Know About Jerusalem’s Gates (in Ps.122)

- 1.1 One “goes up” to city of Jerusalem, and to the temple mount area (v.1)
- 1.2 Jerusalem a “compact city” (today 1/3 sq. mile) with multiple gates (vv.2-3)
- 1.3 The Golden Gate on east side (over Kidron Valley and Mt. of Olives) accesses both city and Temple Mount (facing into Beautiful/Bronze Gate of temple, Ac.3:2,10)
- 1.4 A central place of worship for all tribes & God-fearers (vv.4-5)
- 1.5 Well-being of city and eagerness to worship are connected

2.0 Things That Obstruct the Gates of Worship

- 2.1 Civil problems (like Covid) interfere with worship
- 2.2 Disinterested and distracted people tend to avoid worship (Matt.22:5)
- 2.3 Individualism diverts from worship
- 2.4 Our own sin (or frustration at others’ sin) suppresses worship
- 2.5 Cringe response to our sin (per Gen.3:8-10) diverts from worship
- 2.6 Pride: ‘those hypocrites’ – straw men distract from worship

3.0 Things That Open the Gates of Jerusalem

- 3.1 An expanding vision of our glorious God – Ps.96:1-6
- 3.2 Fear & reverence & need & thankfulness
- 3.3 Hunger...for knowledge, growth, fellowship (Matt.5:6)
- 3.4 Finding home – with Father & family
- 3.5 Family affection (I Jn.4:7; 3:10-18)

Next Week (Sept.13) – Summer Topical Series #11
“Full of Grace and Truth” – Jn.1:14-18

Psalm 96: 1-6 (NASB)

96 Sing to the LORD a new song;
Sing to the LORD, all the earth.
² Sing to the LORD, bless His name;
Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.
³ Tell of His glory among the nations,
His wonderful deeds among all the peoples.
⁴ For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
He is to be feared above all gods.
⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
But the LORD made the heavens.
⁶ Splendor and majesty are before Him,
Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Psalm 122: 1-9 (NASB)

A Song of Ascents, of David.

122 I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
² Our feet are standing
Within your gates, O Jerusalem,
³ Jerusalem, that is built
As a city that is compact together;
⁴ To which the tribes go up, even the tribes of the LORD—
An ordinance for Israel—
To give thanks to the name of the LORD.
⁵ For there thrones were set for judgment,
The thrones of the house of David.
⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.
⁷ “May peace be within your walls,
And prosperity within your palaces.”
⁸ For the sake of my brothers and my friends,
I will now say, “May peace be within you.”
⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your good.