

GATES—SPIRITUAL ENTRYWAYS

Gen. 28:17—‘And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."’

Gate=passageway, channel, opening in a wall or barrier created so things can pass through

- I. Gates in OT times were literal places that the prophets and Christ used to symbolize kingdom truths.
 - A. Provided controlled access to a city and was usually strongly fortified. (Josh. 2:7; 7:5; Judg. 16:2, 3; 18:16, 17; 2 Kgs 11:6; 14:13)
 - B. Location where the city government and legal leaders met to make judicial decisions. (Gen. 19:1; Dt. 25:7; 2 Sam. 19:8; Lam. 5:14)
 - C. Location where business contracts were ratified and witnessed, court proceedings were held and where other business and social functions took place. (Gen. 34:24; Ruth 4:1, 11; 2 Sam. 15:2)
 - D. Location where God’s prophets delivered messages to the city and the city elders. (1 Kgs. 22:10; 2 Chron. 18:9; Jer. 7:2; 17:19; 26:10; Is. 29:21; Amos 5:10)
 - E. Location of public deliberation, reading the law and proclamations. (2 Chron. 32:6; Neh. 8:1, 3).

- II. Gates are a symbol of the ‘entryways’ into God’s city and God’s covenant purposes.
 - A. Is. 26:2—‘Open the gates, that the righteous nation may enter, the one that remains faithful.’

Is. 60:11—‘And your gates will be open continually; they will not be closed day or night, so that *men* may bring to you the wealth of the nations, with their kings led in procession.’

Is. 62:10—‘Go through, go through the gates; clear the way for the people; build up, build up the highway; remove the stones, lift up a standard over the peoples.’

Ps. 87:1-3—‘ His foundation is in the holy mountains. The LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the *other* dwelling places of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of God.’

Ps. 118:18-21—‘The LORD has disciplined me severely, but He has not given me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness; I shall enter through them, I shall give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous will enter through it. I shall give thanks to Thee, for Thou hast answered me; and Thou hast become my salvation.’
 - B. Gates are related to the place of authority and blessing.

Gen 22:17—‘indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.’

Gen. 24:60—‘And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of ten thousands, and may your descendants possess the gate of

those who hate them.”

1. ‘possess the gate of their enemies’ means to conquer the enemy and capture their cities.

2. ‘possess the gate of their enemies’ speaks of the blessings of the covenant.

C. Gates are entryways to the heavens.

Gen. 28:17—‘And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”’

III. Gates are symbolic of demonic powers that war against God’s people.

Is. 45:1-3—‘Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His anointed, Whom I have taken by the right hand, To subdue nations before him, And to loose the loins of kings; To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze, and cut through their iron bars. And I will give you the treasures of darkness, And hidden wealth of secret places, In order that you may know that it is I, The LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.’

Jer. 51:58—‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, "The broad wall of Babylon will be completely razed, And her high gates will be set on fire; So the peoples will toil for nothing, And the nations become exhausted *only* for fire.”

the gates of death

Job 38:17—‘Have the gates of death been revealed to you? Or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?’

Ps. 9:13-14—‘Be gracious to me, O LORD; behold my affliction from those who hate me, Thou who dost lift me up from the gates of death; that I may tell of all Thy praises, that in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in Thy salvation.

Mat. 16:18-19—‘And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.’

Jesus is obviously speaking of spiritual gates that we have spiritual weapons to withstand. In heathen cities the open spaces near the gates were sometimes used as places for sacrifices. (Acts 14:13; 2 Kgs. 23:8)

IV. Spiritual gates are spiritual entryways that legally provide access to land, city, business, school, family, certain influential people, etc.

A. As a Hindu temple is built, it is dedicated and prayed over by Hindu priests which defiles the land providing the legal access for demonic powers. The temple becomes the gateway (spiritual entry) for demonic powers to set up a garrison in a city and begin to affect the people of the city.

B. A witch or new ager in the work place will pray, cast spells, mark territory, etc. which will defile the work place area providing legal access for demonic powers. This person, their work area and their platform of influence become a gateway of demonic

powers that will affect the business. Signs to notice are heaviness, confusion, financial problems, dissention among employees, accidents, etc.

- C. A Christian filled with the Holy Spirit will pray, wage spiritual warfare and mark God's territory which will bless the work place (neighborhood, etc.) and release the influence of the Spirit into that situation.

HIGH PLACES

- I. High places are places of worship. 'High' speaks of having first place, the place of notoriety and the place of influence.
 - A. What are the 'high places' that we see in the Word?

Lev. 26:30—'I then will destroy your high places, and cut down your incense altars, and heap your remains on the remains of your idols; for My soul shall abhor you.'

Dt.12:2—'you shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess serve their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. And you shall tear down their altars and smash their sacred pillars and burn their Asherim with fire, and you shall cut down the engraved images of their gods, and you shall obliterate their name from that place.'
 - B. High places are usually a place such as a hill, mountain or tree where worship is given to a false deity along with many idols and symbols. The worship of false deities always leads to sexual perversions, which were a common practice on the high places. The LORD abhors the high place of wickedness!

- II. Why is the high place so significant?
 - A. Ez. 28:13-14—'You were in Eden, the garden of God...you were on the holy mountain of God...' Eden was the original holy mountain of the Lord.
 - B. God chose mountains as sites for His redemptive acts and revelations.
 1. Abraham offered Isaac (Father offering Christ) (Gen 22:2) on Mt. Moriah.
 2. David saw the angel ready to destroy Jerusalem and offered a sacrifice for atonement on Mt. Moriah (1 Chron. 21:15-17).
 3. Solomon built the temple on Mt. Moriah (2 Chron. 3:1).
 4. The law and covenant were given on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19:12).
 5. Moses and the elders met God on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 24:1-11).
 6. Elijah triumphed over Baal on Mt. Carmel (1 Kgs. 18).
 7. God revealed Himself to Elijah on Mt. Horeb (Sinai) (1 Kgs. 19).
 8. Jesus' first sermon giving the law was on a mountain (Mat. 5:1).
 9. Christ appointed His apostles on a mountain (Mk. 3:13-19).
 10. The transfiguration was on a mountain.
 11. Jesus pronounced the final judgment against the faithless covenant people from a mountain (Mat. 24).
 12. Jesus prevailed over temptation at the beginning (Mat. 4:8-11) and the end (Mat. 26:30).
 13. Jesus commissioned His disciples from a mountain (Mat. 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-19).
 - C. God's plan has always been to occupy the high places of the earth with His people, His kingdom and His presence.
 1. The church has come to Mt. Zion (Heb. 12:22) and is to be a city set on a hill (Mat. 5:14).

Is. 57:15—‘For thus says the high and exalted One who lives forever, whose name is Holy, ‘I dwell *on* a high and holy place, and *also* with the contrite and lowly of spirit in order to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.’

Ps. 91:9—‘For you have made the Lord, my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place.’

1 Sam. 9:12-25—‘...So they went up to the city. As they came into the city, behold, Samuel was coming out toward them to go up to the high place...’

2. Is. 2:2-3—‘Now it will come about that in the last days, the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways, and that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.’ (Is. 11:9; 25:6-9; 56:3-8; 65:25; Micah 4:1-4).
3. Dan. 2:34-35, 44—‘You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue ***became a great mountain and filled the whole earth***..... And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and *that* kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.’
4. Ps. 2:6—‘But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.’
Ps. 48:2—‘Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion *in* the far north, the city of the great King.’
Ps 76:2—‘And His tabernacle is in Salem; His dwelling place also is in Zion.’
Ps 78:68—‘But chose the tribe of Judah, Mount Zion which He loved.’
Ps 84:5—‘How blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee; in whose heart are the highways to Zion!’

D. God’s plan is to rule from the high place.

1. Ps 110:2—‘The LORD will stretch forth Thy strong scepter from Zion, *saying*, "Rule in the midst of Thine enemies."’
Amos 4:13—‘For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind and declares to man what are His thoughts, He who makes dawn into darkness and treads on the high places of the earth, the LORD God of hosts is His name.’
2. Hab. 3:19—‘The Lord GOD is my strength, and He has made my feet like hinds’ *feet*, and makes me walk on my high places.’

III. The Children of Israel were lead astray to the high places of other gods throughout their history. God's judgment came upon them for these abominations.

1 Kgs. 3:4—'Now Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place; Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.'

1 Kgs. 11:5-8—'For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians and after Milcom the detestable idol of the Ammonites. And Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not follow the LORD fully, as David his father had done. Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the detestable idol of Moab, on the mountain which is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the detestable idol of the sons of Ammon.'

1 Kgs. 14:23-23—'For they also built for themselves high places and sacred pillars and Asherim on every high hill and beneath every luxuriant tree. And there were also male cult prostitutes in the land. They did according to all the abominations of the nations which the LORD dispossessed before the sons of Israel.'

2 Kgs. 12:3—'Only the high places were not taken away; the people still sacrificed and burned incense on the high places.' 2 Kgs. 14:4; 15:4; 35

2 Kgs. 17:11—'and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations did which the LORD had carried away to exile before them; and they did evil things provoking the LORD.'

2 Kgs. 17:29—'But every nation still made gods of its own and put them in the houses of the high places which the people of Samaria had made, every nation in their cities in which they lived.'

2 Kgs. 18:4—'He removed the high places and broke down the *sacred* pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan.'

2 Kgs. 21:3-7—'For he rebuilt the high places which Hezekiah his father had destroyed; and he erected altars for Baal and made an Asherah, as Ahab king of Israel had done, and worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. And he built altars in the house of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put My name." For he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD. And he made his son pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and used divination, and dealt with mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD provoking Him to anger. Then he set the carved image of Asherah that he had made, in the house of which the LORD said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever.'"

Pr. 9:14—'And she (prostitute) sits at the doorway of her house, on a seat by the high places of the city...'

Jer. 7:31—'And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, and it did not come into My mind.'

Jer. 19:5—‘and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, a thing which I never commanded or spoke of, nor did it *ever* enter My mind...’ Jer. 32:35

Ez. 16:16-39—‘And you took some of your clothes, made for yourself high places of various colors, and played the harlot on them, which should never come about nor happen..... that you built yourself a shrine and made yourself a high place in every square. You built yourself a high place at the top of every street, and made your beauty abominable; and you spread your legs to every passer-by to multiply your harlotry..... When you built your shrine at the beginning of every street and made your high place in every square, in disdaining money, you were not like a harlot.

Micah 1:5—‘All this is for the rebellion of Jacob and for the sins of the house of Israel. What is the rebellion of Jacob? Is it not Samaria? What is the high place of Judah? Is it not Jerusalem?’

Hosea 10:8—‘Also the high places of Aven (vanity), the sin of Israel, will be destroyed...’

IV. Principles of warfare for high places.

A. The Children of Israel were forbidden to take over the pagan altars and high places and use them to worship the Lord. If they ever did, it led to apostasy (2 Kgs. 17:7-18; 21:2-9; 23:4-25). This shows how the defilement of the land must be broken before it is reclaimed and used for righteousness.

B. Demonic high places must be pulled down and destroyed in the spirit.

Dt. 12:2—‘you shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations whom you shall dispossess serve their gods...’

2 Chron 31:1—‘Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah, broke the pillars in pieces, cut down the Asherim, and pulled down the high places and the altars throughout all Judah and Benjamin, as well as in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had destroyed them all. Then all the sons of Israel returned to their cities, each to his possession.’

2 Kgs. 18:4—‘He removed the high places and broke down the *sacred* pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan (to practice divination, divine, observe signs, learn by experience, diligently observe, practice fortune telling, take as an omen).

C. All demonic spirits and people refusing to bow to Christ must be driven away.

Num. 33:52—‘then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, and destroy all their figured stones, and destroy all their molten images and demolish all their high places; and you shall take possession of the land and live in it, for I have given the land to you to possess it.’ Dt. 7:5; 12:3

2 Kgs. 23:5—‘And he did away with the idolatrous priests whom the kings of Judah had appointed to burn incense in the high places in the cities of Judah and in the

surrounding area of Jerusalem, also those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and to the moon and to the constellations and to all the host of heaven.’

D. Prophecy the word of the Lord against the high places.

1 Kgs. 12:31-13:4—‘... there came a man of God from Judah to Bethel by the word of the LORD...and he cried against the altar by the word of the LORD, and said, “O altar, altar, thus says the LORD...”’

Ez. 6:3—‘and say, ‘Mountains of Israel, listen to the word of the Lord GOD! Thus says the Lord GOD to the mountains, the hills, the ravines and the valleys: Behold, I Myself am going to bring a sword on you, and I will destroy your high places.’’

E. Sow the gospel and direct the people’s hearts to the Lord.

2 Chron. 20:33—‘The high places, however, were not removed; the people had not yet directed their hearts to the God of their fathers.’

F. Pray God’s judgment upon the high places.

Ez. 16:9—‘I shall also give you into the hands of your lovers, and they will tear down your shrines, demolish your high places, strip you of your clothing, take away your jewels, and will leave you naked and bare.’

V. Discerning the powers of the high places.

A. Ashtoreth= the principal female deity of the Phoenicians worshipped in war and fertility<<to become wealthy, rich or pretend to be rich

B. Baal= ‘lord’, supreme male divinity of the Phoenicians or Canaanites

C. Aven=vanity

D. Nehushtan=to practice divination, divine, observe signs, learn by experience, diligently observe, practice fortune telling, take as an omen.

E. Milcom= ‘great king’, the god of the Ammonites and Phoenicians

F. Chemosh= ‘subduer’, the national deity of the Moabites and a god of the Ammonites

G. Molech= the god of the Ammonites and Phoenicians to whom some Israelites sacrificed their infants in the valley of Hinnom

H. Topheth= ‘place of fire’, act of spitting<<playing with timbrels

I. Asherah= sacred trees or poles set up near an altar

VI. What are the modern day high places?

VII. The seven mountains (world kingdoms) of the world and the seven gates of a city.

1. Church (religion)—denominational structures, church congregations, ministries
false religions, occult, new age movement
2. Family (cultural traditions)—covenants, tribes, lands
3. Education (schools, universities, higher learning, libraries, school boards)
4. Government—judicial system, prison system, law enforcement, lawyers, political
United Nations, NATO, EU, African Union, etc.
5. Communication—news media, TV, internet, books, phones
6. Arts/Entertainment/Sports—architecture, art, music (i.e. worship), Hollywood, sports
7. Business/Finance/Health—banks, businesses, financial markets, hospitals, CDC,
WHO, pharmaceuticals, mortuaries

These mountains are ruled and governed by mind molders and influencers that the kingdom of darkness seeks to control in order to control the masses. These places are the centers of influence in every culture. In order to see the kingdoms of this world become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, we (the church) must pursue the dominion and occupation of the influencers (mind molders) who stand on these mountains.

Mat. 28:18-20—Jesus' command>>make disciples by teaching....

i.e. we disciple the nations by gaining control spiritually of the teaching institutions and areas of our culture.