



# THE WATER GATE

GATES OF SPIRITUAL PROGRESSION  
BIBLE STUDY SERIES  
BISHOP LARRY B. AIKEN MINISTRIES

*Nehemiah 3:26 (KJV) Moreover the Nethinims dwelt in Ophel, unto [the place] over against the water gate toward the east, and the tower that lieth out.*

90% of the water that came into Jerusalem came through the Water Gate. The Water Gate is probably the most important of all the gates. It is a very special gate because the Water Gate symbolizes the word of God. We need the word of God in order to live. We need the word of God in order to survive.

*Matthew 4:4 (KJV) But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*

If you have ever been thirsty you know that nothing quenches thirst like water. You can drink all the Lemonade, Gatorade, Powerade and any other aid you want, but nothing quenches thirst like water.

So is it with the word of God you can try to fill your life with a variety of distractions, you can find lots of things to do but you will never be truly satisfied. The only thing that really satisfies the soul of a man is the word of God. People are running around in the world today unaware of what they need, and they try everything to satisfy them but find no comfort.

They try anything and everything, they will leave and go anywhere, but what they really need is always right there in front of them they just can't recognize it. The only thing that will sustain them, that will give them life, and become their source is the word of God.

The Water Gate symbolizes the believers need to be a word person, to be word-oriented, in other words living not by your own agenda, not by what someone told you, not living by what you heard, not living by what you think it ought to be, but by the word of God. We need the actual truth; we need the unadulterated word of God.

The word of God cleanses, the word of God strengthens, and the word of God protects. You must understand that you need the word of God in order to survive. They ought to be a thirst in your heart and in your spirit and you must a desire to have the word.

When the word is not present, you will be dry, however, you must be thirsty enough to say I'm going to do whatever it takes to get the word of God. I'm not going to finish like this, I need the word of God. Psalm 42:1 declares: As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

*2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

The Water Gate is where the believer has to learn to trust the word. The word will challenge your tradition. The word will challenge what your mother taught you. The word will challenge what your father taught you.

The word will challenge what the preacher taught you. Because life is not about tradition it is about what God is saying. When you were standing on the word, the devil cannot deceive you, and he cannot trick you, because at the Watergate the believer learns how to stand flat-footed on the word of God.

*Psalms 1:3 (KJV) And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

The Water Gate was the place where the people of Jerusalem who just could not get enough word would hang out.

*Nehemiah 8:1-3 (KJV) 1 And all the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that [was] before the water gate; and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel. 2 And Ezra the priest brought the law before the congregation both of men and women, and all that could hear with understanding, upon the first day of the seventh month. 3 And he read therein before the street that [was] before the water gate from the morning until midday, before the men and the women, and those that could understand; and the ears of all the people [were attentive] unto the book of the law.*

*Nehemiah 8:4-5 (KJV) 4 And Ezra the scribe stood upon a pulpit of wood, which they had made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, and Shema, and Anaiah, and Urijah, and Hilkiah, and Maaseiah, on his right hand; and on his left hand, Pedaiah, and Mishael, and Malchiah, and Hashum, and Hashbadana, Zechariah, [and] Meshullam. 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people; (for he was above all the people;) and when he opened it, all the people stood up.*

The people were thirsty for the word they did not care how long it took as long as they get the word. They just hung out at the gate waiting on God to do something. But what God did with the word was dependent upon the thirst of the people at the gate. How are you on the word of God has everything to do with your thirst for the world. If you do not respect the word, then you are not thirsty for the word.

When Ezra the preacher came and was reading all day long the people stood up out of respect they referenced the world because they knew when he spoke it God was going to do something in their thirsty souls.

*6 And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, Amen, with lifting up their hands: and they bowed their heads, and worshipped the LORD with [their] faces to the ground.*

Thirsty people will witness to the word. When you get a bunch of thirsty people together for the word of God not caring what time it is or what is going on outside or what time the cornbread is going to be done, those are the ones that makeup in their minds saying I'm going to stay here to get the word of God however long it takes and I'm not leaving here empty-handed this my friend is how revival breaks out.

Notice the passage does not mention anything about a piano, an organ, or a band. It does not mention lights. It does not say anything about the preacher warming up. All he did was read because the word was all they needed.