

NEHEMIAH PART 15

BE REFRESHED & RENEWED AT THE FOUNTAIN GATE

We've been travelling around the walls of Jerusalem with Nehemiah and last week we arrived at the 'Dung gate' or in the words of *Mrs. Prim and Proper*, '*The Bathroom Commode*'.

Appropriately, this Dung Gate is situated at **the bottom** of Jerusalem.

We brought out that this Dung Gate speaks of God's provision to help us let go of our mental and emotional waste with Jesus ...

However, we must quickly mention, right next to this Dung Gate was **The Fountain Gate** which was where the Jews washed before they went to the temple.

THIS IS THE TOPIC OF OUR MESSAGE THIS MORNING

SLIDE At this Fountain Gate of Nehemiah, springs of water bubbled up from artesian wells deep in the earth.

These physical waters are symbolic of God's **most magnificent waters** – His Living Water which freely flows.

We read in Revelation 22:1 it is '*pure ... water of life, as clear as crystal*'.

In Ezekiel 47:12 we learn they are healing waters which will heal the nations (Revelation 22:2).

So here these waters speak about God's life-giving waters made available to us at any time of need.

Of course, Jesus is the Source of these waters.

JESUS IS THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER – HE IS THE SOURCE OF ALL LIFE

Again we read in Revelation 22:1 **THESE WATERS PROCEED FROM THE THRONE OF GOD AND **OF THE LAMB****.
THIS IS FROM THE RISEN CHRIST.

GOD SAID TO THE JEWS AT JERUSALEM THROUGH JEREMIAH ...

Jeremiah 2:13 BSB

*For My people ... have forsaken Me, **the fountain of living water** ...*

JESUS IS OUR FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER

JESUS SAID TO THE WOMAN AT THE WELL ABOUT HIMSELF –

John 4:10 BSB

*... If you knew the gift of God and who is asking you for a drink, you would have asked Him and **He would have given you living water.***

JESUS IS THE SOURCE OF LIVING WATER

David said of Him,

Psalms 36:9

For with You is the fountain of life ...

Prior to Ezra and Nehemiah coming to Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed the temple and the wall and gates of Jerusalem ...

But ...

HE COULD NOT STOP THIS LIFE-GIVING WATER FROM FLOWING. IT WILL FLOW THROUGH ALL THE FIRES & THE EVIL OF MAN. IT'S HAS BEEN FLOWING SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD – THE FIRST THING THAT GOD CREATED WAS WATER (Genesis 1:2)

THIS DEEP IS AT THE FOUNTAIN-GATE.

This is God's provision for the cleansing of our soul –
His provision for our daily need of constant cleansing, refreshing and renewal, living in this fallen world –
THE DAILY RENEWAL OF OUR MENTAL & EMOTIONAL STATE.

Remember, Nehemiah represents the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in our souls **after we've been Born Again.**

OUR SPIRIT DOESN'T NEED CONSTANT CLEANSING.

It has already been washed and cleaned instantly the moment we came to Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6:11 BSB **SLIDE**

*... **You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.***

This means, Spiritually we are clean.

We cannot be contaminated as we are now hidden with Christ in God – preserved and pure forever (Colossians 3:3)

OUR SOUL HOWEVER, HAS NOT BEEN PERMANENTLY WASHED AND PRESERVED.

Our soul is still subject **to the decay of this fallen world** and becomes contaminated day after day.

THE FALLEN WORLD

Everything on this planet is degenerating ... decaying ... decomposing and deteriorating.

And that's not because of global warming ...

It's because of sin.

When Adam fell he took the world with him, although Romans 8:20 tells us it didn't go willingly.

SO ...

EVERYTHING IN THIS FALLEN WORLD IS IN CONSTANT NEED OF BEING RENEWED OR REPLACED AS IS OUR UNREDEEMED SOUL

- Did you know, our skin cells are rejuvenated every two to four weeks.
- Other cells, like the tiny ones in our gut, renew within a week.
- According to research, about 330 billion cells in our body are replaced every day (about 1% of the 30 trillion we have)

SO IT IS WITH US, MENTALLY & EMOTIONALLY WE STILL NEED TO BE CONSTANTLY CLEANSED FROM THE EFFECTS OF SIN THAT CONSTANTLY STICK TO OUR SOUL

2 Corinthians 4:16 NET Bible **SLIDE**

... Even if our physical body is wearing away, our inner person (soul) is being renewed day by day.

NB Our inner person = our soul

Ephesians 4:23 NKJV

... Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

THIS FOUNTAIN GATE WAS GOD'S PROVISION FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BE CONTINUALLY WASHED & CLEANED AS THEY ENTERED THE CITY OF GOD.

LET'S READ OUR TEXT

Nehemiah 3:15 BSB **SLIDE**

The Fountain Gate was repaired by Shallun son of Col-hozeh, ruler of the district of Mizpah. He rebuilt it, roofed it, and installed its doors, bolts, and bars. He also repaired the wall of the Pool of Shelah near the king's garden, as far as the stairs that descend from the City of David.

THIS FOUNTAIN GATE COMPLETES THE LORD'S CLEANSING

SLIDE **The Fountain Gate** was right next to **The Dung Gate** and it is not by error of omission that there is no mention of any wall being built between these 2 gates.

THIS IN FACT TELLS US THEY ARE CLOSELY CONNECTED & JOINED IN ONE SINGLE PURPOSE OF CLEANSING.

TO BE TOTALLY CLEANED WE MUST EXPERIENCE BOTH GATES

This Fountain Gate completes the process of cleansing that began at the Dung Gate – BRINGING US COMPLETE CLEANSING.

The Dung Gate is the negative part of our cleansing where we let go of all our daily waste.

The Fountain Gate is the positive part where the Holy Spirit restores our souls into the image of our spiritual man. (Psalm 23:3)

THESE TWO PARTS OF OUR CLEANSING HAPPEN ALMOST
SIMILTANEOUSLY
**AS SOON AS YOU LET IT GO ... THE WATERS OF THE SPIRIT
FLOW**

As soon as you off-load the negative waste with Jesus at The Refuse Gate **simultaneously** the Holy Spirit flows into our souls with His healing and cleansing waters.

➤ **SLIDE** **THIS FOUNTAIN-GATE SPEAKS OF
FEELING CLEAN & FRESH**

If we read Romans 5:1 we know that legally we have been justified ... we know logically that we are at peace with God ... there does not have to be any feeling at all ... it's just a core belief of the absolute truth that we know!

However, God still wants us to 'FEEL' His truth.
So, in verse 2 we read we have 'access' (experience) into this legal standing ... and we **rejoice** – This joy is The Feeling of our Justification which follows us knowing the truth.

We Now Start to Feel and Enjoy The Truth.
God has given us richly all things to enjoy. (1 Timothy 6:17)

It's not only that we know and believe we are clean ...
It's that we now begin to feel brand new!

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO FEEL THE TRUTH

Ephesians 4:19 speaks about a people who have lost **all sense of feeling** and as a result given themselves completely over to sin.

THE RESULT OF THIS WASHING **MAKES US BEGIN TO FEEL FRESH & BRAND NEW**

I CALL THIS FOUNTAIN GATE THE 'FOUNTAIN OF FEELING FRESH'

SLIDE *It's such a wonderful feeling getting into a hot shower after you've been working all day and are quite sweaty and dirty. You've taken off your filthy clothes and feeling warm and fresh water flowing over your skin feels wonderful.*

SLIDE *Then you get out and your skin is tingling as you put on fresh, clean clothes –*

YOU FEEL FRESH & CLEAN

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS HERE

My dad used to say after he'd had a bath, 'I'm the cleanest person in this house.'

I guess he felt it.

THIS IS THE FEELING OF PERFECT HOLINESS FROM OUR SPIRIT
HAVING WASHED OUR SOUL ...

GOD WANTS YOU TO FEEL CLEAN & PURE ... WITH A TRUE
HOLINESS & PURITY

*'God bless you ... You make me feel brand new
For God blessed me with you. You make me feel brand new
I sing this song 'cause you ... Make me feel brand new'
(The Stylistics 1974)*

Hebrews 10:22 English Std Version

*Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with **our hearts sprinkled clean** from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.*

'Our heart' speaks of deep feelings and these feelings are of being clean.

I not only know I'm clean ... I feel clean.

➤ **SLIDE THIS FOUNTAIN-GATE SPEAKS OF FRESH REVELATION**

Col-hozeh = From (1) the noun כל (*kol*), 'all' or 'the whole'; and (2) the verb חזו (*haza*), 'to see' or 'have [a] vision'.

TO SEE THE WHOLE TRUTH

It was at the pool of Siloam that Jesus healed the man who had been born blind.

SLIDE Jesus spat on some mud, rubbed it on the blind-man's eyes and told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam; and he came back seeing. (John 9:1-7)

The Pool of Siloam means 'sent'. It was near the Fountain Gate and represents the Holy Spirit who was 'sent' by The Father and Son after the resurrection.

HERE WE CAN HAVE A FRESH VISION ...

SCALES ARE WASHED AWAY FROM OUR EYES TO SEE THE FATHER ... TO SEE HIS BEAUTY OF HOLINESS ...

We constantly need our spiritual vision refreshed ... to see God more clearly ...

Matthew 5:8 **SLIDE**

Blessed are the pure in heart (emotions) for they shall see God.

➤ **SLIDE THIS FOUNTAIN-GATE SPEAKS OF BEING MADE WHOLE**

THE NAME *Shallun who repaired this gate* means to make whole.

Shallun = From the verb שלם (*shalem*), **to be made whole**.

Once again we speak about our mental and emotional **well-being** and here at this Fountain Gate these pure, life-giving waters of the Holy Spirit **sooth and heal our weary souls.**

THE ETERNAL HEALTH SPA

Glenwood Hot Springs' claim their waters contain 15 different minerals and people are healed of many ailments ...

When bathing in geothermal water, skin is permeable and porous, allowing trace amounts of minerals to pass through into the bloodstream by transdermal absorption.

HOW MUCH MORE MAGNIFICENT ARE OUR LORD'S HEALING WATERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ... FLOWING INTO OUR SOUL

Revelation 7:17 BLB **SLIDE**

*The Lamb in the centre of the throne will shepherd them and He will lead them to **fountains of living waters** -*

SLIDE *and **God will wipe away every tear** from their eyes.*

All our deepest hurts are healed here – Sorrows that stem back beyond that which we can remember – Pains that are buried in the deepest crevasses of our soul – Wounds that defy description. Here the Healing waters flow.

***Disappointments of life** – things we failed at – dried up dreams, are all soothed here in His healing waters.*

***Feelings of shame** that we've carried for many years – hidden in the deep recesses of our mind are soothed as He seeps through the crevasses and gaps and wipes them away again and again, day after day.*

THESE WATERS NEVER ABATE – THEY FLOW ON FOREVER

Now we feel! ... feelings of gratitude ... gratefulness ...

overwhelming appreciation of feeling accepted at the very core of our being.

He dabs your sores ... He washes your wounds ... His waters sooth your sorrows ... His sweet waters wash away bitterness ...

WHERE ARE THESE WATERS TODAY?

IF YOU ARE BORN AGAIN, THESE WATERS ARE IN YOU

John 7:38 **SLIDE**

*He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his **inner-most being** will flow rivers of living water.*

I've always spoken of this verse as meaning the Holy Spirit flows out from deep within us ... and so He does. However, here, I began to see The Holy Spirit bubbling up within us and flowing into the secret, personal, private places of our soul.

Allow these living waters deep within your spirit to now flow up into your soul.

This is building the Fountain Gate in your soul

Begin to receive in your soul what is dwelling deep in our spirit – let the spirit flow.

Proverbs 5:15 KJV

Drink water from your own cistern and running water from your own well.

WE HAVE REMOVED THE BARRIERS ... THE DAMS ...

NOW ALL WE NEED TO DO IS LET GO AND LET IT FLOW ...

SURRENDER YOUR SOUL TO THE LIFE WITHIN YOU ... AND LET IT FLOW

STOP STRUGGLING NOW ... STOP TRYING TO BE HEALED ...

STOP TRYING TO ANSWER ALL YOUR FAILURES ...

STOP HARBOURING GUILT FEELINGS –

LET THEM GO AND LET THE WATERS FLOW ...

GOD CAN ALLOW CIRCUMSTANCES & AFFLICTION TO STRIP US BACK SO HE CAN FLOW WITHIN US ...

He did this with me when I had cancer.

I had stopped struggling and I felt Him daily cleansing, healing and restoring my soul.

I used to weep for no logical reason, but I knew it was Him flowing in me. Outside I looked like death warmed up, but inside He was alive in me and healing me from the inside out.

'WHAT THEY DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT SUFFERING'

(Chapter 7: Pgs. 90-91)

'In those days, life slowly ground to a halt as weakness held me in the grip of inactivity and my inner body continued to smoulder from the backfires that had been lit.

Day after day, my soul descended into the quiet of His unsearchable love, as deeply etched tears fell through the floorboards of personality into His bottle.

Often, watching television (usually something fairly innocuous) tears would start.

Someone would ask, 'Why are you crying?'

To which I would simply blubber, 'I don't know!'

But I did know this: this was the work of the Great Physician who not only heals bodies, but more profoundly, souls.

This was my personal experience which continued day after day, week after week, month after month – an experience where The Holy Spirit began removing boulders of resistance within me, clearing the way for healing far beyond conscious thought, plumbing the depths of subliminal pain that belied all attempts at psychoanalysis.

So it continued as these newly plumbed depths began bubbling up like a cleansing fountain, releasing more and more tears, powerfully weaving their way up in between my tightly packed pride, stinging their passageway out through my window's eye and dripping upon the pages of life. But still the waters increased, widening the gaps through which they surged and lubricating the canal as they went, until a great river started. It flooded with unspeakable might, dislodging the old beams of obstinate opinion and pulling out emotional addictions.

And on and on it flowed, increasing in momentum and swelling in volume; taking with it, many of my secret sins! Tearing out lusts, sucking out barbs of cynicism, uprooting the rubble of shattered relationships (once buried in some vain attempt to preserve that which was already lost) ... relentlessly surging forward and carrying in its wake broken boundaries and fragmented ideals ... all uprooted from their embedded core and swept along in the divine flow of God's grace until they were washed out and gone forever on the tears of my tide.

Ah yes! In those days I wept much and I healed much.'

**WHEN THE SPIRIT BEGAN TO SEEP
THEN I BEGAN TO WEEP**

ALLOW YOURSELF TO RECEIVE - WE NEED MORE & MORE

SLIDE

CHORUS *(Modified by C Lambe)*

THERE IS A RIVER, THAT FLOWS INTO MY SOUL

THERE IS A RIVER WHO'S WATER'S MAKE ME WHOLE

NOW FROM THESE WATERS ... MY NEEDS HE WILL SUPPLY

THERE IS A RIVER THAT NEVER WILL RUN DRY