

2025  
Mar

# The Old Gate

‘The Old Gate’ appears as the Corner Gate in 2 Kings 14:13 and Jeremiah 31:38 (Edwin Yamauchi) and led to ‘Jeshanah’(2 Chronicles 13:19) which lied 30 km north of Jerusalem.

## Nehemiah 3:6

Joiada the son of Paseah and Meshullam the son of Besodeiah repaired the Gate of Yeshanah. They laid its beams and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars.

### 「Intro」

The Old Gate was the third gate repaired by the Paseah’s and carries the meaning of remembering the first love that we had when we decided to follow Jesus. When did you love, follow, and serve most passionately? When was your commitment at its deepest? The message to the church in Ephesus in Revelation on restoring her first love encourages us to rebuild the broken Old Gate.

#### 1. Let’s look at the church in Ephesus. Read Revelation 2:1-5.

#### 2. Rev. 2:2-3 states that the church was commended for the following:

- ① For her works, toil and patient endurance
- ② For not bearing with those who are evil
- ③ For testing and discerning the false apostles
- ④ For enduring patiently and bearing up for Jesus’s sake

#### TIP

The church in Ephesus was where Apostle Paul had taught for the longest time, praying and preaching the Word day and night for 3 years. The first leader was Paul, then Timothy, and then Apostle John. Through their pastoring and commitment the church stood firm in the truth. The saints worked, endured patiently, and persevered in order to hold onto the truth. And the church kept her faith for 40 years in a much immoral city.

### 「Sharing 1.」

What would the Holy Spirit commend our church for? Share your thoughts with others.

#### 3. But the church in Ephesus was not without a flaw. What was her issue?

Rev. 2:4 “But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first.”

### 「Sharing 2.」

Let us reflect whether this verse may be applicable to us. When did you love the Lord most passionately in your faith journey? Check where your heart is today and share with other members.

#### 4. The Bible records the life of certain individuals who lost their first love. How and why did their hearts change?

- ① Lot
- ② Saul
- ③ David
- ④ Solomon
- ⑤ Hezekiah

#### 5. The Holy Spirit exhorts us to “remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first.” (Rev. 2:5) For which of the following do you need to repent?

Topics for repentance	Our prayer
1. Worldly desires & covetousness	Lord, help us to throw away our worldly desires and find our satisfaction only in You.
2. Hatred towards others	Lord, turn our hatred into forgiveness and give us a heart of love.
3. Spiritual laziness	Lord, help us to shake off our laziness and to pray and read Your Word.
4. Habitual complaining	Lord, restore in us a heart of thanksgiving and praise.
5. Lust	Lord, cleanse our hearts and thoughts and make them holy.
6. Deceitful heart	Lord, keep our lips and hearts honest in the truth.
7. Love of money/fame	Lord, help us to serve and love You more than the world.

**6. The root of our sinful heart is because we have grown distant from our first love for Jesus.**

John 15:9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.”

John 3:6 “No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him.”

**「 Reflection 」**

Jesus revisited Peter who had denied and left Him. After preparing and feeding him breakfast Jesus asked Peter three times, “Do you love Me?” Jesus did not ask why Peter denied Him or how he failed. He did not ask what the plans were next or what resolutions were made. Jesus did not ask for anything from the past or future. Instead, He asked Peter, who was going through a dark time of despair and disappointment, “Do you love Me?”  
He is asking us the same question. “Do you love Me?”  
May we all be ready to answer Him.

**7. Let us read the following verses and pray for the fullness of the love of Christ to be poured into our hearts.**

Romans 5:5-6 “And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”

**「 Outro 」**

**1. Share and pray together over struggles with health, status, finance, or relationships with children or others.**

**2. For this month let us plan specifically to pray and read the Bible together as a group.**

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