

2025
Apr

The Valley Gate

The Valley Gate was also known as the Jaffa Gate (Robinson, Keil) located in the western part of Jerusalem. The gate in Nehemiah 2:13 “I went out by night by the Valley Gate” was looking down on the Valley of Hinnom southwest of Jerusalem. It is thought that Nehemiah chose this gate because the area was less inhabited.

Nehemiah 3:13

“Hanun and the inhabitants of Zanoah repaired the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and set its doors, its bolts, and its bars, and repaired a thousand cubits of the wall, as far as the Dung Gate”

「Introduction」

The Valley Gate is the fourth gate, and it symbolizes suffering in life. The Lord sometimes allows us to go through a time of suffering to humble and mold us. A solid city wall comes with a gate of suffering because God doesn't simply want us to become successful, but also holy. And holiness entails bloodshed and humility. God's guidance doesn't always help us escape the valley of the shadow of death but leads us through it that we may experience the goodness of His protection. God doesn't always prevent us from entering the lions' den but protects us in it fulfilling His providential will. Is your Valley Gate standing firm?

1. God led the Israelites to walk in the wilderness for 40 years.

Why did God place them in a place of suffering?

① What was the first reason for the wilderness?

Deuteronomy 8:2

② What was the second reason?

Deuteronomy 8:3

③ What was the third reason?

Deuteronomy 8:16

「Sharing #1」

If you are going through a time of suffering, what do you think God is wanting to teach you through it all?

2. What does God warn about not having to persevere?

Deuteronomy 8:12-14

3. Hold onto these words in times of suffering:

① God's sovereignty and rule

Revelation 19:6

② Perseverance and hope

Romans 5:3-4

③ All things working together for good

Romans 8:28

4. What good can come out of suffering?

① A person of the Word

Psalm 119:67, 71

- Do you truly desire God's Word? Then we can rejoice even in suffering.

② A person of comfort

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

- A wounded healer, a person of encouragement (Barnabas) who comforts others in suffering.

③ A person of prayer

Psalm 50:15

- Suffering reveals our helplessness and causes us to desperately seek God.

④ A person of humility

1 Peter 5:6

- Suffering humbles the prideful heart and causes to lie prostrate before God.

⑤ A person of obedience

Hebrews 5:8

- Suffering teaches us to trust in God and to be sensitive to obey His will.

「Sharing #2」

As you reflect on your past, when was most difficult for you and in what ways have you gained and grown spiritually from that time?

Without Sickness _ Miura Ayako

There is a prayer you cannot pray without sickness.

There is a message you cannot hear without sickness.

There is a temple you cannot approach without sickness.

There is a holy face you cannot look up at without sickness.

Alas, I cannot be human without sickness.



「Outro」

1. Let us sing together My Jesus as Thou Wilt.

2. Status, finance, health, children, relationships... Suffering comes to us in many forms. Spend some time in sharing honest prayer requests and pray for one another.

Introducing Chodae Counseling Ministry

- The Counseling Ministry (Sprout) provides counseling and other programs for church members to help with various mental, emotional, and spiritual issues. It offers biblical and professional counseling for the spiritual well-being of the members, as well as hosting church-wise seminars with various topics to help all the members grow together.
- These are the categories/areas for counseling: mental/emotional issues (depression, anxiety, etc.), family issues (spouse, children, parents), addiction, relationship, bereavement, etc.
- Please use the link on the church website to sign up for counseling.