

2025
July

The Water Gate

It is one of the gates of Jerusalem through which water was carried in and out (Nehemiah 3:26). The 'Water Gate' was likely located on the opposite side of the Spring of Gihon. The gate would have lied midway on the eastern wall extending from the south to the north. It had a large square for public meetings, and Ezra read the Book of the Law in this square at the Water Gate (Nehemiah 8:1,3,16).

Nehemiah 3:26

"...And the temple servants living on Ophel repaired to a point opposite the Water Gate on the east and the projecting tower."

「 Introduction 」

The Water Gate is our 7th gate. It had a large square where the Israelites gathered to read and learn about the Scriptures. It is here Ezra preached and taught the Law. The Water Gate was a place where the Scriptures were cherished, read, taught, memorized, and proclaimed. To become a solid saint, the Water Gate must stand firmly. Are your and your family's Water Gate well secured?

1. Even now, God is working in us through His living Word.

① The Scriptures are the foundation and the standard for our salvation and faith.

2 Timothy 3:15-17 "...And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

② The Scriptures make us disciples and give us freedom.

John 8:31-32 "So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.""

③ The Scriptures are a guide in life.

Psalms 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

④ The Scriptures reveal sin and help us avoid it.

Psalms 119:11 "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

⑤ The Scriptures give us wisdom.

Psalms 119:99-100 "I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts."

⑥ The Scriptures blesses us as we live them out.

Psalms 119:1-2 "Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart!"

⑦ The Scriptures serve as a spiritual weapon.

Ephesians 6:17 "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,"

「 Sharing 」

- 1) How often do you read the Scriptures? Share with others how your daily walk with the Bible has been.
- 2) What is a blessing you have received recently through God's Word?

2. 5 ways to approach the Scriptures

Studying the Scriptures can be helpful with the analogy of five fingers. As it is difficult to hold a Bible with 1 or 2 fingers, properly understanding and holding onto God's Word requires practicing various approaches together.

The five include: hearing, reading, studying, memorization, and meditation. As all five fingers are needed to hold onto the Bible securely, we need a good balance of all five disciplines to hold onto God's Word in life.



① Hearing

Romans 10:17 "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

>> We need to listen to God's Word regularly through worship services while building a habit of constantly recording notes and applying them in life..

Going Deeper

John Calvin explained that a powerful work of God involves the faithful preaching of God's Word and its applications in life. He stated that it is as if God Himself is speaking to the people when the Word of God is faithfully preached, and the Holy Spirit uses it to stir up faith and transform God's people. Calvin emphasized that regularly hearing the Word is central to the life of faith. [From Calvin's Institutes]

② Reading (writing)

Revelations 1:3 "Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near."

>> It is great to read through the entire Bible using a reading plan or read as a small group.

③ Studying

Luke 1:1-4 "Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught."

>> Join a Chodae Bible study class/group at least once a year and learn about the Word more in depth.

Going Deeper

Luke was a disciple who became the only Gentile author of the Bible. He was not an ordinary observer but a scholar who thoroughly studied the events in the Gospel, and he was called 'the beloved physician' in Colossians 4:14. Luke studied the Scriptures (The Gospel of Luke) and compiled history (The Book of Acts) to prove the certainty of the Gospel.

④ Memorization

Psalms 119:16 "I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word."

>> Memorization is the best way for remembering the Word for a long time and for praying according to the Scriptures.

Going Deeper

Jesus recited the Scriptures to overcome the Devil's temptations in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 6, 8, 10). This shows the utmost importance of inscribing God's Word in our hearts and remembering it as we engage in spiritual battles. Bible memorization serves as a spiritual weapon and holds us in the midst of temptations and trials. We too can experience firm faith and victories like Jesus as we memorize and apply the Word in our lives.

⑤ Meditation

Psalms 1:1-3 "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers."

>> Meditation helps us apply God's Word in our lives. We need to build a good habit of abiding in the Word every morning.

「Application」

We need a good balance of all five disciplines of hearing, reading, studying, memorization, and meditation to hold onto God's Word firmly. How well have you been practicing the five? (1 being the most, 5 being the least). Share something you can do to improve on two disciplines you lack the most.

①

②

③

④

⑤

3. What is the judgment of God?

In the time of Amos Israel, while living in prosperity, brought upon herself God's judgment for her idolatry, social injustice, oppression of the poor, and hypocritical religious practices. God spoke of judgement due to her sinfulness as Israel completely rejected God's justice and righteousness. What was the result of the judgement?

Amos 8:11-13 "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord God, "when I will send a famine on the land—not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it. "In that day the lovely virgins and the young men shall faint for thirst."

「Application」

Jesus is the Word of God incarnate (John 1:1). To walk with Jesus means to walk with the Word. Please discuss as a group and make a specific plan to put today's lesson into action. Make sure that it is manageable and not too burdensome, and confirm with your small group members.