

Site: Jerusalem Gates

Scripture References: Isaiah 41:8; Jeremiah 19:2; Ezekiel 25-48; Ezekiel 48:35; Revelations 3:20, 21:9-21

Historical Significance:

1. The walls of a city served as the primary protection from the enemies.
2. The walls surrounding Jerusalem have been expanded and contracted several times.
3. Jerusalem was not considered rebuilt until Nehemiah completed the walls in 444BC.
4. The current walls were built by Suleiman the Magnificent in 1537 AD.
5. Romans laid siege to Jerusalem and in 70AD they sacked the city.
5. Today there are 8 gates but Ezekiel predicts that one day there will be 12 gates when the Lord returns.

Things to look for:

1. The 8 gates were often named for the cities they faced.
Jaffa Gate: Faced Jaffa and Hebron where Abraham is buried. Muslims call it the Gate of the Friend referring to Abraham. Opened 1898.

Zion Gate: Stands on Mt. Zion

- Dung Gate:** It is believed to be the Potsherd Gate Jeremiah refers to in Jeremiah 19:2. It was also the gate that residue from the Jewish Temple was taken through to be burned.

Golden Gate: Bricked up over 1,000 years ago to keep the Messiah from entering.

Lion's Gate: Named for stone reliefs of 2 lions, which are probably jaguars or panthers, that flank both sides of the gate. May have also been called Stephen's Gate.

Herod's Gate: Named this because pilgrims in the 16th and 17th centuries thought it was near the palace of Herod Antipas. Also called the Gate of Flowers. Crusaders penetrated the wall at this gate in 1099 AD to capture Jerusalem.

Damascus Gate: Faces Damascus. It is the most beautiful gate and is a great example of Ottoman Architecture. It is also called the Shechem Gate by the Hebrews and the Column Gate by Arabs.

New Gate: This gate opened in 1887 to provide convenient access to the old city in the Christian Quarter.

What does this site teach us about God?

1. God often lays siege to our lives by surrounding us and removing what is necessary in order to cause us to do some serious thinking. He wants to reveal who we really are apart from Him.
2. When the Lord lays siege to our lives He is calling us back to an intimate and faithful walk with Him.
3. We need to fortify our walls with God on the inside.