

The School of Biblical Law
Introduction to Law and Grace
Lesson Thirty Four: “The Garden and The Gate – Part 2”

Adam was assigned the job of guarding the garden and subjugating, or bringing under his authority, all parts of the Garden. He was to keep it holy ensuring that all aspects of his labor and his ethics matched God’s Word. When Adam failed to guard by enforcing God’s decrees, he not only forfeited the garden but he also was replaced as the guardian of the Garden. Angels were set to guard the way.

1. The keepers of the Gate are God’s covenantal agents.

Gates represent legal entrance and exit.

- a) Jesus commanded the porters to watch (Mk. 13:34-35).
- b) City officials and police decide and enforce the legal position of community.
- c) Elders watch lest wolves enter and spoil the flock (Acts 20:28-30).
- d) Parents guard the home and the children.
- e) Jacob acknowledged that Bethel was the gate of heaven for angelic traffic (Gen. 28:17-22).

The gate is the place of the fiery sword.

- a) In biblical imagery, the sword represents God’s Word (Eph.6:17; Rev.1:16; Heb.4:12).
- b) Fire represents the holiness of God (Ex.3:2; 13:21; 19:18; Deut.4:24; Mt.3:11; Rev.1:4).
- c) God’s holy word is applied at the gate to determine who and what may be admitted.
- d) Elders of Israel sat at the gate as the seat of judgment (Josh.20:4; Ruth 4:11; Prov.31:23)

2. When men don’t keep the gates, the walls are broken down

Israel’s walls were penetrated by other civilizations (Assyrians, Babylonians, Romans) because the nation did not guard and subjugate sin but rather allowed lawlessness within the borders of the nation.

- a) Assyrians
- b) Babylonians
- c) Romans

3. Nehemiah restored the broken down walls and rebuilt the gates of Jerusalem. “Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste and the gates thereof are burned with fire, and come let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach” (Neh. 2:17)

- a) Distress (Strong’s #7451 – *rah* – inferiority to the enemy; inability to rise to the standard)
- b) Reproach (Strong’s #2781 – *cherpah* – the object of the wagging of the finger, shame)

4. God intended his city, which was faithfully kept by his covenant agents, to be a place of security.

“In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in” (Is.26:1-2).

“Walk about Zion, and go round about her; tell of the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following” (Ps.48:12-13)

Salvation readmits man into the Garden of God where man is again assigned the job of guarding his assigned boundaries. By what standard does the believer guard the gate? What is the fiery sword that the Christian uses to determine what is allowed inside and what must remain outside. Man has only two options: autonomously determined standards of right and wrong or God’s eternal standards.