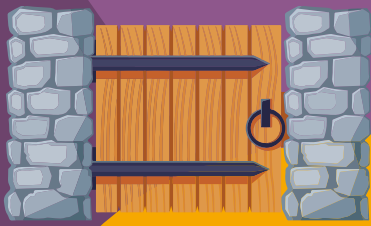




'Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.'  
Hebrews 13:12



## Gates

Whether it is walking through them, climbing over them, swinging on them, or forgetting to shut them, we are all familiar with gates and what they are used for. There are many types of gates found in the Bible, three of which I want you to consider.

### Gates of decision.

In Bible times, important discussions and decisions were made at the gates of the city. In Ruth 4, Boaz met at the gates to discuss his intention to marry Ruth. In Genesis 23, Abraham bought burying ground from Ephron, at the gates of the city, when his wife, Sarah, died. Important decisions like these should remind us of the most important decision of all. What will you do with the Lord Jesus Christ?

### Gates of direction.

Although there are many gates in this world - some are fancy and ornate, while others are plain and simple - there are but two gates of direction in the Bible. In Matthew 7:13-14 we are told about a wide gate and a broad way that leads to destruction. However, there is also a strait [narrow] gate. Few ever seem to find it, yet wonderfully it leads to Heaven. Through which gate and in what direction are you going?

### Gates of description.

Whenever Nehemiah set about rebuilding the ruined walls of Jerusalem, a record was made of the names of all the gates in need of repairs. Names such as the sheep gate, the fish gate, and the valley gate aptly described what their main function was. Bible scholars have taken these descriptions and applied them to spiritual matters. The sheep gate, for example, was used to bring sheep up to the Temple for sacrifice. It reminds us of the sacrifice made for our salvation by the Lord Jesus upon the cross. Some of the other gates are pictures of Christian service and separation unto God. All wonderful descriptions indeed. However, the most blessed gates of description are found in Revelation 21. There we read about the pearly gates of Heaven through which one day only certain people will enter. Such people have been at the **gate of decision**, turned from their sin and trusted in the Saviour. They have stood at the **gate of direction** and wisely followed after the Lord rather than the world. If you have not gone through these gates then sadly you will never pass through the gates of Heaven, for 'there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth.' ■



**There are only 3 letters common to all the Bible names listed. Find these 3 letters and rearrange them to spell out a word which is often found on a gate.**

B A R N A B U S  
R A H A B  
R E B E K A H

ANSWER:

Are you 12 or under?  
Send your answer, name, address and church to:  
Rev Garth Wilson e: [answer@fpvission.org](mailto:answer@fpvission.org)

