



THE GATE OF REVELATION

*"Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, **I Am the gate** for the sheep... **I Am the gate**; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture." John 10:7-9*

"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you." John 16:13-14

Dear Watchmen,

A vital part of our role as "Watchmen" is to "see and hear" accurately from the Lord to "Watch and see what He will say to us...when we are corrected," Habakkuk 2:1. A shift is taking place. We are entering a new season. 2018 is the year of gates. We invite you into this focus on Revelation. The spirit of prophecy is to be wanted and desired, 1 Corinthians 14:1. May this encourage and propel you forward in your journey with the Lord. One note...prophecy is both revelatory and practical. It is for the edification and encouragement of the body of Christ. May this focus encourage, equip, and inspire you as we enter the gates of this year. Lesson prepared by watchmen in Canada, Karen Scott, and Cathy Coulson.

1. Defining Revelation

(Gr., apokalupsis) means "an uncovering," "an unveiling," or "a disclosure." In the NT, this word describes the unveiling of spiritual truth (Rom. 16:25; Gal. 1:12; Eph. 1:17; 3:3), the revealing of the sons of God (Rom. 8:19), Christ's incarnation (Luke 2:32), and His glorious appearing at His second coming (2 Thess. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:7). In all its uses, "revelation" refers to something or someone, once hidden, becoming visible. **Revelation is a divine communication from God. Jesus is the embodiment of this communication and in Him dwells all the fullness of wisdom and knowledge.** Col 2:9 There is no true revelation apart from Him; He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Rev 22:13 Special revelation from God always has an appointed time. Hab 2:3

2. Testimony Of Jesus Is The Spirit Of Prophecy

- a. *"And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the **spirit of prophecy**." Revelation 19:10 "Spirit" is used in the sense of character, the nature of a thing. The testimony of Jesus is the nature of prophecy. Another English word is better: essence, it means "the nature of," like the word character. It also means "the main part, the heart and core of, the real and ultimate nature of a thing." **The testimony of Jesus is the real or ultimate nature of prophecy, meaning that all prophecy points toward the conclusion of the gospel. Everything in God's purpose points in that direction.** [bibletools.org]*
- b. *"Exalted, then, to the right hand of God, He has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear." Acts 2:33*

3. Jesus Invites Us Into The Gate Of Revelation - Himself

- a. *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28*

- b. *'Follow Me'* Mark 1:17, Matthew 9:9
- c. *"Come up here"* - After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." Revelation 4:1
- d. *'Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.'* Jeremiah 33:3
- e. *"Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and the door shall be opened".* Matthew 7:7
- f. *"Abide in Me, and I in you."* John 15:4 "Personal salvation is not an occasional rendezvous with Deity; **it is an actual dwelling with God.**" Billy Graham

4. God Is The Revealer Of Mysteries And Things Unknown

- a. **The things that God revealed to humanity were not all given at once.** His revelation was given in stages. This is known as progressive revelation. The Apostle Paul wrote. *"Now to the One who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith."* Romans 16:24,25. Paul made a distinction between the revelation which God formerly gave and that which He was presently giving.
- b. *"But it is a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives them understanding."* Job 32:8
- c. *"Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything."* 2 Timothy 2:7
- d. *"Evil men do not understand justice, But those who seek the LORD understand all things."* Proverbs 28:5
- e. *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments; "* Psalm 111:10, 130, 144
- f. *"Now I am come to make you understand what shall befall your people ..."* Daniel 10:14
- g. *"He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,"* Ephesians 1:9

5. Promises For The Release Of Prophetic Vision And Understanding

- a. *"He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding"* Daniel 9:22
- b. *"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Joel 2:28-32 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth."* Acts 2:18
- c. *"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye."* Psalms 32:8
- d. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil."* Proverbs 3:5-7
- e. *"And I will **put my Spirit in you** and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."* Ezekiel 36:27
- f. *"Whether you turn to the right or to the left, **your ears will hear** a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it."* Isaiah 30:21,
- g. *"Then the LORD reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, "**I have put my words in your mouth.**" "* Jeremiah 1:9
- h. *"**I will show you** what must take place after this."* Revelation 4:1

6. Warning: False Revelation

"For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders that would deceive even the elect, if that were possible." Matthew 24:24. Revelation that exalts man's ways or thoughts, however sensible, seemingly wise or attractive, is false, of the devil and can lead many astray. (Adam and Eve in the garden had an intimate relationship with God, and yet the enemy cleverly deceived them through human reasoning with so-called revelation. We ought to consider that we ourselves could fall by the same temptation, especially if we are seeking the "revelation" and not Christ Himself) Our desire to be wise, inherent in our human nature, must be brought to the cross before we can receive the true revelation from heaven and our motives made pure. It is our responsibility to **test the spirit** that speaks to us no matter how it is packaged or appears, even if signs and wonders are present.

- a. *"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."* 1 John 4:1
- b. *"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."* Matthew 7:15
- c. *"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."* Matthew 24:11
- d. *"For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect."* Mark 13:22
- e. *"Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets."* Luke 6:26

7. More To Come

- a. **Jesus promised them that more revelation from God was to come after He left this world.** *"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now."* John 16:12
- b. **Jesus gave further revelation about God.** *"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. he will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you "* John 16:13-15

8. God Bestows His Favor and Honor On Ones Who Obey His Commands

- a. *"You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.* John 15:13-17
- b. *"Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For those who find me find life and receive favor from the LORD."* Proverbs 8:32-35

9. Crafted Prayer For The Release Of Prophetic Vision And Understanding

Praise be to You O God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for You have blessed me in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. You chose me in Yourself before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in Your sight. In love You predestined me for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with Your pleasure and will— to the praise of Your glorious grace, which You have freely given me in the One You love. In You I have redemption through Christ's blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished upon me. With all wisdom and understanding, He is making known to me the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect as the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. In him I have been chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, in order that I might be for the praise of his glory. And I have been included in Christ and marked with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing my inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—my life is to the praise of his glory!

*Now Glorious Father, as your children we ask You **to give each of us the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that we may know You better. We also pray that the eyes of our hearts would be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which You have called us, the riches of our glorious inheritance among your people and Your incomparably great power for us who believe.** That power is the same as the mighty strength that You exerted when You raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And You O Father, placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way. **We continually ask You to fill us with the knowledge of Your will with all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,** so that we may live a life worthy of You, Lord Jesus, and please You in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to Your glorious might so that we may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For You have*

rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son whom You love in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. We are forever grateful!

Holy Spirit, draw us into a deeper revelation of Jesus Christ, not only as the Lamb who was slain, but also as the Coming King, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, who is returning for a spotless bride!

Prayer based on Ephesians 1 and Colossians 1:9-14