

“I AM” Seven Times

Session-2: I Am The Gate For The Sheep

Notes

Session-2: “I Am The Gate [Door] For The Sheep”

Introduction

John 10:7

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8** All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. **9** I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. **10** The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Light allows us to see and not be groping around in the dark; once there is light we can take action. As the light Jesus reveals our spiritual reality, the next thing that he reveals is the gate [door]. We enter through the gate to move from where we are now to where God intends us to be.

Analysis of the second “I Am” statement:

- ✓ Identity (characteristic): “I am the **gate** for the sheep...”
- ✓ Our respond: “Whoever **enters by me**...”
- ✓ What are the results: “...will be **saved** and **will come in and go out** and **find pasture**.”

Jesus as the Gate that Provides Access (Characteristic)

The gate or door provides access to the other side, to God through his Son Jesus Christ. We are separated from God because of our sin, but Jesus Christ through his life, death and resurrection provided the gate through which we have access to a new life, one with God’s love and care.

The author references the tearing of the veil as mentioned in both Matthew and Mark as an expression of the gate opening to us.

Matthew 27:50-53

50 Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. **51** At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. **52** The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. **53** After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.

Mark 15:37-38

37 Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. **38** And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

The author refers to us to Exodus for information about the curtain that the Lord told his people to make, which separates us from the Holy of Holies.

Exodus 26:31-33

31 You shall make a curtain of blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and of fine twisted linen; it shall be made with cherubim skillfully worked into it. **32** You shall hang it on four pillars of acacia overlaid with gold, which have hooks of gold and rest on four

bases of silver. **33** You shall hang the curtain under the clasps, and bring the ark of the covenant in there, within the curtain; and the curtain shall separate for you the holy place from the most holy.

And once the curtain was torn because of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, we are now able to enter as stated in Hebrews:

Hebrews 10:19-20

16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," **17** he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." **18** Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. **19** Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, **20** by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Jesus as the Gate Provides Protection

The gate when closed also provides protection from evil forces of the world. And the author gives some examples of that such as Noah's ark which when closed provided protection for him, his family, and all its contents, and when the blood of the Passover Lamb marked the doors of the Hebrews to protect them from having their first-born slain.

That means that only the sheep that follow Jesus Christ can enter the door, not Satan. The gate separates God's side from the world of sin; it is not intended to separate God from his people. His people by their choice determine which side of the gate they are on. When cleansed by the blood of Christ they are welcomed into His kingdom; otherwise, the gate is closed to them and they cannot enter God's kingdom.

Jesus is the Only Gate

The author states that Jesus is the only gate and that there are no other gates through which we can enter God's kingdom. He refers us to both Matthew and Luke to further reinforce this point. And in Luke he also points out the others may try to enter by some other way than what God requires, which is through Jesus Christ.

Matthew 7:13-14

13 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road is easy that leads to destruction, and there are many who take it. **14** For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Luke 13:24-25

24 "Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. **25** When once the owner of the house has got up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then in reply he will say to you, 'I do not know where you come from'."

Our Response: Enter By Me

As Jesus states in this "I Am" that the only way to enter is through Him to the kingdom of God, and by doing so you will be saved. That means you need to move spiritually from an attitude of self to the love of others - to become the servant that Jesus exhibited.

The author tells us that our response should also use the protection of the gate by keeping Jesus between us and the evil forces of the world.