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Did you "Go Through the Gates?" Isaiah 62: 10

December, 2007

Greetings everyone!

We will pick up where we left off last month in examining this wonderful portion of the words of the prophet, Isaiah.

Go through!

Go through the gates!

Prepare the way for the people.

Cast Up, cast up the highway;

gather out the stones;

lift up a standard for the people. Isaiah 62: 10 KJV

It seems our first challenge is to make the determination that we will follow and honor the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the God of Israel.; through His Son, Our Messiah Yeshua. That is so like the transition in lifestyle that our father Abram was called to make, before he was re-named Abraham; the Father of Nations. The metaphor here as you will recall, is to go through the gate, or to "cross-over".

Have you gone through the gates of faith and fully entered in to all that our Messiah has for you? Have you left behind the things of the world that would ensnare you? All through the Word, from Genesis to Revelation, the call is heard to

be separate, be set apart, from the things of the world. Enter in more and more fully to our Messiah's plans for you.

When we have committed our all to our God, we generally discover that we want to please Him out of our love for Him. Of course, it is also true that as we look to Him, he brings to mind new awareness of ways we are not fully submitted to Him. Rarely--really never-- an easy process, this refining is nevertheless part and parcel of our faith becoming mature in Messiah.

This message is not limited to this portion of Scripture but is evident all through the prophets and the New Testament as well. What are we to "turn to face"? Our understanding here at Set Apart Ministries is that we are to examine ourselves to learn of any way in which we have given greater importance to our own perceptions or preferences than to our God's and then bring that knowledge face to face with Him. He disciplines those He loves is an oft repeated concept: Job 36: 5-16, Proverbs 13: 24, 2 Corinthians 7: 10; Hebrews 12: 6. [click here for a well written article on this concept, though we are not necessarily recommending the entire site.](#)

As we learn to be set apart, we make both inward and outward changes in our lives. It is also true that we are to then be a part of encouraging others to do the same. Going through the gates as we enter fully into Messiah is involved; both figuratively now and physically in the greater Exodus that is to come.

Jer 16:14-16 Therefore, **behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; BUT, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them:** and I will bring them AGAIN into their land that I gave unto their fathers. Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.

There is also the sense of **going back out** "through the gates" to prepare the way, smooth it, be a forger of paths, once we have drawn our strength, discernment and equipping from Messiah. In some ways it seems imperative that we actually have gone in so that we are equipped to look back and encourage those who come after. Yet it is also true, that our obedience to **just go in at all** is a witness to others and is actually being a part of the highway of return itself! If we understand that Messiah is the First and the Last and that He has known the end from the beginning, we can see the pictures He has laid out for us of what was and what will be.

The word for **"Prepare"** is **Strong's 6437 pa nah** which means to turn, or by implication to face; to appear, look, appear at [even-] tide behold, cast out, come on, x corner, dawning, empty, go away, lie, look, mark, pass away, prepare, regard, have respect. **"The"** is a definite article that clearly indicates one, not one of many; and **"way"** is from **Strong's 1870 darek related to 1869** to tread, by implication to walk, a road, as trodden; figuratively for a course of life or mode of action. The

Englishman's concordance also indicates it is used as "bent" as in bent the bow. **Strong's number 5971 is *am* for "the people."** This refers to a people as a congregated unit; specifically a tribe as those of Israel, troops or attendants; figuratively, a flock. Folk, men, nation, people.

These words hold great importance for us though it may not be so obvious in the English translation. Would you understand from the word "prepare" that it holds the sense of "turn to face" and "to hold in high regard"? It wasn't obvious to me! It seems to echo the need to go through the gate, to choose a mode of action or a course of life. This concept is already spoken twice for emphasis, and repeated once more in this choice of words.

When our God chooses to repeat a concept not once, but twice, it seems wise to take notice! Are you a part of preparing the way for the people?

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In Service to our Messiah,

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