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Substance of Two Sermons preached by our Pastor Mr. J. W. Spaulding-Tyler
on Sunday, July 23, 1978.

at The Dickes

Morning Lesson. Genesis 3.

For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder. Psalm 107. 16.

Some of you, beloved friends, will be conversant with the spiritual fact that twelve months ago to day we dilated by His grace on v.8, not without blessed unction effective in the ingathering of the Lord's dear children. As in v.8 the holy refrain and exaltation that is terminal in the four paragraphs, this is a blessed exhortation to respond to the Lord and render to Him the glory due to His Name for specific blessings and benefits divinely, wonderfully received. As the word I was led to is a blessed exhortation to give to Him the honour and gratitude of our hearts for so great salvation and for all benefits, so I have been led to a word that is synonymous with that of twelve months ago, rather to show the benefits and blessings here put in blessed detail and majestic figure, for which the Lord's people are to return praise and gratitude to Him. This word arrested my spirit considerably. You will notice the language of the verse is blessed symbolism, and it will cause you to think, to ponder in your souls as to what the deep spiritual interpretation of the two metals must be. "For he hath broken the gates of brass," What are they? "and cut the bars of iron in sunder." What we have before debated on is the blessed response in love, praise and gratitude to the Lord for doing this; for breaking the gates of brass and cutting the bars of iron in sunder. O the depth one sees in the beautiful inspired language! To set your mind at rest, you who love God, I will say this. We certainly ^{would} have never been here this morning, thirsting after God, longing for divine benefits and favours if this blessed Scripture had not been fulfilled in our own cases. The Lord has broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in sunder. I trust the Lord will give wisdom and grace to expound the precious word taken to day as the Lord's message. It is a song of praise to the dear

Redeemer that He has accomplished this, as He only is able to do. No power on earth can ever accomplish it. One therefore seeks to be melted in gratitude to the Lord that He has done it for many of us, and to take as His message that He is going to do it for others. "For he hath broken the gates of brass, and cut the bars of iron in asunder."

Let us begin here: undoubtedly primarily the Text ~~belongs~~ has reference to captives. Here it has reference to the extensive period of sore judgment on the Jewish nation in captivity in Babylon. The mighty power, the universal power, authority and military might of Babylon had conquered almost the whole world, including the Lord's people. I am sure in the Sunday School and in your homes you receive Bible instruction and teaching. It is a great mercy to devote a period of the day to the religious instruction of children. I will say this: so many people, even those who have a religious background seem to be painfully ignorant of the Word of God to day. It is because of the complete liberty we have in our own dear land. We can open the Holy Bible, enter the House of God, and because of our privileges and liberty we have tended to neglect precious things, and many are woefully ignorant of ^{the} basic truths of the Bible. Carnality, fashion, whatever you name has a stranglehold on the lives of those who are called Christians. The preacher is not immune. One thing I will go aside to name that tremendously impressed me on one occasion, when I gave an address to the Sunday School at Brixton. Out of ninety children eighty of them were from the West Indies, and in the course of the service years ago I asked a tremendous number of questions. The dark children could answer immediately, spontaneously all the questions, outstripping many others. Herein is a marvellous thing. They were beautifully dressed, wonderfully courteous. This may be profitable: the great thing is to stir up your pure minds; it is easy to get lethargic. There is ~~reference~~ in the Text to the incarceration of Israel in Babylon which you are aware of. I will name this: it will be a useful point for exposition. There were immense walls surrounding the city, eighty to one hundred feet wide, and a hundred gates of solid brass. A gate signifies strength or weakness. I can understand when the Jews looked at the seemingly impregnable city with its gates of brass and iron, they felt to be as the prophet declares, buried in graves, forgotten; as if they would never know liberty again. They might have looked on the

hundred gates and think it impossible. Not to dwell on the historic note, though it is useful, the Text symbolises what is beautiful and wonderful. When the time came for Cyrus and Darius, chiefly Cyrus to be used of God, the Lord so ordered it that the gates were open, and Cyrus, in all the charity of his spirit and mind was kind, and liberated the Jews, and gave them all the help they needed to go back and rebuild the temple and the walls. You see the symbolism of gates and bars. The spiritual will follow closely and precisely and know what truth I shall name.

I will give you an exercise: what do you think I shall name? I will name in the first place the human heart; that is to say, poor fallen creatures. That is why I read the Lesson where I did. The heart or soul of every fallen creature is in this condition. There was a time when mysteriously the gate of the heart was open, and Satan entered and took up his abode and closed the gates barred with iron. This is the human heart in the fall. Now you see the meaning of it. Whatever is to be the issue of this, Satan reigns as in a fortress, and the gates are of brass barred with iron. To live and die in that state means hell; the curse of God poured out on sinners throughout eternity in the bottomless pit. For all these chosen, predestinated, elected, eternally loved, the day comes when a stronger than the strong man armed comes. Satan is powerful indeed O the strength and power and might of the devil! He is a mighty foe. You who are quickened into life and know the Lord Jesus and are in a deeper experience, will know that one of your continual experiences is that Satan bruises you, and a contusion is caused by a heavy blow; the result is a rupture of the blood vessels. You have had many a blow from Satan, - it may have been in the night or this morning. Satan bruises the heel of Christ, His sacred humanity here; whatever part of His Church at any time walks this weary wilderness. You may have come sore from bruising. If you do not know bruising I do not know where you are. I cannot see that you are close to the Lord Jesus, or know much about Him. The more you know about Christ the more you will enter this. You know what it is to be bruised by Satan. Sometimes you are bruised immediately, sometimes through your own family. In this way Satan knows he can hurt parents by hurting their children. In many ways Satan will bruise the people of God. I am sure this is at the top of the list: we bruise ourselves. How? ~~Yours~~

The old man bruises the new. Is that true? Your body of sin and death bruises your poor soul: your wicked, deceitful heart bruises your spirit. What I am to remind you of for your comfort is, Satan is a mighty foe, full of deceit. He comes as an angel of light, and looks so full of religion. How we need discernment, and, my friends, the Bible tells us there are wolves in sheep's clothing. When you read your history books you read of lands where wolves range. There are wolves that have sheep's clothing. The great Day of reckoning is coming: all will be known then. There are many deceptions now; not there. Satan is so mighty, a subtle serpent among the undergrowth: also he is as a roaring lion. He is mightier, stronger than we are. You may say you will have no truck with him: you will fall if you rely on your own strength. And the stranglehold he has over the souls and minds of sinners, how formidable! God is almighty: there is One stronger than he. This will have a wide application. If you are praying for those dear to you who have departed, gone into the world, manifesting what you would never have believed possible of them; complete aversion and enmity to religion,- if you are praying for them you will need to feel and prove though Satan is mighty, God is almighty, and you will be on your knees pleading with One stronger than he, that He will break in pieces the gates of brass and bars of iron. You will never be able to do anything with gates of brass and bars of iron. This will be a comfort to you. The Lord bring it to your spirit; He is almighty. "Is any thing too hard for the Lord?" We have experience in the weather conditions of a mixture. The Lord is good to us in this land; there is nothing catastrophic. What about it when you think of a mixture, sunshine and showers? You will say, "This is my cup." If you fear God and are close to the Lord you will have sweet and bitter things. You will come to a path where a superficial religion will mean nothing to you. Remember this if you are in the experience of bitter things that take you by surprise and sweep you off your feet,- poor soul, you will know about gall, (though there is a use for it in the body)- think of it, though the taste is bitter and you know Satan is almighty and there ^{are} gates of brass and bars of iron, God is Almighty. I have wondered as to whether God will spare me to see some of the things I have preached to you fulfilled in reference to the dear children and children's children.

I have delivered this message to you: I wonder if I shall see with you a day of rejoicing. O the path! You said to yourself, "How sweet the dear child was! I thought the work of God was in her heart then." The Lord knows whether under all the rubbish there is a nugget of gold. The Lord knows if it is a question of regeneration, or of putting forth His hand a second time to recover them. He knows.

The marvellous thing for me to remind you of is, God is Almighty, and the preacher has great reason to bless God for it. We sing a song of praise this morning: there is more land to be possessed yet. As when the Jews entered Canaan there were more enemies to be ^{dis}possessed and more land to be possessed. People and kings fell: the walls of Jericho fell after seven days. The walls of Jericho are still falling. You go on in your walk as the Lord directs you: compass the walls seven days, and they will fall. It is by prayer, in faith, You need faith to believe and embrace, and to have the comfort and joy off it. You need the Lord to deliver you from infidelity and unbelief that assails the people of God. Unbelief is a most immoral sin for a child of God that assails and afflicts us. You will need ~~forgiveness~~ deliverance from it and forgiveness for it, and for the Lord to increase your faith. "If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." The more I look deeply at the Lesson this morning, the more I come to see that sin must have entered before Eve took of the fruit, because the door of her heart was open to temptation. She looked on the fruit of the tree and saw it was pleasant. The first sin was the sin of pride. "Ye shall be as gods." We shall never fathom how the door of their hearts was open to temptation, but it is true that was the reception of temptation. They partook and the devil marched into the heart or soul. He went straight in and closed the gates of brass and barred them with iron. Do you see? There he dwells, armed to the teeth, and he is in human souls, and the gates are of brass and the bars of iron. Amen.