I. Gatekeepers as Priests

A. Overview of Gatekeeper Series: We are all called to be Gatekeepers of our person, our family, our church family, city, nation, and nations. Today we will talk about our impact on our city, and how Atlanta is a GateCity to the nations.

B. Gatekeepers were special priests who had the specific responsibility of protecting the tent of meeting, which would later be replaced by the temple. These were priests with great responsibility and authority.

   a) 1 Chronicles 9:21 Altogether, those chosen to be gatekeepers at the thresholds numbered 212. They were registered by genealogy in their villages. The gatekeepers had been assigned to their positions of trust by David and Samuel the seer. 23 They and their descendants were in charge of guarding the gates of the house of the Lord—the house called the tent of meeting. 24 The gatekeepers were on the four sides: east, west, north and south. 25 Their fellow Levites in their villages had to come from time to time and share their duties for seven-day periods. 26 But the four principal gatekeepers, who were Levites, were entrusted with the responsibility for the rooms and treasuries in the house of God. 27 They would spend the night stationed around the house of God, because they had to guard it; and they had charge of the key for opening it each morning.

C. We are priests, individuals & corporately temples, and who offer spiritual sacrifices to God. We are responsible for maintaining consecration in these areas.

   1. 1 Peter 2:9 You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
D. We guard our gates by: sanctifying our senses, controlling what we speak, and governing what we meditate on. The word is our primary means of guarding our gates.

1. Psalm 119:9-11 How can a young man keep his way pure? **By guarding it according to your word.** 10 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! 11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

2. Philippians 4:8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—**think about such things.**

II. Gatekeepers over our households and spiritual family

A. Last week we examined Psalm 127, which describes how we build our spiritual families and natural homes through partnering with the Lord, ruthless trust, and raising up spiritual and natural sons and daughters.

1. Psalm 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the Lord guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. 2 **It is vain for you to rise up early,To sit up late,To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep.** 3 **Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward.** 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,So are the children of one’s youth. 5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; **They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.**

B. We must be a people that give themselves to building ‘family first’. If we do so, we will have authority in the ‘Gates of the city’ over our spiritual adversary. Our mission is inextricably linked to first building a spiritual family consisting of healthy families.

C. At GateCity Church we are building a spiritual family that is centered on God’s presence, that exalts the worth of Jesus night and day, and takes the gospel from
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our neighborhoods to the nations, and disciples the whole family to go deep in knowing God.

D. **Key Principle:** What you let through your gates doesn’t just impact yourself but your ability to ‘guard the gate’ in over your community. Whatever you let through your gates, you will have a harder time guarding against spiritually in your home or city. Furthermore, our city is a Gatecity not just to the region, but to the nations and the nations.

1. Matthew 18:15 “If your brother or sister [b] sins, [c] go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. 16 But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ [d] 17 If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. 18 “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be[e] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be[f] loosed in heaven. 19 “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

III. Gatekeepers over Atlanta and the Nations

A. Let’s consider briefly why Atlanta is considered a GateCity. Information taken from Wikipedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta#Western_and_Atlantic_Railroad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlanta#Western_and_Atlantic_Railroad)

1. Economics: With a GDP of $385 billion,[145] the Atlanta metropolitan area’s economy is the 10th-largest in the country and among the 20-largest in the world. Corporate operations play a major role in Atlanta’s economy, as the city claims the nation’s third-largest concentration of Fortune 500 companies. It also hosts the global headquarters of several corporations such as The Coca-Cola Company, The Home Depot, Delta Air Lines, AT&T Mobility, Chick-fil-A, and UPS. Over 75% of Fortune 1000 companies conduct business operations in the city’s metro area, and the region hosts offices of over 1,250 multinational corporations.
2. Transportation: Atlanta started as a railroad town, and logistics has been a major component of the city’s economy to this day. Atlanta serves as an important rail junction and contains major classification yards for Norfolk Southern and CSX. Since its construction in the 1950s, Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport has served as a key engine of the city’s economic growth.[150] Delta Air Lines, the city’s largest employer and the metro area’s third-largest, operates the world’s largest airline hub at Hartsfield-Jackson, and it has helped make it the world’s busiest airport, in terms of both passenger traffic and aircraft operations.[151] Partly due to the airport, Atlanta has been also a hub for diplomatic missions; as of 2017, the city contains 26 consulates general, the seventh-highest concentration of diplomatic missions in the US.[152]

3. Broadcasting is also an important aspect of Atlanta’s economy. In the 1980s, media mogul Ted Turner founded the Cable News Network (CNN) and the Turner Broadcasting System (TBS) in the city. Around the same time, Cox Enterprises, now the nation’s third-largest cable television service and the publisher of over a dozen American newspapers, moved its headquarters to the city.[153] The Weather Channel is also based just outside of the city in suburban Cobb County.[citation needed]

4. Information technology (IT) has become an increasingly important part of Atlanta’s economic output, earning the city the nickname the "Silicon peach". As of 2013, Atlanta contains the fourth-largest concentration of IT jobs in the US, numbering 85,000+.

5. Recently, Atlanta has been the center for film and television production; film and television production facilities based in Atlanta include Turner Studios, Pinewood Atlanta Studios, Tyler Perry Studios, Williams Street Productions, and the EUE/Screen Gems soundstages. Film and television production injected $9.5 billion into Georgia’s economy in 2017, with Atlanta garnering most of the projects.[160] **Atlanta has emerged as the all-time most popular destination for film production in the United States and one of the 10 most popular destinations globally.**[158][161]
B. God has plan for revival in Atlanta, for it to touch the nations, and it is His zeal for His sons ultimate return to Jerusalem that fuels it all. Psalm 24 captures the essence of this plan historically, prophetically, and eschatologically.

1. The historical context was the real event in which the Ark of the Covenant, around which David set up night and day worship and prayer, was brought up into Jerusalem. (2 Samuel 6:1-23, 1 Chronicles 15:25-29)

2. Psalm 24 is an eschatological & literal description of the day of Christ’s return in which Jesus will come back into the city of Jerusalem. This is part of God’s zeal for Jerusalem & Israel, that they have been chosen as the ultimate place of His eternal dwelling.

3. Lastly, the prophetic and symbolic interpretation of this passage describes the entrance of God’s Holy Spirit and the leadership of Jesus in revival coming into cities and regions, and has been referenced throughout revival history.

C. Let’s read Psalm 24 together, because in it are 3 keys for Gatekeepers to unlock revival in our city and the nations: (1) Awareness of God’s sovereign leadership (2) Total surrender in loving obedience (3) Invitation through intercession and worship. We will see this same pattern in the first outpouring of Pentecost.

D. Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. 2 For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the [a]waters. 3 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? 4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive blessing from the Lord, And righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6 This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, Who seek Your face. Selah 7 Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle. 9 Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up,
you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. 10 Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah

1. **Psalm 24:1-2** Awareness of God’s Sovereign Leadership
   
a) Luke 24:49 “I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

b) Acts 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

2. **Psalm 24:3-6** Human Agreement through Loving Obedience
   
a) James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

b) Acts 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3. **Psalm 24:7-9** Desperate Invitation through Intercession & Worship
   
a) Acts 1:14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

b) Matthew 18:18 “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19 “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”
c) 2 Samuel 6:12 Now King David was told, “The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God.” So David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. 13 When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. 14 Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might, 15 while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets…21 David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel---I will celebrate before the Lord. 22 I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.”

4. When the spiritual Gates open in Gate Cities, the nations will be reached. On the day the Ark of the Covenant entered Jerusalem David has 1 Chronicles 16:20/ Psalm 105 composed. In this they prophesy and declare God’s greatness to all the nations. In Acts 2:5 we see the “gates opening” in revival and outpouring over Jerusalem led to the nations hearing God’s wonders. In the final return of Jesus to Jerusalem as captured in Isaiah 62, He commands the nations to now see and hear of His reign. As He comes in, we go out to the ends of the earth with the message of His greatness.

a) 1 Chronicles 16:7 That day (the day the ark entered Jerusalem) David first appointed Asaph and his associates to give praise to the Lord in this manner:... 23 Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. 24 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. 25 For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.26 For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the Lord made the heavens. 27 Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and joy are in his dwelling place. 28 Ascribe to the Lord, all you families of nations, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. 29 Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering and come before him. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his[e] holiness.
30 Tremble before him, all the earth! The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. 31 Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, “The Lord reigns!”

b) Acts 2:5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. 6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: “Aren’t all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” 12 Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”

c) Isaiah 62:6 I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem; they will never be silent day or night. You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth... Isaiah 62:10 Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations.

(1) As He comes in, we go out to the ends of the earth with the message of His greatness.