



PREPARE the WAY

Week 31 | December 30, 2024

"I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron."

Isaiah 45:2

God, as the **perfect** and **exemplary** leader that He is, always leads from the frontlines. He loves to *go before* His people, **smoothing out** and **making clear** the path for us to follow. As we pray for our families, churches, and communities this week we are asking Him to *do just that*. To **go before us** and prepare the way by eliminating every *mountain, gate, and bar* hindering us from accomplishing His **plans** and **purposes** for our lives. (**Isaiah 45:2-3**; **Isaiah 62:10**):

1. Level the **MOUNTAINS** (**Psalms 114:3-7**)

- a. **NOTE:** Mountains are **natural obstacles** that impede our ability to *quickly travel* from place to place. They must be **circumvented** or **scaled**, adding additional *time, effort, and energy* to the journey. Likewise, there are forces in our lives that are neither inherently good nor evil but which continue to prevent or limit our movement. Whether they be **health** problems, **geographic** concerns, or **financial** difficulties; as *the Creator and Lord of all* only God can remove these barriers of nature and **straighten the path** for us *to follow*. (**Job 9:5**; **Revelation 16:20**)
 - i. **For Ex.** "Father God, thank You for promising to remove every *proud obstacle* that seeks to prevent us from accomplishing **Your will**. Please do so now in our lives, *going before us* and tearing down those obstructions that are hindering our ability to **follow You**. Make *straight the path* You wish us to follow, clearly marking the way we should go."
 1. **REMEMBER:** The **largest mountain** is no match for a *mustard seed*. (**Matthew 17:20**)

2. Smash the **GATES** (**Isaiah 24:12**)

- a. **NOTE:** Unlike mountains, gates are **manmade barriers** to entry. They are the things and forces put in place *by God's enemies* in our lives to intentionally prevent us from accomplishing **His will**. These obstacles often have a *strong spiritual component* backing them, for they did not form by accident. We **will face resistance** as we fight against these gates in prayer, for the Enemy will not *quietly allow* that which they have built to be demolished. Regardless, in order for us to receive all that God has **promised** and **provided** for us, down *they must go*. (**Ezekiel 26:9**; **Isaiah 24:12**; **Isaiah 45:3**)
 - i. **For Ex.** "Lord Jesus, thank You for all of the **blessings** You have prepared for us in the *heavenly places*. Go before us into the days to come and knock down the **gates of bronze**, leveling every attempt by the Enemy to *prevent the fulfillment* of Your plan in our lives. **Uproot** and **knock down** every *toehold, foothold, or stronghold* of the enemy, and instead firmly lay the path to **Your blessings**."

1. **REMEMBER:** The **gates of hell** cannot withstand the *revealed truth* of God. (**Matthew 16:16-18**)

3. Cut Through the **BARS** (**Psalms 107:16**)

- a. **NOTE:** Bars of iron are the **prison cells** that we build *around ourselves* in a fearful effort of self-preservation. Often characterized by **isolation**, **insecurity**, **anxiety**, and **depression**, this *self-inflicted imprisonment* hampers our ability to be effective for Christ and allows for unparalleled advancement of the **Enemy's agenda**. Jesus came to *eviscerate these prison walls* and to set free the captive within. We have been **fearfully** and **wonderfully** made and are being *perfectly refined* into the image of our savior. It's time to **live in** the freedom that was *purchased on Calvary's cross*. (**Gal. 5:1**; **Is. 61:1**)
 - i. **For Ex.** "Holy Spirit, thank You for **living in** our hearts and for giving us *the mind of Christ*. Work in our hearts and minds this day, cleansing them of every **idea**, **attitude**, and **thought** process that is keeping us from *being and doing* all that You have for us. Set us **free from ourselves**, cutting through the *bars of iron* we have built up in our lives that keep us from the **abundant** and **joyful treasures** You have stored up for us. Set us free, Lord, to be all that You have **called** and **created** us for, to the *glory of Your name* and advancement of Your kingdom."
 1. **REMEMBER:** *The truth of what God says about you* sets you free from the trap of self-deception. (**John 8:32;36**)

Questions for Reflection:

- What **mountain** have you considered *immovable* and therefore failed to pray over?
 - Ask God for the **gift of faith** and then exercise what He gives. It will be more than enough because of its **source** and **focus**.
- Have you **stopped fighting** against *the gates* because of the resistance you felt?
 - Often that **resistance** is a sign that you're doing *something worthwhile*. Keep going!
- What **lies** have you believed about *yourself* and *others* are keeping you in bondage?
 - Abandon the **safety of delusion** for the *danger of honesty*, for the truth is always better and that is where **true freedom** is found.