

The Gatekeepers

NOTE: The outline and notes for this class were lost in a hard drive crash. This was the only related document able to be recovered. Please use the attached blank pages to take your own notes for this session.

Porter. A keeper of the door. This person guarded the entrance to a city, public building (John 18:17), temple, rich man's house (Mark 13:34), and sheepfold (John 10:3). A guard was stationed at any entrance through which someone unwanted might enter, especially at night. This must have been a lowly job because of the contrast implied in Psalm 84:10, where "doorkeeper" is the opposite of the most luxurious and favorable position. Porters were also called gatekeepers. The duties of the gatekeepers are listed in 1 Chronicles 9:17, 21; 15:17–18, 23–24.

1 Chronicles 9:17

¹⁷ And the gatekeepers were Shallum, Akkub, Talmon, Ahiman, and their brethren. Shallum was the chief.

1 Chronicles 9:21

²¹ Zechariah the son of Meshelemiah was keeper of the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

1 Chronicles 15:17-18

¹⁷ So the Levites appointed Heman the son of Joel; and of his brethren, Asaph the son of Berechiah; and of their brethren, the sons of Merari, Ethan the son of Kushaiah;¹⁸ and with them their brethren of the second rank: Zechariah, Ben, Jaaziel, Shemiramoth, Jehiel, Unni, Eliab, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattithiah, Elipheleh, Mikneiah, Obed-Edom, and Jeiel, the gatekeepers

1 Chronicles 15:23-24

²³ Berechiah and Elkanah were doorkeepers for the ark;²⁴ Shebaniah, Joshaphat, Nethanel, Amasai, Zechariah, Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, were to blow the trumpets before the ark of God; and Obed-Edom and Jehiah, doorkeepers for the ark.

Difference between "doorkeepers" and "gatekeepers" – there *is* none – same Hebrew word. Key difference here is probably in the difference between "generic" gatekeepers and "doorkeepers for the ark".

