

GOSPEL AUTHORITY IN THE ANCIENT GATES

“Our Blessed Hope: The Future Coming of Christ in Victory”

(Nehemiah 3:29-30; Titus 2:11-13)

The gates are categorized as:

The Priority Gate: Sheep, Fish and Old

The Purity Gates: Valley and Dung

The Power Gates: Fountain, Water and Horse

The Prophetic Gates consists of ... the East Gate, the Judgement Gate, the Fruitful Gate and the Prison Gate.

The East Gate

(Nehemiah 3:29-30)

“After them Zadok the son of Immer repaired opposite his own house. After him Shemaiah the son of Shecaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, repaired. ³⁰ After him Hananiah the son of Shelemiah and Hanun the sixth son of Zalaph repaired another section. After him Meshullam the son of Berechiah repaired opposite his chamber.”

The East Gate was the 9th gate repaired!

The East gate was the gate beautiful where Peter and John healed the crippled man. East is the direction of the rising sun and Jesus will return from the East. So this gate speaks of always having the return of Christ in our hearts and aligning our lives

prophetically to be ready for and to quicken that day by having a Kingdom missions heart (Matthew 24:14).

The East Gate was the first one opened in the morning – it is sealed today.

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works." (Titus 2:11-13)

"Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, 17 comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word." (II Thessalonians 2:16-17)

"By God's great mercy we have been born anew unto a living hope" (1 Peter 1:3, 23)

"Whatever was written in former times was written for our instruction that by the endurance and encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4)

*"... awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."
(Titus 2:13)*

❖ The Blessed Hope of Christianity is His Ultimate Appearing

The blessed hope of all who believe is THE APPEARING OF OUR GREAT GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.

- The Appearance of Grace

"For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men." (Titus 2:11)

The first coming of Christ is clearly identified as the appearance of grace. Verse 14 goes further and describes just how that grace appeared—

"[Christ] gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds."

That same aim of grace is described in verse 12 as well:

"The grace of God appeared training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world."

- The Appearance of Glory

"Awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." (Vs. 13)

The second coming of Christ is clearly identified as the appearance of glory.

- Looking Back
- Looking Forward

"Just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him." (Hebrews 9:27-28)

❖ **The Blessed Hope of Christianity is Under Heavy Attack**

- The Center of Controversy
- The Center of Christianity

The center of Christianity is the coming of the Son of God into the world as a real man to destroy the works of the devil and create a new people for his own glory.

- The Reason Behind the Rejection
- The Reality Beyond Our Rationalization

❖ **The Blessed Hope of Christianity is His Utmost Acknowledgement**

" . . . to save those who are eagerly waiting for him." (Vs. 28)

He will save those who are waiting for him.

Now let us look to ourselves this morning. Do YOU eagerly await the coming of Christ? And I don't mean: do you believe in the doctrine? Do you eagerly await

him? This is a very crucial test of the genuineness of your faith. Peter said in his first letter (I Peter 2:7),

"To you who believe he is precious." (I Peter 2:7)

The coming of Christ is worthy of eager expectation!

Conclusion:

"Our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." (Titus 2:13)

Note three things very briefly:

It Is a Blessed Hope

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

"Let us put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

It Is a Visible Hope

- Philip said to Nathaniel, *"Come and see!"*
- Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree because he wanted to see!
- The Greeks said to his disciple, *"Sir, we would see Jesus!"*

- The apostle Paul wrote, "Now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face!"
- And John seems to make everything hang on this one hope: *"It does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."*

It Is a Glorious Hope

It is *"the appearing of THE GLORY of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."* Listen to John's attempt to put this into words in Revelation:

"I saw . . . one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden girdle round his breast; his head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters; in his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth issued a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength." (Revelation 1:13–16)

"Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." (II Timothy 4:8)