



The East Gate

Built to Last – Part 11

Christian Center Midweek Connection Series

Wednesday, June 13, 2018

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If we live only for the present, we will never receive the fullness of our future.

Titus 2:11- 13

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ

- Freedom from the penalty of sin – justification
- Freedom of the power of sin – sanctification
- Freedom from the presence of sin – glorification

The rapture of the church is the last experience in our walk with God before we receive our eternal reward

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words

## Background of the Eastern Gate

- This gate is also called the Golden Gate
- Jewish religious tradition teaches that the coming Messiah will enter Jerusalem through this gate.
- To prevent this, the East gate was walled up by its Muslim conquerors (the Ottoman Turks) in 1530 A.D.

Jesus entered Jerusalem through the East gate around 30 A.D. as he came down from the Mount of Olives and entered the temple.

### Luke 19:37

And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen;

### Matthew 23:39

For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord

### Romans 11:25-27

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this [is] my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins

The fact that Israel rejected the King did not hinder God's great plan of redemption.

### Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

### Daniel 9:24

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy

### Ezekiel 44:2-3

Then said the LORD unto me; This gate shall be shut, it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter in by it; because the LORD, the God of Israel, hath entered in by it, therefore it shall be shut. It is for the prince; the prince, he shall sit in it to eat bread before the LORD; he shall enter by the way of the porch of [that] gate, and shall go out by the way of the same

In close proximity to the Eastern Gate is the Mount of Olives.

Ironically, Jesus ascended up into Heaven from the Mount of Olives, which overlooks the Eastern Gate to the west.

#### Matthew 24:40-44

Then two [men] will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. Two [women will be] grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left. Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour [fn] your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

There was a day in which the cardinal doctrines of Scripture were the foundation of all preaching and teaching:

- The Deity and Virgin Birth of Christ
- The Atonement of Man
- The Inspiration and Inerrancy of Scripture
- Divine Healing
- The Second Coming of Christ

There are no Scriptural signs for the Rapture of the Church.

- All the signs you see in Scripture point to the Revelation of Christ – or what is actually the Second Coming of Christ.

#### **Let's differentiate between the Rapture and the Second Coming of Christ**

- The Rapture will occur when Jesus Christ returns for his church.
- The Revelation is when Jesus Christ returns with the church to defeat the antichrist and then establish His thousand year reign. (Revelation 19:11-16)

#### The Rapture – A Divine Meeting in the Air

##### 1 Thessalonians 4:17

Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

#### The Revelation – A Victorious Return With Jesus

##### Revelation 19:14

And the armies [which were] in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

#### The Rapture – Before the Tribulation

1 Thessalonians 5:9

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ

- Salvation: deliverance from the molestation of enemies

Revelation 3:10

Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

The Revelation – After the Tribulation

The Rapture is Hidden

1 Corinthians 15:52

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

- The word rapture is not used anywhere in the Bible, but the literal meaning of the word is “caught up.”
- “To catch away speedily.”
- “To claim for one’s own self.”
- “To move to a new place.”

The Revelation will be seen by everyone.

Revelation 1:7

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they [also] which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

The Rapture Could Happen at Any Moment

Titus 2:13

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

The Revelation will not happen until certain events take place.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

Let no man deceive you by any means: for [that day shall not come], except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

What about the resurrection of the dead?

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

- Resurrection does not mean that He will put the elements of the body together again, for resurrection is not “reconstruction.”

**Jesus will give “a shout of command.”**

**The sound of a trumpet.**

**The voice of the archangel.**