

Messages From the Gates of Jerusalem  
Lesson #34 - East Gate; Gate of Hope - 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus Christ

Significance of East Gate: Speaks of our Hope and the Expectation of His Coming  
The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is clearly taught in God's Word. To doubt the reality of the Christ's 2nd Coming is to doubt the reliability and validity of God's Word.

His 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming is the hope and confidence of believers:

1. God is in control of all things.
2. God is faithful to the promises and prophecies in His Word.

The Old Testament prophets did not clearly make a distinction between the two comings of Jesus Christ. This can be seen in:

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Isa. 9:6-7 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;

And the government will be upon His shoulder.

And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of *His* government and peace There will be no end,

Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,

To order it and establish it with judgment and justice

From that time forward, even forever.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Zechariah 14:4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,

Which faces Jerusalem on the east.

And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, from east to west, *making* a very large valley;

Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.

As a result of the prophecies seeming to speak of two individuals, many Jewish scholars believed there would be both a suffering Messiah and a conquering Messiah.

They failed to understand is that there is only one Messiah who would fulfill both roles.

In His first coming:

1. Jesus Christ came to earth as a baby in a manger in Bethlehem, just as prophesied.
2. Jesus was the suffering Servant Who fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah 53.
3. Jesus fulfilled many of the Messianic prophecies during His birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection.

However, there are many prophecies regarding the Messiah that Jesus has not yet fulfilled.

The Second Coming will be the return of Christ to fulfill these remaining prophecies.

In His second coming:

1. Jesus will fulfill the role of Israel's deliverer.

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced.

Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his only son*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Revelation 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Note: 1. Israel, and the whole world, will mourn for not having accepted the Messiah the first time He came.

2. Jesus will be the conquering King.

3. Jesus will arrive with the armies of heaven at His side.

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ is the greatest single theme in Scripture.

1. Approximately 300 prophecies in the Old Testament foretold the 1st coming of Christ.

2. There are about 8 times as many verses describing the Second Coming. In total, some 2400 verses throughout the Old and New Testaments reveal God's promises about the return of Jesus Christ.

Consider: The enormous number of prophetic verses about the Second Coming conveys the vital importance of this event in God's plan for mankind.

Consequently, we dare not ignore the prophetic signs pointing to the nearness of His return.

Significantly, the 1st prophecy in the Bible (Genesis 3:15), which God addressed to Satan after Adam and Eve's sin, predicted 3 major events in the redemptive plan of God, concluding with the Second Coming of Christ.

1. The virgin birth of Jesus > "her seed"

2. Satan's apparent victory when Jesus was crucified > "thou shalt bruise his heel" >

3. Will be fulfilled at the Battle of Armageddon when Jesus Christ will defeat Satan > "thy head" and his seed, the Antichrist ("it [her seed, Jesus] shall bruise thy head").

Jude recalls the righteous patriarch Enoch was raptured to heaven before the Flood.

Jude revealed that Enoch prophesied about the Second Coming.

Jude 14-15 "Enoch, also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying:

'Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment upon all.'"

The prophet John recorded our Lord's final prophecy in Revelation 22:12:

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

Jesus Christ's final message to His Church concludes with these words in Rev. 22:20:

"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely, I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

Nehemiah's Reference to East Gate:

Neh. 3:29b Shemaiah (one who hears and obeys the Lord) the son of Shechaniah, the keeper of the East Gate, made repairs.

### Quick Facts Regarding the East Gate > Golden Gate

1. The East Gate (oldest of all gates), a huge double gate in the center of the eastern wall of the Temple Mount, is also called the Golden Gate.

Note: When Jerome translated the Greek New Testament into Latin beginning in 386 AD, he translated the Greek word *oraia* ("beautiful") into Latin using the Latin word *aurea*, which means "golden."

2. Believed to have been built by Byzantine Emperor Heraclius around 627 BC on the top of the ruins of previously existing gates. The stones in the wall just above the ground have been dated to the 6th century BC, around the time of prophet Nehemiah.

3. Located on the eastern side of Jerusalem's old city wall; facing the Mount of Olives right across the Kidron valley.

4. The Golden Gate consists of the two gates that lead directly to the Temple Mount. It is the only external gate that gives access to the Temple Mount.

5. The southern part of the gate is called the Gate of Mercy (Sha'ar HaRachamim in Hebrew). According to Jewish tradition, the Shekhinah (שכינה) (Divine Presence) used to appear through this gate, and will appear again when the Messiah comes. In ancient times Jews would pray in front of the gate asking Almighty for mercy.

6. The northern part is called Gate of Repentance (Shaar Teshuvah in Hebrew). During the time of the First Temple period this was the closest entrance to the Temple of Solomon.

7. It is regarded as a Holy site for all faiths - Jewish (arrival of the Messiah) Christian (entrance of Jesus on Palm Sunday) and Muslim (site of future resurrection)

8. The East Gate is associated with the site of the "Beautiful Gate" where Peter and John prayed for the crippled man who was then healed.

This was the first miracle after Jesus ascended (Acts 3:1-10).

### Biblical Prophecy Regarding the East Gate:

The East Gate will be closed until Messiah returns! Prophecy given around 600 BC

Ezek. 10:18-19 Then the glory of the LORD departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. <sup>19</sup> And the cherubim lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight. When they went out, the wheels *were* beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate of the LORD's house, and the glory of the God of Israel *was* above them.

Ezek. 11:22-23 So the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel *was* high above them. <sup>23</sup> And the glory of the LORD went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain, which *is* on the east side of the city.

The prophet saw God's glory depart from the temple by the east gate.

In Ezekiel 43 the Lord gives Ezekiel a vision of God's glory entering the Millennial Temple from the east, through the Eastern Gate. The context is a supernatural tour the Lord is giving Ezekiel of the future Millennial Temple (40:1-3).

Ezek. 43:1-2 "Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east".

Ezek.43:4 "And the glory of the Lord came into the temple by the way of the gate which faces toward the east."

Ezekiel 43:7a "Son of Man, this is the place of My throne and the place of the soles of my feet where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever."

The Lord then reveals to Ezekiel that the Eastern Gate will be closed and will not be reopened until the Messiah returns in glory.

Ezekiel 44:1-2 "Then He brought me back to the outer gate which faces toward the east, but it was shut. And the Lord said to me, This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut.

According to the Bible: the Messiah would come, enter through the Eastern Gate, present Himself officially as King, and be rejected by the Jews.

Then the Eastern Gate would be closed until He returns and is accepted by the Jews.

It has been closed for over a thousand years despite several attempts to reopen it.

#### Biblical Prophecy Fulfilled: Who closed the gate & why?

1. Partially fulfilled more than 400 years ago in 1541 when the Turks conquered Jerusalem under the leadership of Suleiman the Magnificent. He commanded that the city's ancient walls be rebuilt. In the midst of this rebuilding project, he ordered that the Eastern Gate be sealed up with stones. It is the ONLY gate not rebuilt by Suleiman.

It is told while the walls were being rebuilt, a rumor swept Jerusalem that the Messiah was coming. Suleiman called together some Jewish rabbis for information about the Messiah. They described the Messiah as a great military leader who would be sent by God from the east. He would enter the Eastern Gate and liberate the city from foreign control. Suleiman decided to put an end to Jewish hopes by ordering the Eastern Gate sealed. He also put a Muslim cemetery in front of the Gate, believing that no Jewish holy man would defile himself by walking through a Muslim cemetery.

Note: This was based on Old Testament law that prohibits the high priest from coming into contact with the dead. This practice of the Aaronic priesthood, however, does not apply to the Messiah who descended from the priestly order of Melchizedek.

Note: Little did they know, they were fulfilling prophecy by their actions.

#### Attempts to Open The Gate:

1. In 1917 Muslim leaders in control of Jerusalem tried and failed to break the prophecy and open the gate. On the exact day the workmen were preparing to demolish the ancient stone, the hand of God intervened and the city of Jerusalem passed out of Muslim control into the hands of the British.

2. The Six Day War of 1967: The fate of the new state of Israel hung in the balance.

The turning point came on June 7 when the Israeli army broke through the Lion's Gate and returned control of the ancient city of Jerusalem to the Jewish people for the first time in 1,897 years.

There was a fascinating news account about one of the Jewish commando groups that had been involved in the assault on the city. Some members of the Jewish military suggested catching the Jordanian defenders of the city off guard by blowing open the sealed Eastern Gate. However, the leader of the group, an Orthodox Jew, had vehemently protested the idea, stating that "the Eastern Gate can be opened only when the Messiah comes."

3. Some today are suggesting the East Gate should be reopened to provide greater access to the Temple Mount for pilgrims. How far will they get with their plans?

Satan would love to prove God wrong by opening the Eastern Gate himself. But he lacks the power and authority to do so. Neither Lucifer, nor man, nor any power in the universe can open what God has closed. At the end of the 7 year Tribulation, God's purpose will be fulfilled when the Eastern Gate is opened in order to receive the King of Kings. He is the Lord of lords, the Prince of Peace, the Lamb of God - Jesus Christ...

This Gate awaits the return of the Messiah. *Then and only then, will it be opened.*

When the Lord returns to the earth, this Psalm will be fulfilled:

Ps. 24:7-8 Lift up your heads, O you gates!

And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

<sup>8</sup> Who *is* this King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

Christ's 1<sup>st</sup> Entrance Through the East Gate:

The Lord Jesus came through this gate in His triumphal entry to present himself as King.

Matthew 21:1-5 "Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."

All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

"Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you,

Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Zech. 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation,

Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Watch what the Lord told the Jews who rejected Him:

Luke 19:41-42, 44 "And when He approached, He saw the city and wept over it, saying,

If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things *that make* for your peace!

But now they are hidden from your eyes. ... because you did not recognize the time of your visitation " If they had only kept up with the days predicted by Daniel they would have known that this was the very day of its fulfillment.

Matt. 23:37-39 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! <sup>38</sup> See! Your house is left to you desolate; <sup>39</sup> for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the LORD!' "

Jesus, having entered the city, said He would not be seen again until Jerusalem acknowledges Him.

Mark 14:50 Then they all forsook Him and fled.

Contrasts: 1<sup>st</sup> Coming: Luke 4:22 So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"

2<sup>nd</sup> Coming: Isa. 11:4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Christ's 2<sup>nd</sup> Entrance Through the East Gate

Zechariah 14:3-4 "Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those, nations, as He fights in the day of battle. And on that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which faces Jerusalem on the east. The Mount of Olives shall split in two, from east to west, making a very large valley. Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south."

Matthew 24:27 For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the *coming* of the Son of man.

The Second Coming is the literal return of Jesus Christ to earth as King in power and glory to rule for a thousand years, defeat evil and establish His reign of justice and peace.

It will come at the time when the world is most in need of a righteous King.

Revelation chapters 6-18 describe the end times prior to the Second Coming of Christ.

The world will be devastated, millions of people will perish, and the most evil person in all history will be ruler of the entire world. The Second Coming of Christ puts all this to an end.

Greatest detail in Revelation 19:11-22: Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. <sup>12</sup> His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. <sup>13</sup> He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. <sup>14</sup> And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. <sup>15</sup> Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

<sup>16</sup> And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

Beast & his armies defeated: Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, <sup>18</sup> that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great." <sup>19</sup> And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. <sup>20</sup> Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. <sup>21</sup> And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

A number of cataclysmic events, results of the seventh Bowl Judgment, will occur as the Great Tribulation comes to an end.

Rev. 16:17-21 Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" <sup>18</sup> And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. <sup>19</sup> Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. <sup>20</sup> Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. <sup>21</sup> And great hail from heaven fell upon men, *each hailstone* about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

The earthquake is described in Zech. 14:4b-5 And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north and half of it toward the south.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall flee *through* My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the LORD my God will come, *and* all the saints with You.

Matt. 24:29 "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. (This is the 5<sup>th</sup> worldwide blackout. It is also described in:

Joel 3:14-17 Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision!

For the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision.

<sup>15</sup> The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness.

<sup>16</sup> The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem;

The heavens and earth will shake; But the LORD will be a shelter for His people, And the strength of the children of Israel.

<sup>17</sup> "So you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again."

Summary: The end of the Great Tribulation and the Campaign of Armageddon

1. The multitudes will be defeated in the closing Day of Jehovah in the Valley of Jehoshaphat.
2. The blackout will occur.
3. The great earthquake will occur.
4. A refuge will be provided for the Jews by means of the valley cutting through the Mount of Olives spoken by Zechariah.

There will be a 75 day interval with numerous events taking place as Jesus Christ prepares the earth for His Millennial Kingdom.

Rev. 19:10 Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Jesus Christ is the source of all prophecy. ALL prophecy moves toward a fulfillment by Him with a view toward His glory and His Kingdom.

Hallelujah! The kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdom of Jesus Christ who will reign forever and ever.