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The East Gate

This gate is the gate that leads to the Valley of Hinnom. It is the only gate in Jerusalem that is not in use, because even now the Jews believe that on the final day of judgment the Savior will enter through this gate.

Nehemiah 3:29

“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.”

「Introduction」

The East Gate is the gate that awaits the return of Jesus. Ezekiel saw the glory of the temple depart through the East Gate, and he also saw a vision of that glory re-entering through the East Gate (Ezek. 43:4–5). Today, there are many tombs outside the East Gate because people chose that place as a burial ground in the hope of resurrection at the Lord’s return. Jesus said that He will return in the same way as He ascended into heaven. The day and the hour are known only to God, and until then we are to live as witnesses being filled with the Holy Spirit.

1. What promise does the Bible give concerning the return of Jesus?

Acts 1:11 “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Revelations 22:20 “He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

2. What does the Bible say about the timing of Jesus’ return?

Matthew 24:36 “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”

「Reflection」

Why has God kept the exact time of the Second Coming a secret? Let us look for the reason in the following passage. (Matthew 24:36-44)

3. The most important lesson about Jesus’s return is to ‘stay awake/watchful.’ Let us examine the following passage to find out why we fail to stay awake.

Luke 21:34-35 “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth.”

- “Among the following three causes, which darkens your spirit the most? (dissipation: lack of one’s calling / drunkenness: addiction / concerns in life)

4. What did Jesus tell His disciples to do in order to always stay watchful?

Luke 21:36 “But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

5. Let us look at what will happen in this world at the Lord’s return.

- Things that will happen to the elect (Matthew 24:29–31)

- Things that will happen to unbelievers (Matthew 13:49–50)

6. Let us consider the Parable of the Tenants in Matthew 21:33–41.

- Why did the tenants act so wickedly?

- Are you aware that you are a steward?

「 Sharing 」

The early Christians, whenever they prayed, would cry out ‘Maranatha’ (Come, Lord Jesus; 1 Corinthians 16:22) with a heart longing for the Lord’s return. Am I truly longing and waiting for the Lord’s return? If not, what would be the reason?

「 Reflection 」

There are quite many people who respond cynically when hearing about the end of the world. Christianity has emphasized the end times for two thousand years, yet the world still stands. Even among those who claim to believe in Jesus, there is a tendency to label anyone who talks about the end times as a fanatic. This is truly pitiful. I would like to urge them to look back over the two-thousand-year history of Christianity. In every era when belief in the end times and the Second Coming was disregarded, the church never failed to experience decline or corruption.

What do these historical facts tell us? They show that faith in the Second Coming and the end times serves as a vital indicator of the church’s life or decline. This truth applies equally to individual Christians. It is rare to find someone who is skeptical about the end times and yet lives a disciplined and faithful Christian life. Conversely, those with a sound and healthy faith never adopt a skeptical or dismissive attitude toward the end times. - Rev. John Oak

「 Application 」

1. We are stewards called to manage the vineyard until the Master returns. Everythin given to me has an Owner. Remembering that there will be a day of accounting before the Master, which area am I called to cultivate most diligently?

2. Faith in the Second Coming is first about always staying awake through prayer. Spend some time sharing about your recent prayer life and make a new plan.