

“The gate to life is narrow” by Jeremiah

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

Today, I would like to talk about the narrow gate to life. Let’ s have a look at the text.

Matthew 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

The strait gate is the gate to the eternal life. Therefore this part talks about the eternal life which is an important issue for Christians. Lord once talked as below.

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Lord told us that the most precious thing is the eternal life. However, the road to the eternal life is narrow and the road to destruction is wide where many people go through.

So, why is that? How come the gate to the eternal life became narrow at the time of Jesus?

My personal understanding is that the answer is found in the scripture below.

7:15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

These false prophets who were Pharisees and rabbis talked about the gate to destruction. Many people will also enter through it to the destruction. As Peter said, false prophets meant teachers in the modern time. Therefore, Pharisees and rabbis were what the Bible says false prophets in the time of Jesus.

2 Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

<They turn new believers into children of hell>

So, let's think about how those people talked about the wide gate to destruction and led people into it.

It is clear that they talked about the teaching of the wide gate to destruction as the below scripture says.

Matthew 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

This scripture describes how rabbis and Pharisees who are supposed to be teachers of the word of God are blocking the way to heaven.

It is obvious here that the wide road to destruction is getting even wider by them. They are the ones who deceive people who initially come to the meetings to hear the word of God, and as the Bible says, many would listen to them and enter the destruction.

<Teachers in this era also talk about the wide gate of destruction>

Now, as I repeat again and again, what happened in the time of Jesus is warning to us. The issues caused by rabbis and Pharisees are not one-off events in the time of Jesus. Instead, they are going to be repeated in End Times. Therefore, these events are the prophecy of other troubles caused by the false teachers.

It is correct to understand that the issues caused by hypocritical rabbis and Pharisees

will be repeated in the churches in End Times. I could be wrong or misunderstanding, but I personally don't think so. My understanding is that Lord prophesized about End Times as below.

Matthew 24:9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

24:10 At that time, many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

24:13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

24:20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

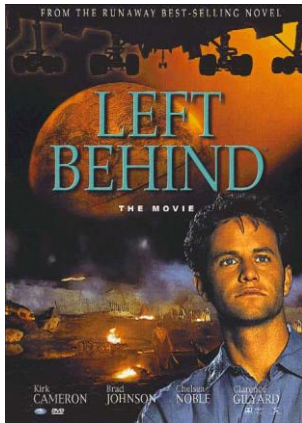
24:21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again.

24:22 “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

This is how Jesus gave warnings to the people in End Times He said “**Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death**” and mentioned that we will definitely face difficulties and encouraged us not to be upset even then.

He also warned us not to be shaken even if we are threatened because of the name of Jesus. Another warning he gave us is that time shall come when Christians will stumble upon each other, betray, in order to stay in the correct faithfulness. At the same time, he talked about the patience that we need as Christians. He also told us that there is definitely a tribulation for Christians in End Times.

Why did Lord give us the warnings in many different forms? It is because he wants us all not to be shaken by the tribulation but stay with God on the day.



Left Behind talks about Pre-tribulation rapture theory

Jesus didn't talk about the disasters and tribulations the people of God wouldn't face, but He mentioned them because He knew we would do. However, teachers and the false prophets denied all of His words and made them meaningless. They talk about Pre-tribulation rapture theory and prepare the way for destruction. They are talking about wider roads, indeed.

<False teachers don't know the road to life>

The false teachers in the time of Jesus made a crucial mistake which was that they didn't know how to enter the narrow road. This is what **ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in** means. We don't want a driving instructor who doesn't know how to teach driving cars, and the same goes with a swimming coach's case. It will be a bad joke and doesn't happen in reality. However, as far as the eternal life is concerned, some teachers don't know how to enter the kingdom of heaven. This is a terrible situation.

<Current teachers don't know the way to life>

When Jesus criticized Pharisees and rabbis, you may think it has got nothing to do with us at this time, but it is not necessarily true. Instead, we need to understand that this is a warning written against teachers of our era. Personally, I believe that many teachers do not enter the kingdom of God and prevent people from entering it.

For example, many teachers believe that once you have become a Christian, you are

safe forever. However, your name written in heaven could be deleted in some cases. It is written as below.

Revelation 3:5 The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

This scripture may possibly mean that if you do not become victorious, your name can be removed from the book of life if you simply look it from the opposite view. Let's also look at the scripture below.

Exodus 32:32 But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.

32:33 The Lord replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.

This scripture also talks about names being erased from the book of life, therefore what the Bible teaches us is that even when you call yourself Christian, if you don't follow the right path and keep committing the worldly sins, your name will be deleted from the book of life. If teachers talk about the wide path with the wrong understanding, they could also go into the destruction.

<Making believers children of Gehenna >

Lord also talked about how false teachers turn believers into different kind of believers who will go straight into the hell.

Matthew 23:15 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

Pharisees and rabbis go around the world to make believers. It looks like they are going to stop worshipping idols and start worshipping God which looks absolutely fine, but the Lord may see it differently.

If those people believe teachings which lead them to Gehenna, they will not end up making heaven. They use words carefully while picking up scriptures from the Bible in order to lead many people to destruction. Just like those people from the time of Jesus, the false teachers in recent time also make people into the children of Gehenna. The ecumenical movement is a classic example, but they are blind and can't see the true nature of Catholic Churches well. Catholic claims that there are mistakes in the Bible while the churches never make mistakes. They are a terrible group who worship Pope and Mary. I personally suppose that anyone accepting Catholic may possibly enter the wide road to become children of hell. We need to observe teachings carefully right now to identify the narrow road as not many will find it.

Amen



Catholic claims that there are mistakes in the Bible.

Knowing the era “Ecumenical movement” by H.F

As Jesus told us to judge the time (Luke 12:56-57), we need to understand what is happening in the churches and judge what is right.

As I've said before, we are seeing the ecumenical movement right now. Last year marked the 500th anniversary of Luther's religious revolution, then Protestant and Catholic held an event together. Although Protestant doesn't worship Mary, they insist that cooperation and understanding each other is important. However, the truth of God is missing here.

This is what I also said before; there is such thing as Chrislam which is the combo between Christianity and Islam. They claim that they worship the same God and try to

understand each other.

According to Christian Post published on 17th February 2017, 400 religious leaders signed Washington agreement in order to protect minority religions and show spiritual tolerance. This agreement is all about religious freedom and collaborations which focuses on a variety of community and value. The meeting was held in Washington D.C for two days where the statement was made that it is important to share the different values instead of stand against them.

What is focused on here is the importance of understanding each other, but Jesus is not mentioned as the facilitator between humans and God. You may say this is what is going on in some churches. Muslim and Christianity are seen as united, but the Bible says that unless the spirit declares Jesus, it is not from God and instead the spirit of anti-Christ in 1 John 4:3.

Lighthouse trail warns that people are trying to mix Christianity with other religions, such as Islam, Hindu, Buddhism, and Shamanism.

There are many examples these days where religious collaboration is taking place including Eastern religions which are completely different in essence.

According to Christian Today, 50 leaders from Christianity, Buddhism, Muslim, and other religions gathered in Namie on the 14th March to pray for the recovery from Japan Earthquake with its victims.

This event has been organized by WCRP Japan since 2012 and silent prayer is going to be dedicated at 2:46 pm: the exact time when the earthquake happened.

According to Christian Today issued on 13th November 2017, the first WCC meeting was held in Korea in an attempt to have a talk between Christianity and Confucianism during the 27th and 31st of October. Rev. Ioan Sauca, CEO of Ecumenical Research Center and Deputy President of WCC, stated "WCC is involved in the religious collaboration between Christianity and Confucianism for the first time. This is the day when we open up our heart and accept each other". WCC churches in East Asia also insisted that they are discussing with Confucianism on a regular basis.

Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran also said "Both Confucius and Jesus, as well as their followers, brought some changes in our history so I have no doubt that we can change things now. It is up to us whether or not we can rediscover the spiritual treasure in order to find the new hope in this world".

Jesus is placed at the same level as Confucius, and the discussion is about accepting each other to rediscover the spiritual treasures. Holy Spirit and evil spirit are treated together as one here.

Did Jesus talk about acceptance towards different religions to work together? Did His disciples try to cooperate with other religions? No way. They never did that and clearly declared that it is important to believe in Jesus who only can give us the true salvation.

Matthew 5:13 Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

Just like salt working to prevent deterioration, Christians are called to be the salt of the earth. However, as they unite with other religions, they part themselves from the truth and are losing the character of salt. We need to know the era.



Religious

collaboration