

= East to West (song) =

" East to West " is a song recorded by contemporary Christian band Casting Crowns . Written by Mark Hall and Bernie Herms and produced by Mark A Miller , it was released as the lead single from the band 's 2007 album The Altar and the Door . Lyrically , the song deals with the concept of forgiveness . The song met with a positive to mixed reception from music critics and won two awards at the 39th GMA Dove Awards : Song of the Year and Pop / Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year . It was also nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Gospel Performance at the 51st Grammy Awards .

" East to West " received 78 adds in its first week , a record at Christian radio . The song peaked atop five chart formats , as well as at number twenty @-@ five on the Billboard Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart . It ranked at number six on the decade @-@ end Billboard Hot Christian Songs chart and at number seven on the decade @-@ end Billboard Hot Christian AC chart . Additionally , it ranked inside the top fifteen on both the 2007 and 2008 year @-@ end Hot Christian Songs and Hot Christian AC charts .

= = Recording and composition = =

In the liner notes for The Altar and the Door , Casting Crowns lists Psalm 51 , Ephesians 2 : 1 ? 10 , 1 John 1 : 9 , Psalm 103 , Romans 8 , Colossians 2 : 9 ? 15 , Isaiah 38 : 17 , Psalm 32 , Lamentations 3 : 22 ? 24 , Romans 6 and Romans 3 : 5 ? 8 as inspirations for writing " East to West " . It was written by Mark Hall and Bernie Herms and produced by Mark A. Miller . It was recorded and mixed by Sam Hewitt at Zoo Studio in Franklin , Tennessee and at My Refuge Studio in McDonough , Georgia . Additional recording was handled by Michael Hewitt and Dale Oliver at Zoo Studio , while the song was mastered by Richard Dodd . The string section was arranged by Herms and recorded by Bill Whittington and Steve Breers at The Sound Kitchen in Franklin , Tennessee .

" East to West " is a contemporary Christian song lasting four minutes and twenty @-@ six seconds . It was written in common time in the key of F ? minor at a tempo of 73 beats per minute . The vocal range in the song ranges from the low note of D4 to the high note of F ? 5 . Lyrically , " East to West " deals with the concept of forgiveness , and the doubt that God forgives and forgets all sin . Casting Crowns ' lead vocalist Mark Hall explained that : " We have a hard time with the concept of forgiveness . We cut ourselves and it heals , but the scar remains . Sometimes we think God treats sin like we would if we were God , and that he handles forgiveness like we would . We know he forgives , but we can 't accept that God chooses to forget and relinquishes his right to avenge . That 's what we 're singing about in ' East To West ' " . In a separate interview , Hall elaborated on that theme , commenting that : " I see forgiveness as God giving away His right to revenge in my life . He loved me so much that He ? s choosing to remember that against me no more , all because of Jesus " .

= = Critical reception and awards = =

Upon the release of The Altar and the Door , " East to West " met with positive to mixed critical reception . Kevin McNeese of New Release Tuesday regarded the song as a " powerful song and moment " , while Steve Morley of United Methodist Communications commented that the song " offers grace for the journey " and " emphasizes the sin @-@ crushing power of Jesus ? death and resurrection " . Andree Farias of Christianity Today was more negative , opining that the song took too long to reach its climax .

At the 39th GMA Dove Awards , " East to West " won the awards for Song of the Year and Pop / Contemporary Recorded Song of the Year . It was also nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Gospel Performance at the 51st Grammy Awards .

= = Chart performance = =

" East to West " received 78 radio adds in its first week , a record at Christian radio . It debuted at number fifteen on the Billboard Hot Christian Songs chart and advanced to number one in its seventh week on the chart. in total , " East to West " spent forty @-@ three weeks atop the chart . The song spent a total of nineteen weeks at the top spot , tied with Brandon Heath 's " Give Me Your Eyes " for the second most weeks at number one in the history of the Hot Christian Songs chart . " East to West " also topped the Billboard Hot Christian AC chart and the Radio & Records INSCO chart . It spent thirteen weeks atop the Radio & Records Christian AC Monitored chart and a record fourteen weeks atop the Radio & Records Christian AC Indicator chart . " East to West " also peaked at number twenty @-@ five on the Billboard Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart . In 2012 , " East to West " was certified Gold by the RIAA , signifying sales of over 500 @,@ 000 digital downloads .

" East to West " was ranked at number eight on the 2007 year @-@ end Hot Christian Songs chart and at number nine on the 2007 year @-@ end Hot Christian AC chart , as well as at number twelve on the 2008 year @-@ end Hot Christian Songs chart and at number fourteen on the 2008 year @-@ end Hot Christian AC chart . It ranked at number six on the decade @-@ end Hot Christian Songs chart and at number seven on the decade @-@ end Hot Christian AC chart , Casting Crowns highest @-@ ranking song on both decade @-@ end charts .

= = Live performances = =

Casting Crowns has performed " East to West " in concert and at events since its release as a single . At the 39th GMA Dove Awards , they performed a " stirring rendition " of the song . At a concert on February 28 , 2010 in Hershey , Pennsylvania , Casting Crowns performed the song as part of their set list . They performed the song at a concert at the Sprint Center in Kansas City , Missouri as the fourth @-@ to @-@ last song of their set list .

= = Charts = =

= = Release history = =