THE WAY IN



During these times, finding the way in....the door to the Kingdom of God is more urgent than ever. This Christmas many are experiencing an atmosphere of uncertainty lurking beneath the colored lights and the holiday cheer, questioning what next year will bring....

Will the country survive this political strife?

Will the economy bottom out?

Will I still have my job in spring?

Will my family be spared an act of random violence?

Will we make it to another Christmas without chaos breaking out?

But what most of us don't seem to understand is that the trembling and the shaking that's going on across the earth, right now, is directly connected with the one whose birth we celebrate this season.

"During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever.

Daniel 2:44

The stage has been set for the breaking up and the destroying of all the kingdoms of this earth by the Kingdom of God. Now how long it will be until the boom falls, only God knows. But for us, who are followers of Jesus, *if* we're followers of Jesus, this is no time to be sitting around waiting for the trumpet to blow, as if there's nothing else to do.

Because the Kingdom of our Lord, while it is not <u>of</u> this earth, is nevertheless very much present <u>on</u> the earth right now.

And every government. And every human structure, whether it be economic or political or military power has its days numbered the minute it is touched by our Lord's Kingdom.



This does not mean that Jesus is out to destroy people. He's not out to hurt anybody. He doesn't get some kind of delight out of seeing people going down the drain.

His purpose is to...

Always bring healing, forgiveness, and life.

And yet look what happened to Herod when the wise men bring the news of this new king of the Jews. Herod flies into a rage, massacres the babies of Bethlehem, and shortly thereafter is himself destroyed.

Pontious Pilate is minding his own business living as if there were no such thing as the Jesus of Nazareth Until one day the mob brings Jesus right to him and says we want him crucified. Jesus doesn't mean any harm to Pilate, He doesn't want to hurt Pontius Pilate. And yet when Pilate consents to Jesus' crucifixion, his star falls.

The City of Jerusalem. Jesus loved Jerusalem, longed to gather her children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, weeps over that city, heals her sick, teaches in her streets. But when Jerusalem rejects him, her days are numbered. And it is not long before her glory is reduced to rubble and dead bodies.

They destroyed themselves.

Now when the Kingdom of God comes, it comes, bringing with it an open door, welcoming people into the very heart of God's love.



It doesn't come to damn anybody.

It doesn't come down to hurt anybody.

But when a man or woman looks through that open door and sees that love and then turns their back.....

....they hurt themselves.

The nations of this world are going to find themselves having to do something about an epidemic of radical Christianity that's going to be springing up and causing the gospel to be preached on street corners and housetops. And behind this epidemic of radical faith will be the sheer, divine love of God causing the good news to be going out to the earth for the last time. Then when the nations have to deal with this, they will deal with the Kingdom of God as nations always do, with repression, with jail sentences, and with executions. These things will mark the beginning of the end for nation after nation. War, famine, disease, natural catastrophes, false prophets, false Christs, and political idols will cover the earth with dread.

And then suddenly, our Lord will be seen in the heavens.

And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him and there won't be a person anywhere... man, woman, or child who will be able to say, but wait a minute, "I never knew this, nobody cleared this up to me". Everybody from the least to the greatest, from one end of the earth to the other will know whose light that is up there. There will be no doubt in anybody's mind, none.

As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found.

But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:34

Now the Kingdom of this Jesus is a thing of love, always love. The Kingdom of Jesus isn't here to hurt or destroy anybody.





The things that he taught were.... for our good. He died on that cross for our good. He rose from the grave..... for our good

He's with you right now for your good... to bring you.... unspeakable blessing.

This season as we remember his birth, He is present with you and present wherever brothers and sisters anywhere on this earth gather in his name. And especially now in these times, He flings wide open the door of his Kingdom and urges all to come into it.

And for those of us who've already entered in....

..... to penetrate more deeply into the center of the Father's love.

There are three things that Jesus says to us this season....

- 1. Don't Be Afraid of Me
- 2. I Know What You're Going Through
- 3. I Will Empower You to Manifest My Grace

"Don't be afraid of me".

When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were afraid.

When the multitude saw that man sit up in his coffin at the command of Jesus, rise up in his coffin they were afraid.

When we begin to get any sense of who this is, who is talking to us and speaking to our hearts, we begin to feel fear.

And if you have never known that fear, pray for it because it's the introduction to the reality of God. And all too many of us have no sense of God's reality at all. So if it takes earthquakes and fires to bring it to you, may it be so.

But once you get that sense of who is talking to you and your heart begins to tremble and you really begin to know the fear of God, then Jesus turns around and says "don't be afraid".

He points to the place where he was born, a stable.... born of a peasant girl, dirt poor all his life, no connections with people in high places at any time.



So that, the lowest, the poorest person on this earth, the meanest sinner, the most tormented mind, the most twisted and warped personality.... can draw near to Jesus without being afraid of being rejected.

He's not going to push you away.

He's not going to make some kind of excuse and slam the door in your face.

And he's not going to throw your sins up to you.

If you confess those sins, He's going to take them one by one and He's going to wash them away in his own blood.

"I know what you are going through".

"I was born into the human race for that purpose. And there's no temptation, and there's no sorrow, and there's no loneliness, and there's no pain that I haven't known".

There are many of us who are living like there are certain problems we face that Jesus couldn't possibly understand. But he does understand. He understands.

He understands not as somebody from a distance observing you, but he understands as your brother and your friend who walked that road before you ever got here, with the pain, the loneliness, and the temptation that you face. He faced them too.

- "I know exactly where you are.
- I know where you're having trouble, and where you're dejected, and where you're having a difficult time.
- I know, and I'm here to help you now and to lift you up. I will do this".

And I know when you are hurting yourself, where you're cutting corners, and where you're falling into a spiritual slumber, I'm here to wake you up, and call you to repentance.

And to tell you to get on with the life that you have to live, the life that I call you to live.... while there is still time."

"I will empower you to manifest my grace.

"If you will come into my Kingdom all the way and commit yourself utterly to it, not half baked, all the way. I will enable you to live in this world and in the middle of any personal or worldly turmoil just as I lived in this world of flesh and blood".



The works that I did you will do also and greater works than these will you do because I am at the right hand of the father and I quicken you, and I intercede for you, and I empower you.

"I'm here to help you. And if you will walk this road with me, I'm going to enable you to do everything that I did. That rock cut out of a mountain without human hands.... began as my crucified and resurrected body twenty one centuries ago.... and it continues on this earth now.... as the body of my Saints. And if you are part of my Kingdom, you are part of that stone".

As the father sent me, so I send you.

As the father anointed me, so I anoint you.

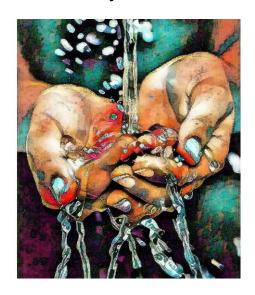
Not just to sit in church.

Not just to say a prayer at night before you go to bed,

"But I anoint you to go out there to...

Preach good news to the poor.
Proclaim release to the captives.
Recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed

I anoint you to do this.



I give you the power to prepare the world for my return.

I give you the power to manifest my grace by.....

Bringing forgiveness to the penitent, Bringing healing to the sick, Bringing hope to those who are downtrodden.

And I call you to do this".

"You" says, our Lord to us....

"You are the way into my Kingdom, not angels, not spirits.

Flesh and blood sons and daughters of the Kingdom are the way in to the Kingdom"

If the people out there in that world are ever going to see the love of Jesus Christ, it will have to be through us. Don't depend on pastors, evangelists, Christian radio or TV to do that.

You're going to have to do that.

If they're ever going to experience who Jesus is, it's through people that they can reach out and touch, people they can talk to, people they can spend some time with.

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world.

You!

Don't waste what he's given you. When he makes us the light of the world, when he makes us the salt of the earth, he holds us accountable.

If the salt loses its flavor it's good for nothing but to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men.

We are accountable.

Instead of getting caught up in the holiday whirl this season, may the spirit of God really be with us to make the most of the time left in our lives.

May He anoint us to use the days that remain for us to live in this world in flesh and blood to...

Preach good news to the poor.
Release to the captives
Recovery of sight to the blind.
Set at liberty those who were oppressed

May the Spirit of God search your heart, clear your mind, open your eyes, and help you to get yourself right, so that you may immerse yourself in the Father's love, becoming effective ministers of his love so that others may find their way into the Kingdom of God through us in the difficult days that lie ahead of us Before the door of the Kingdom shuts forever.

And for those reading this who haven't yet found their way in....The Spirit of your Lord is calling you to come through that door, now, not tomorrow, now.

And he promises that everything you need, everything you need, He'll give you.

And he'll give you a confirmation of his word in whatever place you're hurting the most. If you'll only come through that door.

Not after you quit smoking weed, Not after you stop drinking, Not after you get your life together.... now.

Whoever comes to him, he will in no wise cast out.





Prayer: Lord, help us to both find the way in and to be the way in. Despite the shaking that's going on around us, help us to see, hear, and sense you calling us into your Kingdom, into the very heart of your love. May we not turn our backs on the blessing of your call to us. Thank you for welcoming us in just the way we are, for knowing us and understanding us, and for never having to fear your rejection. And for those of us who have found our way in...may we penetrate even deeper into your love. May we manifest your grace so that the broken, the imprisoned, the sick, the oppressed, and the blind find their way to you, through us. May we embrace the anointing and power you pour into us and spend the rest of our days as effective ministers of your love so that in the end countless numbers find their way in. Amen.

Message: Richard E. Bieber Christmas 1973 <u>audio version</u> Featured Art: Courtesy of Mark Rouse at <u>markrouseart.com</u>

