

The Epicenter

April 27, 2014

Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many. Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

Matthew 27:50-54

The Epi-center

Epi - upon, on top of, founded on

Kentron - the middle, the center, the midst

- *That which occupies a cardinal point, something situated on center in the position of greatest importance.*
- *The point on the earth's surface vertically above the hypocenter or focus of an earthquake - the point where an earthquake or underground exploding originates.*

- *the central point of something, typically a difficult or unpleasant situation and often the place of greatest damage.*

The Epic-enter

Epic - that which narrates the deeds and adventures of heroic or legendary figures or the history of a nation

Enter - to come or go into

Entering the Hero's Deed, coming into the Legendary work of the Cross and calling it home, fixing your bed, your dresser, your desk, and your hopes to the blood-stained Labors of the Epic Champion and resolving to stay forever.

The Epicenter

The Place of the Great Earthquake

The Epicenter

The Place to Call Home - the most dangerous place on earth

The Epic-Enter

The Willingness to come to the most dangerous place on earth, say goodbye to all earthly security, enter the blood-sealed door of the bruised and bullet-riddled house, and call this scourged, spat-upon, blood-stained, earth-quaked, war-zone your home . . . forever and always.

Don't Fear the Dangerous Place

For the Greatest Danger is actually the Safest Place in the Entire Universe

In the Middle of the Middle

And I beheld, and, lo, **in the midst of the throne** and of the four beasts, and **in the midst of the elders**, stood a Lamb as it had been slain . . . For the Lamb which **is in the midst of the throne** shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

Revelation 5:6; 7:17

For the Lamb which **is in the midst** (*ana + mesos*) of the throne . . .

Revelation 7:17

For the Lamb which **is in the** *center of the center* of the throne . . .

Revelation 7:17

For I determined not to know any thing among you, save **Jesus Christ, and Him crucified**.

1 Corinthians 2:2

Jesus and Him Crucified

- The Epicenter of All History
- The Epicenter of all Truth
- The Epicenter of all Revelation
- The Epicenter of all Righteousness

- The Epicenter of all Doctrine
- The Epicenter of all Life and Power

The Two Great Earthquakes of the Gospel

1. The Cross
2. The Resurrection

And, behold, there was a **great earthquake**: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

Matthew 28:2

The Secret to Understanding the Scriptures

Live, breathe, study, reason, and interpret from this spot, the most dangerous place on Earth

And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Isaiah the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Isaiah, and said, **Understandest thou what thou readest?** And he said, **How can I, except some man should guide me?** And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He

was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? **Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.**

Acts 8:26-35

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from **the simplicity that is in Christ.**

2 Corinthians 11:3

In Christ

Surprise! Jesus is meant to be entered, like a door, like a strong tower, like clothing, like a house. He's the place we are to live and call home.

The Epic Entry

aka - the Entry into the Epic

The Epicenter of the Gospel

- The Epicenter of the Life that actually works
- The Epicenter of Christianity
- The Epicenter of the entire Bible, all doctrine, and all preaching

The Place of the Earthquake

The Place of our Rescue, the Place of our eternal living, The Place of Suffering, The Place of Victory, the Place of War, The Place of Peace, The Place of Agony, The Place of Joy

Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body.

John 2:19-21

Are You Willing to Call this Dangerous Place Home?

- Are you willing to sell all other property and move here to this place?
- Are you willing to throw away everything that can't coexist in this Divine and Heavenly home?
- Are you willing to move into a place where the sound of war will be the background score to your life?
- Are you willing to choose the ignominy that is associated with this location? For those of this earth call those that dwell here fools, idiots, the off-scouring of the world, refuse, garbage, ignorant, small-minded, intellectually-inferior.
- Are you willing to fall in love with this place, cherish it as your eternal dwelling, and covenant to never leave - whether in sickness or in health, whether living in plenty or in want, and whether amidst bomb blasts or the cooing of turtledoves?
- Are you willing to make the epicenter of the most Dangerous Earthquake in Universal History your dwelling place?

There is Only One House

Out of all the real-estate on Earth, this is actually the lone option

. . . By man came death . . . **in Adam** all die . . .

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

... By man came also the resurrection of the dead ... **in**

Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as **in Adam all die**, even so **in Christ shall all be made alive**.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22

Lie not one to another, seeing that **you have put off the old man** with his deeds; **And have put on the new man**, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

Colossians 3:9-10

The One and Only

- There is only One that is Perfect
- There is only One that is Righteous
- There is only One that is Holy
- There is only One that is Chosen
- There is only One that is Elect
- There is only One that is Called
- There is only One that is Just
- There is only One that is Pleasing
- There is only One that is Worthy
- There is only One that is Exalted
- There is only One that is Glorified

- There is only One that is the Son of God
- There is only One lineage that counts and that receives the Promise
- ALL Glory, ALL Praise, ALL Power are HIS

We are not that One

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? not one.

Job 14:4

What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?

Job 15:14

He is that One

. . . that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather **together in one** all things **in Christ**, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--**in Him** . . .

Ephesians 1:10

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are **in Him** who is true, **in His Son Jesus Christ**. This is the true God and eternal life.

1 John 5:20

Come to the Epicenter . . .

And live!

The Difference Between a “Visit” and “Abiding”

- **A Visit** - a stopover, a short term excursion, a stay that is not intended to be permanent
- **Abiding** - moving in, remaining, deciding that this is the spot, staying no matter the challenges, adapting to whatever the house demands, and cherishing and caring for the place as if it is your very own

The Third Earthquake of the Gospel

1. The Cross
2. The Resurrection
3. The Indwelling

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31

The Epic Entry

When the Great Legendary Hero comes to Earth Once Again

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him . . . Jesus answered

and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

John 14:21,23

God has Come to Abide in Us!

But First . . .

We must go to the Epicenter and make Him our forever home

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except you **abide in me.** I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that **abideth in me, and I in him,** the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. **If a man abide not in me,** he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you,** ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. **Herein is my Father glorified,** that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue you **in my love.** If you keep

my commandments, **you shall abide in my love**; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and **abide in his love**. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain **in you**, and that your joy might be full.

John 15:4-11