

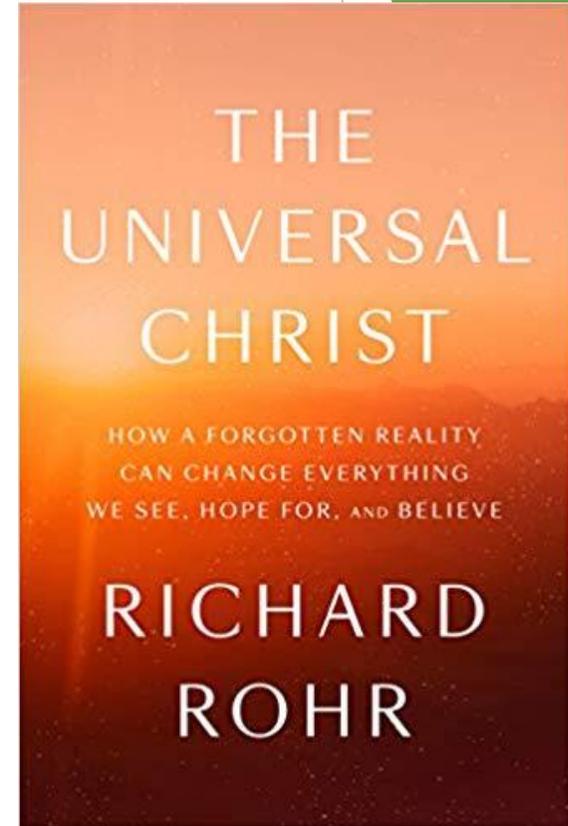
8

Chapter 7

The Universal Christ: *Going Somewhere Good.*

*I have come to cast fire on the
earth and how I wish it were
already blazing.*

Luke 12:49





“The Christ Mystery”: The universal and deeper reality at the heart of all things. The incarnations of
Nature
The Jesus of history
You and Me

Now we ask: If “Christ in you” is the starting point, what is the goal for all of us... for the cosmos?

Armageddon ???

Change:
order-> disorder-. reorder



Fire: a renewing force



Farmers, forestry workers, and Native peoples know fire is a renewing force, even as it can also be destructive.

...we see it as merely destructive (did not understand the metaphor of hell or purgatory).

Jesus believed in change

... change your mind

... go beyond your mind

metanoieite vs. paenitentia
worldview... way of processing³



Moralistic (change a few externals) puts the cart before the horse).. Underlying worldview remains fully narcissistic and self-referential.

Jesus describes faith as an actual change of heart and mind, something that largely happens “in secret, where your Father who sees all that is done in secret can reward you.” (inner motivation and intention/purity of heart)

...vs. external requirements that could be enforced, punished, and rewarded.



The inner process of change is fundamental to everything.

Our bodies heal from within... wait and trust!

Universal pattern: growth and healing through loss and renewal.

Death and resurrection... more than a doctrinal statement about Jesus



God protects us into and through death



We fail to honor God's always unfolding future and the process of getting there, which usually includes some form of dying to the old.



There is no such thing as a nonpolitical Christianity. (refuse to critique the system or status quo is to fully support it)



Going somewhere good means having to go through and with the bad, and being unable to hold ourselves above it or apart from it.

Jesus rejects love of the past and one's private perfection



“In vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as if they were doctrines.

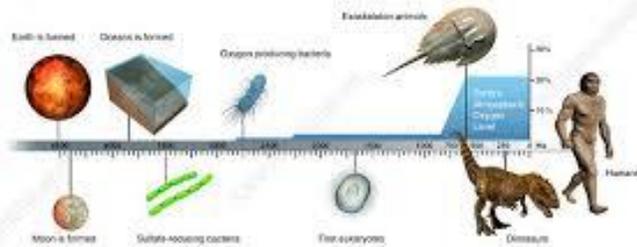


Jesus challenged his apostles to leave their jobs and their families (two Jewish sacred cows)

He didn't tell them to attend synagogue more often or to believe that he was God...

How God Keeps Creation Both Good and New

Evolution: God keeps creating things from the inside out, so they are forever yearning, developing, growing, and changing for the good.



“Fire”: generative force from within (programmed for it) and from without (taking in sun, food, and water)



The Risen Christ assures us that God is leading us somewhere good and positive, all crucifixions to the contrary.

Christ: Divine Radiance & Divine Allure

The Story Line of Grace

“Life does not have to be perfect to be wonderful”

“to live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often.” John Henry Newman



“Good News” needs to reveal a universal pattern that can be relied upon
not just clannish or tribal patterns



catholics

Traces of Goodness



Dawkins (English biologist and militant atheist):
most common misconception about evolution:
“that it is a theory of random chance.”

“...explains why all animals and plants are
so beautifully...well designed.”

Creationists and Evolutionists do not have to
be enemies.

Resurrection and renewal are the universal
and observable pattern of everything.

Your simple breathing models your entire
vocation as a human being.

