

## **Alway Winter But Never Christmas**

### **Video**

I want to build on that video clip, but first ...

### **Christmas Reminder**

Remind us as enter-Christmas season-Christmas

>not about what we have to do-

>about what God has already done for us.

Christmas about- God initiating a plan- w/birth  
and blood of Christ- buy back/redeem- what  
Adam gave away in the garden of Eden.

From- baby in- manger to- man on the cross, we  
are called into a relationship w/Living Christ.

Of all people we should abound in hope because  
of what God has done for us through Christ.

**Romans 15:13 Now may the God of hope  
fill you with all joy and peace in  
believing, so that you will abound in  
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Of all seasons, Christmas ought to be a season  
filled w/hope, as- remember birth of Christ.

**To not live with hope is to deny the  
goodness of God and the very reason  
Jesus came as a baby in a manger.**

### **Introduction**

Title- Always Winter But Never Christmas.

Most- recognized- video clip from-movie/book-

The Lion, the witch, and the wardrobe (Lewis).

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe- story  
about 4 children- stumble into- land of Narnia.

Narnia- under the curse- White Witch- 100yrs-

Father Christmas unable to enter Narnia.

As a result it was always winter- never Christmas.

Earlier this year P Tony reviewed our prophetic history- our is sense that- best is yet to come. There is a great move of God coming. This is something we- believed for a long time. In waiting for the best to come- sometimes it feels like it is always winter but never Christmas. When will Christmas come, when will- best come, when will we see a move of God? How do we live in the meantime as we wait for that which we have hoped for, for so long? Several parallels I want to pull out of this story.

### **1st- Perpetual Winter**

Narnia's perpetual winter- picture of our world under Satan's rule/prince of the power of air.

As a result many struggle w/disappointment discouragement whether it be ...

- >physical illnesses/financial problems
- >relationship issues/broken families
- >larger anxieties over what is happening in our nation and in the world today

How do we find hope when it seems like it is always winter and never Christmas?

Peter warns us ...

**1 Peter 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.**

The enemy wants to rob us of all hope and joy. When- enemy gets our focus off Christ and on our disappointments it is easy to believe the lies that he is whispering in our ear.

Looking for someone- come into agreement with what he is saying so he can devour us.

St. Augustine said something challenging ...

**For a believer discouragement/despair  
can become sin because it negates the  
hope we have in Christ. St. Augustine**

We must fight-hold onto-hope in Christ-now/future

**Rom 8:25 But if we hope for what we do  
not see, with perseverance we wait  
eagerly for it.**

**1 Pet 1:3 ... born again to a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ  
from the dead,**

Consider this verse-

**Romans 8:19 For the anxious longing of  
the creation waits eagerly for the  
revealing of the sons of God.**

What this says to me is that we have a role to  
play as we wait for the best that is yet to come,  
the next move of God, the return of Christ

God has called us, commissioned us, and  
empowered us, to bring heaven to earth.

We have- role to play in- unfolding- human history

## **2nd- Rumors of the Kings return**

In Narnia there were rumors- true King of Narnia  
was on the move/about to return.

As desperate as- people in Narnia were- allowed  
themselves to be encouraged by these rumors

Today, when we hear- words/visions/dreams that  
people have that ...

>A great move of God- just around- corner

>the Lord's return is near

... but- do we allow our hearts to be stirred  
and encouraged?

... or do we push them aside because we-  
heard it all before, nothing changes?

We must guard against- voices of doubt/despair  
drowning out- promises we see in God's Word.

**2 Cor 1.20-21 (TPT) For all of God's  
promises find their "yes" of fulfillment in  
him. And as his "yes" and our "amen"  
ascend to God, we bring him glory! Now,  
it is God himself who has anointed us.  
And he is constantly strengthening both  
you and us in union with Christ.**

### **3rd- The Equipping of the Saints**

As- time of- Kings return drew near- curse began  
to weaken and Father Christmas could return.  
When he returned- encouraged- children- how-  
equipped them for the struggle that laid ahead.  
They were going to have to fight to see-promises.

**2 Pet 1.3-4 (TPT) Everything we could  
ever need for life and complete devotion  
to God has already been deposited in us  
by his divine power. For all this was  
lavished upon us through the rich  
experience of knowing him who has  
called us by name and invited us to  
come to him through a glorious  
manifestation of his goodness.**

In Christ we have everything we need to face our  
struggles-be successful in this life/one to come

**4 As a result of this, he has given you  
magnificent promises that are beyond all  
price, so that through the power of these  
tremendous promises you can  
experience partnership with the divine**

**nature, by which you have escaped the corrupt desires that are of the world.**

Do not allow the enemy to convince you that you have no part to play and nothing to offer.

When you are in- middle of a trial or what seems to be the darkest hour- it is not time to quit.

It is time to call on the promises of God and reaffirm your commitment to Him.

#### **4th- The temptation to compromise**

Edmund allowed himself to be lured away by the White Witch with hope of immediate comfort.

She deceived him with the hope of fulfilling his immediate desires.

Today, the world/Satan- pulls at our affections- particularly in- middle of our disappointments.

Edmund chose to align himself w/White Witch.

We make choices everyday that either align us with God or with Satan.

Will we go deeper in faith and hold onto His promises, or believe- the lies of the enemy.

Understand this- when we agree w/one thing we are always challenging something else.

If we agree with the voice of Satan we are challenging the voice of God.

#### **How do we live in this season?**

Lord dropped this in my heart ...

**The time of God being on the move is just as important as the actual time of His arrival.**

In this season of waiting on the Lord we must hold onto our hope- not passively- actively.

**Mt 11:12 "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven**

**suffers violence, and violent men take it by force.**

Yes, we all want to see miracles, we want to see broken bodies healed, justice for the righteous. But how do we live in a time of ...

- >rumors/small indications- God is on the move
- >a healing here, a word there
- >one prayed for is healed/another dies
- >some people see triumphs/others tragedies

Regardless of the brokenness we see around us we must take hold of the reality-God is coming. He is at work in ways we do not know, and He is preparing us for the days ahead.

**Across the board, in all of life, we feel the tension of the “now-but-not-yet” of history and hope (Dr Steven Garber).**

However sometimes it can feel like there is a lot more “not yet” than “now”.

As believers we have the hope of the ...

- >baby in a manger,
- >man on the cross, and
- >resurrected Christ seated-heavenly places

Jesus took on human flesh to give us an eternal outlook and an eternal hope.

**Micah 5:2 “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”**

Jesus is coming as King and Ruler.

But we must understand that the KofG has a ...

- >past reality,

- >future reality, and a
- >“here and now” reality.

God allows us glimpses of eternity in- here and now, as we wait for our eternal redemption.

**Rev 1:8 “I am ... (He) ...“who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**

We must guard our hearts against both discouragement and compromised living.

As the people of God we are called to live with a heavenly perspective.

**God calls us to be faithful in the natural so we can impact the eternal. Unknown**

We have the privilege of working with God to bring His Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven.

**Do not allow yourself to be shaped by what does not happen. Rather be motivated by what God has done. Bill J**

## **Conclusion**

As winter thaws in Narnia and spring breaks forth- picture of the incarnation of Christ.

Word- becoming flesh forever transformed- world.

The supernatural has broken through into our everyday, ordinary lives.

**1Jn 3:3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

When our hope is set on Christ it will ...

- >empower us to live holy lives and
- >guard our hearts from-temptations of- world

**Jesus told us not to fear, why do we not believe Him? If we should ever grow brave, what on earth would become of us. CS Lewis' wife**

Kris Vallotton ...

**The Bridal chamber is beginning to be assembled, the feast is being prepared and the bride is making herself ready. Whether we are called children of God, the engaged bride, a royal priesthood, the apple of his eye, or a new creation, one thing that is for certain: we have captivated the heart of our lover who is leading a majestic entourage, for He has mounted His white horse and is making his way toward the planet! Kris Vallotton**

Jesus is on- move/consequences are eternal.

This is not a season to be spiritually complacent.

We must fight against discouragement/fear/sin.

The Christ Child has come, the man on the cross has overcome death, and we are seated in heavenly places w/resurrected Christ.

There is a Christmas coming, not a holiday, but one of great significance- not always be winter.

**Christmas has come, and is coming... and I am longing for its blessings to flow far as the curse is found. CS Lewis**

My prayer is- God would break down any walls of containment- enemy has erected around you.

May the Lord lift our hearts/affections above this earth/seat them in heavenly places with Him.

May we ...

>take hope in the birth of Christ (past)

>embrace- reality of- Christ in us (present)

>look forward- anticipation- 2nd coming(future)

Come Lord Jesus!

**Song: Do you hear what I hear**



## **In Like a Lion (Always Winter)**

### **Relient K**

It's always nice to look out the window  
And see those very first few flakes of snow  
And later on we can go outside  
And create the impression of an angel that fell  
from the sky

When February rolls around I'll roll my eyes  
Turn a cold shoulder to these even colder skies  
And by the fire my heart it heaves a sigh  
For the green grass waiting on the other side  
It's always winter but never Christmas  
It seems this curse just can't be lifted  
Yet in the midst of all this ice and snow  
Our hearts stay warm cause they are filled with  
hope

It'd be so nice to look out the window  
And see the leaves on the trees begin to show  
The birds would congregate and things  
A song of birth a song of newer things  
The wind would calm and the sun would shine  
I'd go outside and I'd squint my eyes  
But for now I will simply just withdraw  
Sit here and wish for this world to thaw  
It's always winter but never Christmas  
It seems this curse just can't be lifted  
Yet in the midst of all this ice and snow  
Our hearts stay warm cause they are filled with  
hope

And everything it changed overnight  
This dying world you brought it back to life  
And deep inside I felt things  
Shifting everything was melting

Away oh away

And you gave us the most beautiful of days

Cause when it's always winter but never

Christmas

Sometimes it feels like you're not with us

But deep inside our hearts we know

That you are here and we will not lose hope