

## Janis Ian

# "The Great Divide"

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Come good people and gather Åç ~round  
Step out of the water before you drown  
Tide is coming swift and deep  
Gonna knock you off your feet  
There's a tide of greed that knows no shame  
and a tide of money that holds no stain  
A tide of men who worship pride  
and will not be denied

While politicians lie and cheat  
to get to higher ground  
we follow them like sheep  
and salute them as we drown  
but no man will be king  
when all men wear the crown  
and there will be a reckoning  
from deep inside the rising tide  
as we tear down the walls  
of the Great Divide

Come good people and gather here  
You who still hold freedom dear  
Step across the waters  
Bring your sons and daughters  
Some will sink and some will swim  
Some will walk on the water again  
Some will rise and some will fall  
Each one will hear the call

While churches counsel patience  
and heavenly reward  
they sub-divide our nations  
by the shield and by the sword  
and every congregation  
has a pipeline to the lord  
but there will be no salvation  
and no place to hide for those who lied  
and buried us alive to build the walls  
of the Great Divide

And oh, when the poorest of the poor

come knocking at the door  
they will not be denied  
And oh, when those who took too much  
are stripped of it and judged  
then mercy will provide for the rising tide

So come good people and gather 'round  
Come and stand on common ground  
Raise your voices up and sing  
Let's make the heavens ring  
And you whose silence costs your soul  
Learn to speak or dig your hole  
Tomorrow's here and it won't wait  
No time to hesitate

The tide's already risen  
The deluge is at hand  
Don't sit there by the ocean  
while it sucks away the sand  
'cause you'll be left with nothing  
but the memory of land  
while we sit high above the tide  
and watch the walls begin to fall  
as one by one our children wave goodbye  
to the Great Divide  
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