

The Worlds of Lewis and Tolkien: Christian Imagery in Narnia and Middle Earth

#3: Redemption: Christ in Narnia

Introduction: 70th anniversary of the first publication of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

I. “Talking about Bicycles”: Un-enchantment, Enchantment, Dis-enchantment, Re-enchantment

- a. “My dear Lucy,
I wrote this story for you, but when I began it I had not realized that girls grow quicker than books. As a result, you are already too old for fairy tales, and by the time it is printed and bound you will be older still. But some day you will be old enough to start reading fairy tales again. You can then take it down from some upper shelf, dust it, and tell me what you think of it. I shall probably be too deaf to hear, and too old to understand a word you say, but I shall still be.” Your affectionate godfather, C. S. Lewis
- b. Of the seven books in the Chronicles of Narnia, which one is your favorite and why?

II. Christ in Narnia: Aslan the Great Lion

- a. Another Name
 - i. “Aslan entered Narnia in the form of a lion just as Jesus came into this world in the form of a man. Based upon this supposition, Lewis created a fantasy world that depicts the central theme of our real world—redemption through the incarnate God’s death and resurrection.” (*Finding God in Narnia* by Kurt Bruner & Jim Ware)
 - ii. “It isn’t Narnia, you know,” sobbed Lucy. “It’s you. We won’t meet you there. And how can we live, never meeting you?”
“But you shall meet me, dear one,” said Aslan
“Are—are you there too, Sir?” said Edmund.
“I am,” said Aslan. “But there I have another name. You must learn to know me by that name. This was the very reason why you were brought to Narnia, that by knowing me here for a little, you may know me better there.” (*Voyage of the Dawn Treader*)
 - iii. Story of Hila

III. Cosmic Redemption in Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

- a. “Aslan is on the move” (Mr. Beaver; LWW pg. 84)
 - i. “*Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight
At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more,
When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death,
And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again*” (Old Narnian Rhyme/Prophecy; LWW pg. 85)
 - ii. What sort of things begin to happen in Narnia that show us that Aslan has come and the Witch’s spell begins to break?
- b. Aslan, Edmund and the Stone Table
 - i. By his mere return to Narnia, Aslan ended the Witch’s endless winter. Why then did Aslan have to die?

*"You have a traitor there, Aslan," said the Witch.
"Well," said Aslan, "His offense was not against you."
"Have you forgotten the Deep Magic?" asked the Witch?
"Let us say I have forgotten it," answered Aslan gravely. "Tell us of this Deep Magic."
"Tell you?" ...You know that every traitor belongs to me as my lawful prey and that for every treachery I have a right to a kill." "And so," continued the Witch, "that human creature is mine. His life is forfeit to me. His blood is my property...you know that unless I have blood as the Law all Narnia will be overturned and perish in water and fire. "
"It is very true," said Aslan, "I do not deny it." (LWW)*

- ii. Law and Gospel
 - 1. Bad Understanding: "God broke the law for love"
 - 2. Good Understanding: WCF 19.7; Matt 5:17; Gal 3:21-22
 - iii. What details do you recall about Aslan and the Stone Table, that parallel Christ and the cross?
 - iv. A Deeper Magic the Witch had Forgotten:
 - 1. Aslan's death backfired on the White Witch
 - 2. The White Witch's stone statutes become Aslan's army to defeat her
- IV. Individual Redemption in Narnia: There is Only One Way
- a. The Silver Chair: Jill's Story
 - i. We come because we are called
 - ii. We come because there is nowhere else to go
 - b. Voyage of the Dawn Treader: Eustace the Dragon
 - i. Stage 1: What was Eustace like when we first met him?
 - ii. Stage 2: A Dragon, A Helpful and Sorry Dragon, but still a Dragon
 - iii. Stage 3: Grace in Action
 - iv. What does Eustace teach us about grace? What Old and New Testament passages remind you of this transformation with Eustace?
 - c. What other stories of redemption do we find in Narnia that you can think of?