

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

## #5: Loyalty, Honor, and Courage

Intro: Why are super hero movies so popular today?

- Readers says they feel “clean” when they read LOTR and Narnia
- Have we forgotten the category of the “righteous man” in the Bible? Why?

### I. Loyalty/Honor: Doing What is Right Regardless of Circumstances (and whether anyone sees)

A. What are some biblical examples of God’s people showing loyalty/honor?

B. In What Ways do we see Characters from the LOTR showing loyalty/honor?

- Sam always loyal to Frodo, becomes inadvertent hero
- Eowyn’s duty and loyalty to Theoden
- Aragorn’s loyalty to Arwen, despite affections of Eowyn
- Aragorn was protecting the Shire secretly, even as he is mocked by likes of Butterbur
- Counter Examples in LOTR:
  - Boromir betraying the mission of the Fellowship
  - Saruman secretly plotting with Sauron, lusting for power
  - Wormtongue lying and deceiving

C. In What Ways do we Characters from Narnia Showing loyalty/honor?

- Mr. Tumnus, Mr. Beaver, the Fox
- Lucy and Susan before Aslan dies

### II. Courage/Bravery: Doing What is Right in the Midst of Great Fear or Great Enemies

A. In What ways do we see biblical characters showing courage/bravery?

B. In What Ways do we see characters from the LOTR showing courage/bravery?

- Frodo at Weathertop
- Gandalf and the Balrog
- Boromir fighting for hobbits
- Sam fighting Shelob/Rescuing Frodo
- Eowyn fighting the Nazgul

- Merry going to battle, fighting Nazgul on the Pelennor fields
- The charge of the Rohirrim

At that sound the bent shape of the king sprang suddenly erect. Tall and proud he seemed again; and rising in his stirrups he cried in a loud voice, more clear than any there had ever heard a mortal man achieve before:

Arise, arise, Riders of Theoden!

Fell deeds awake: fire and slaughter!

spear shall be shaken, shield be splintered,

a sword-day, a red day, ere the sun rises!

Ride now, ride now! Ride to Gondor!

With that he seized a great horn from Guthlaf his banner-bearer, and he blew such a blast upon it that it burst asunder. And straightway all the horns in the host were lifted up in music, and the blowing of the horns of Rohan in that hour was like a storm upon the plain and a thunder in the mountains.

Ride now, ride now! Ride to Gondor!

Suddenly the king cried to Snowmane and the horse sprang away. Behind him his banner blew in the wind, white horse upon a field of green, but he outpaced it. After him thundered the knights of his house, but he was ever before them. Eomer rode there, the white horsetail on his helm floating in his speed, and the front of the first Eored roared like a breaker foaming to the shore, but Theoden could not be overtaken. Fey he seemed, or the battle-fury of his fathers ran like new fire in his veins, and he was borne up on Snowmane like a god of old, even as Orome the Great in the battle of the Valar when the world was young. His golden shield was uncovered, and lo! it shone like an image of the Sun, and the grass flamed into green about the white feet of his steed. For morning came, morning and a wind from the sea; and darkness was removed, and the hosts of Mordor wailed, and terror took them, and they fled, and died, and the hoofs of wrath rode over them. And then all the host of Rohan burst into song, and they sang as they slew, for the joy of battle was on them, and the sound of their singing that was fair and terrible came even to the City.

- The march on the black Gate
- The refusal of Frodo and Sam to turn back, despite the terrors they faced
- Counterexamples in LOTR:
  - Denethor is a coward who commits suicide rather than fight

C. In What ways do we see characters from Narnia Showing Courage/Bravery

- Peter leading battle despite Aslan's death
- Peter fighting one on one with Miraz in *Prince Caspian*
- Reepicheep very courageous and bold, loses his tail in *Prince Caspian*