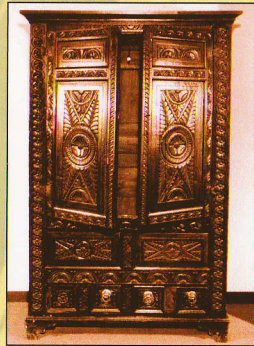


ENCHANTING THE IMAGINATION

In *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, the first book Lewis wrote about Narnia, four British children are sent to live with an old professor during the bombings of London in World War II. Each of the children is a little like all of us: Lucy has a childlike trust and the wonder of innocence, Edmund carries the resentment and one-upmanship of ordinary selfishness, Susan represents the skepticism of the almost-grown, and Peter shows the impartiality and valor to which each of us longs to be called.



THE LEWIS FAMILY WARDROBE

Story Summary

While exploring the house, Lucy, the youngest, climbs through a magic wardrobe into Narnia, a land of talking animals and mythical creatures who are under the evil White Witch's spell of endless winter. When Lucy returns, her brothers and sister don't believe her tale. Edmund enters Narnia a few days later and meets the White Witch, who feeds him Turkish Delight and promises to make him a prince of Narnia if he will bring his siblings to her. She secretly wishes to kill them, because an ancient rhyme says that the evil time of the White Witch will end when four humans sit on the four thrones of Narnia. All four children enter Narnia together and hear about Aslan, the great lion, who will end the evil spell and make things right. Eager for more Turkish Delight, Edmund slips away and betrays his siblings to the White Witch.

When Aslan appears, the White Witch claims Edmund's life, citing the Deep Magic of Narnia that sentences traitors to death. Aslan offers his own life in place of Edmund's, allowing himself to be killed and unlocking a Deeper Magic by which Aslan comes back to life and makes "death start working backwards." Ultimately, the witch is killed, Narnia is released from her deadly spell, and the children are crowned as kings and queens of the happy land.

(More details on panels 5-6.)



C.S. LEWIS WITH TOY

Who was C.S. Lewis?

Born Clive Staples on November 29, 1898, Lewis declared at age four that he wished to be called Jacksie; in his teens, he became Jack. After the devastating death of his mother when Lewis was only nine, young Jack endured a series of horrible boarding school experiences during which he rejected faith and became an atheist. Later, during his career as an Oxford professor of English language and literature, Lewis met a lifelong friend in

writer J.R.R. Tolkien; the two men began a writing-and-discussion group called the Inklings. Tolkien and other Inklings played a large role in helping Lewis come face-to-face with the claims of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a Christian apologist, Lewis wrote some of the 20th century's most important books on faith (*The Screwtape Letters*, *Mere Christianity*, *Surprised by Joy*, *The Great Divorce*) as well as the seven Narnia Chronicles.



C.S. LEWIS AT HIS DESK

Why Did Lewis Write the Chronicles?

Lewis himself stated that the tales were not allegories and therefore should not be "decoded." He preferred to think of them as "supposals," as he explained in this letter to a young woman named Anne: "I asked myself, 'Supposing that there really was a world like Narnia and supposing it had (like our world) gone wrong and supposing Christ wanted to go into that world and save it (as He did ours) what might have happened?' The stories are my answers. Since Narnia is a world of Talking Beasts, I thought He would become a Talking Beast there, as He became a man here. I pictured Him becoming a lion there because (a) the lion is supposed to be the king of beasts; (b) Christ is called 'The Lion of Judah' in the Bible; (c) I'd been having strange dreams about lions when I began writing the work."

"Remember your fairy tales. Spells are used for breaking enchantments as well as for inducing them. And you and I have need of the strongest spell that can be found to wake us from the evil enchantment of worldliness...."

—C.S. LEWIS, *THE WEIGHT OF GLORY*

and challenges faced in Narnia grow in complexity appropriate to a maturing Christian life.

Past the Watchful Dragons

Such supposals help to sneak past the internal "watchful dragons" that so thoroughly snuffed the life out of Lewis' early experience of faith. Lewis understood that learning begins in the imagination, where thought and experience come together.

What the Chronicles do better than much children's literature is this: They create in us a desire for God. Through the enjoyment and experience of meeting and following a king like Aslan, we can be better prepared to recognize the realities of the Christian faith. Additionally, the Chronicles are guides to assist us in growing up in Christ. The adventures

WELCOME TO NARNIA

Narnia

Narnia is the wonderful world created out of nothing by the song of Aslan. Its inhabitants include talking beasts, mythical creatures, humans, and one evil witch. All the chronicled events that do not take place in our world (London, England around 1940) take place in Narnia.

Wild Lands of the North and Ettinsmoor

Inhabited by giants, these lands are home to Harfang, castle of bad giants.

Western Wild

Uncivilized country bordering western Narnia; contains a garden with a precious apple tree.

Cair Paravel

The city and castle from which Narnia is ruled during the Golden Age of Narnia; the place where Aslan crowns the four Pevensie children.

Telmar

Far beyond the western mountains lies the home of the raiding pirates from our world who stumbled into Telmar through a cave. Their descendants, the Telmarines, invaded Narnia, driving out the Old Narnians and ruling a New Narnia in which the truth about Aslan is mostly forgotten.

Archenland

The friendly country just south of Narnia is ruled by King Lune. Except for the Calormene invasion in *The Horse and His Boy*, Archenland is a safe and peaceful place.

Calormen

First inhabited by outlaws from Archenland, Calormen is an unpleasant empire full of warlike people who seek to enslave others. The Calormenes do not recognize Aslan, but instead worship a demon called Tash.



Galma

Island located one day's voyage north of Cair Paravel; its inhabitants are famous for their seafaring expertise.

Terebinthia

Island southeast of Galma containing one city.

The Seven Isles

Group of islands forming the third stop on the Dawn Treader's voyage.

The Lone Islands

Three islands on the edge of civilization; the fourth stop on the Dawn Treader's voyage.

ISLANDS OF THE EASTERN SEA AND THE EDGE OF THE WORLD



“Cair Paravel” means “a lesser court” (Old English: “caer” means “court” and “paravai” means “lesser” or “under”). In other words, the kings of Narnia are under Aslan.

THE GOSPEL IN THE LION, THE WITCH & THE WARDROBE



In Narnia

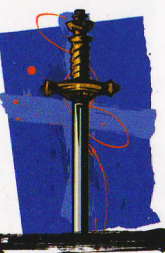
■ **1.** The land of Narnia and its inhabitants have been under the control of the evil White Witch for a long time, yet the Narnians know that someday Aslan will deliver them and set everything back to right.



■ **2.** The White Witch calls herself the queen of Narnia and demands obedience. She is beautiful, proud, and scheming. She will not allow the name of Aslan to be mentioned; she is sure that she will be victorious over Aslan by her treachery.



■ **3.** The White Witch deceives Edmund by offering him what he most wants (Turkish Delight) and promising to make him the king of Narnia. Edmund's resentment toward his siblings, his greed, and his pride cause him to betray his brother and sisters.



■ **4.** Edmund's treachery violates the law of Deep Magic that was set in place when Narnia was created. The penalty is death. The White Witch claims Edmund as her rightful property, eager to put him to death.



In the Bible

The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. (ROMANS 8:19-21)

You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." (ISAIAH 14:13-14)

...Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. (2 CORINTHIANS 11:14)

When tempted, no-one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. (JAMES 1:13, 14)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (ROMANS 6:23)

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (1 PETER 5:8)

In Narnia

■ **5.** Aslan chooses to die in Edmund's place, allowing him to go free, which satisfies the White Witch's claims on Edmund's life.

■ **6.** Aslan willingly goes to the White Witch's camp and allows himself to be mocked, shaved, and humiliated by her followers.

■ **7.** Aslan's willing death sets Narnia and Edmund free, thereby destroying the Witch's plans. The Deeper Magic at work states: "When a willing victim who had committed no treachery was killed in a traitor's stead, the Table would crack and Death itself would start working backward." Through Aslan's death, the power of sin and death is broken. Aslan's resurrection restores peace and freedom.

■ **8.** Aslan restores Edmund to his siblings and tells them there is no need to discuss Edmund's crime because it is in the past.

■ **9.** Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy are made kings and queens of Narnia and placed on thrones in the palace at Cair Paravel.

In The Bible

In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. (HEBREWS 9:22)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (ROMANS 5:8)

...he was led as a sheep to slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he does not open his mouth. (ACTS 8:32)

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." (GALATIANS 3:13)

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (COLOSSIANS 1:13, 14)

For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. (HEBREWS 8:12)

To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. (REVELATION 3:21)

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth. (REVELATION 5:10)

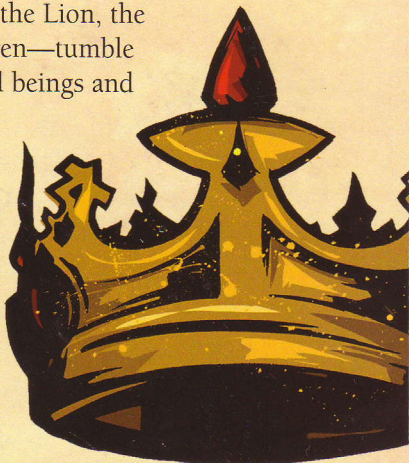
When nine-year-old Laurence became worried that he loved Aslan more than Jesus, his mother wrote to Lewis and received this reply: "Laurence can't really love Aslan more than Jesus, even if he feels that's what he is doing. For the things he loves Aslan for doing or saying are simply the things Jesus really did and said. So that when Laurence thinks he is loving Aslan, he is really loving Jesus: and perhaps loving Him more than he ever did before." —C.S. LEWIS, LETTERS TO CHILDREN, LETTER TO MRS. K

THE HIDDEN STORY

The Chronicles of Narnia, by British author C.S. Lewis, have captivated millions of imaginations. On the surface, the seven-book series tells the history of the enchanting world of Narnia, created by Aslan the Lion, the True King. Creatures from our world—mainly children—tumble into and out of Narnia, meeting all kinds of mythical beings and talking animals, and having adventures that bring them into deeper relationship with the True King and with each other. On a deeper level, the Chronicles offer weighty spiritual truths that help us recognize God's presence in our own world.

If you continue to love Jesus, nothing much can go wrong with you, and I hope you may always do so. I'm so thankful you realized [the] 'hidden story' in the Narnian books. It is odd, children nearly always do, grown-ups hardly ever.

—C.S. LEWIS, *LETTERS TO CHILDREN*, LETTER TO RUTH, 1963



C.S. Lewis described the whole series like this:

BOOK TITLE

WHAT IT TELLS ABOUT

The Magician's Nephew

The Creation and how evil entered Narnia

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

The Crucifixion and Resurrection

Prince Caspian

Restoration of the true religion after corruption

The Horse and His Boy

The calling and conversion of a heathen

The Voyage of the "Dawn Treader"

The spiritual life (especially in Reepicheep)

The Silver Chair

The continuing war with the powers of darkness

The Last Battle

The coming of the Antichrist (the Ape), the end of the world and the Last Judgement

—Letter to Anne dated March 5, 1961



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THE CHARACTERS OF NARNIA

SONS OF ADAM, DAUGHTERS OF EVE

"You come of the Lord Adam and the Lady Eve. And that is both honor enough to erect the head of the poorest beggar and shame enough to bow the shoulders of the greatest emperor in earth. Be content."

—*ASLAN, PRINCE CASPIAN*

Lucy Pevensie The youngest Pevensie, tender-hearted Lucy has the honor of entering Narnia first. Selfless Lucy is also the first to see Aslan and becomes one his closest friends, earning the title of Queen Lucy the Valiant.

Edmund Pevensie Edmund is the third Pevensie child; his greed, resentment, and desire for power over

his siblings lead him to betray them to the White Witch. After Aslan gives his own life in exchange for Edmund's, the boy grows into a fair and courageous leader as King Edmund the Just.

Susan Pevensie As the oldest girl, Susan takes on the role of absent mother, worrying about sandwiches and coats and being right. Susan seems to enjoy her Narnian adventures less than the others, but her kind-heartedness is at the base of her title, Queen Susan the Gentle.

Peter Pevensie The oldest of the four Pevensie children, Peter is kind and fair to his siblings. He is named High King of Narnia by Aslan; he's also known as King

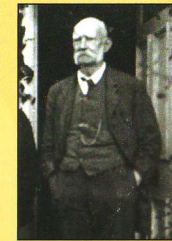
Peter the Magnificent. Peter proves to be a humble, brave, and loyal leader.

Eustace Scrubb A cousin to the Pevensies, Eustace is a self-centered, obnoxious boy who irritates everyone until Aslan transforms him. A much-improved Eustace returns to Narnia twice more with Jill Pole, finally entering Aslan's Country as a Friend of Narnia.

Jill Pole A schoolmate to Eustace, Jill enters Narnia first through the boy's kindness. After her initial fear is overcome by Aslan, Jill takes an important role in rescuing Prince Rilian and becomes a loyal Friend of Narnia.

Polly Plummer The first human to enter the Wood Between the Worlds

after being tricked by a magician into trying on a magic ring. Adventurous Polly witnesses the creation of Narnia and proves herself a smart and loyal friend to Digory and to Narnia.



PROF. KIRKPATRICK,
INSPIRATION FOR
DIGORY'S
CHARACTER

Digory Kirke The second human to enter the Wood Between the Worlds, and also catalyst for the introduction of evil in Narnia. Digory accepts his responsibility to help right the wrong he started, and eventually grows into the kind and wise professor with

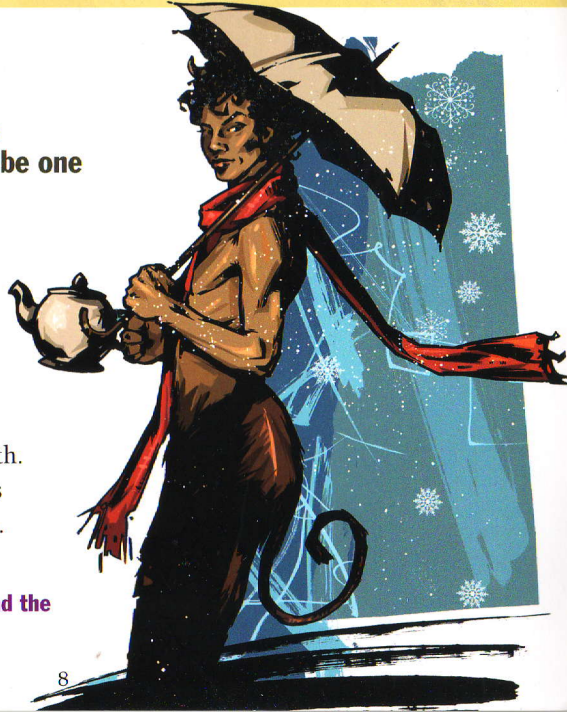
whom the Pevensie children are staying when they step through the wardrobe.

NARNIANS

"To seek honor unselfishly and to behave honorably may be said to be one definition of a true Narnian."

—*PAUL FORD, COMPANION TO NARNIA*

Tumnus The first Narnian Lucy meets, Tumnus the faun invites the "daughter of Eve" home for tea, intending to kidnap her. He finds himself unable to turn her over to the White Witch, even under threat of death. At the children's coronation, Tumnus is rewarded for his loyalty and friendship.



A faun has the upper body of a human and the lower body of a goat.

The White Witch The evil witch who rules Narnia for 100 years, during which time it is always winter, but never Christmas. Also known as Jadis, last queen of a world called Charn, the witch believes all beings are as she is—hungry for power, ruthless, and selfish. She succeeds in tempting Edmund to betray his family, but fails in the end because she cannot understand the Deeper Magic by which Aslan buys back Edmund's life.

The word "jadis" means "witch" in Persian.



Aslan

"Let us suppose that there were a land like Narnia and that the Son of God, as He became a Man in our world, became a Lion there, and then imagine what would happen." —C.S. LEWIS

The Great Lion, King and Creator of Narnia (and of all the worlds); son of the Emperor-Beyond-the-Sea, and the Lord of all. Aslan is the only character in all seven Chronicles; they are really his story.

Further Up and Further In

After the last battle for Narnia, all the humans and the talking beasts who have loved Aslan travel with him into Aslan's Country containing the real Narnia, of which the old Narnia they have known is just a shadow. Aslan invites all the creatures to follow him, "Come further in! Come further up!" They follow, of course, and discover the secret: The real adventures have only begun!

While not an exact parallel for Jesus, the character of Aslan creates a picture and an experience of an all-powerful and loving Savior who is good but not necessarily "safe." Aslan is free to do as he pleases—and what he pleases, while not always comfortable, is always good.

Aslan creates through his song, brings new life and courage through his breath, inspires and asks obedience with his words, and buys back the life of a traitor with his own life.

Aslan in Our World "You are too old, children," said Aslan, "and you must begin to come close to your own world now."

"It isn't Narnia, you know," sobbed Lucy. "It's *you*. We shan't meet *you* there. And how can we leave, never meeting you?"

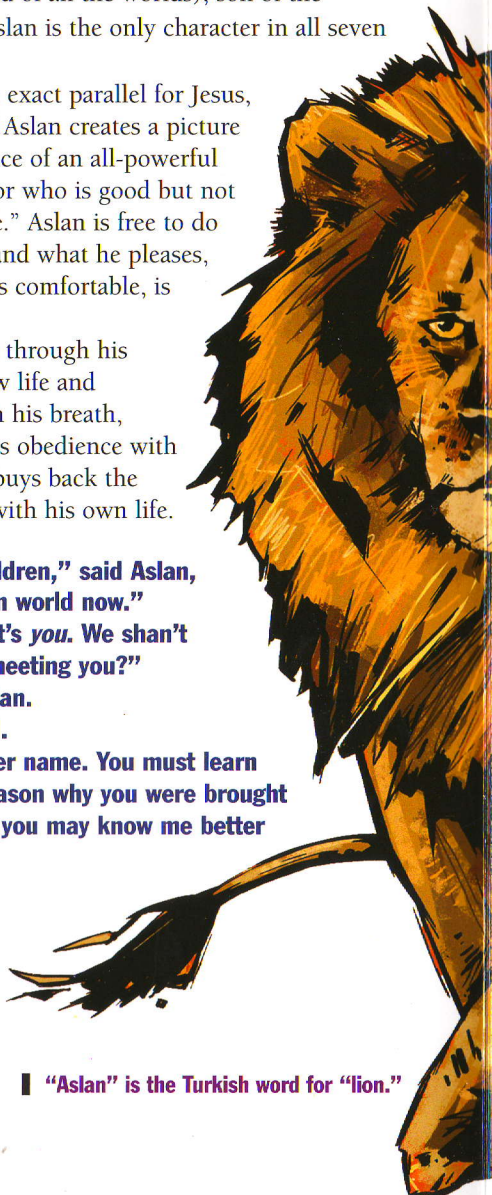
"But you shall meet me, dear one," said Aslan.

"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*, Chapter 16

"The Christian story is precisely the story of one grand miracle, that what is beyond all space and time, what is uncreated, eternal, came into...human nature, descended into His own universe, and rose again." —C.S. Lewis, *God in the Dock*



■ "Aslan" is the Turkish word for "lion."

Caspian (the Tenth) Telmarine who becomes king of Narnia after defeating his wicked uncle Miraz in the War of Deliverance and leading the voyage of the *Dawn Treader*, journeying bravely to the World's End. His rule is just and peaceful.

Reepicheep Clear-headed, courageous, and loyal talking mouse who fights for Caspian, Aslan, and Old Narnia and explores the ends of the world on the *Dawn Treader*. Noble Reepicheep bravely enters Aslan's Country by himself, fulfilling a prophecy spoken over his cradle.

Shasta Boy who grows up as a Calormene slave and escapes with a talking horse, headed for Narnia. Along the way, Shasta finds an unwilling traveling companion in Aravis, discovers his true royal identity and fulfills an old prophecy.

Aravis Brave Calormene girl, engaged to a horrible man, who escapes to the north with her talking horse to avoid a forced marriage. Along the way, she loses her arrogance and gains a loyal friend in Shasta.

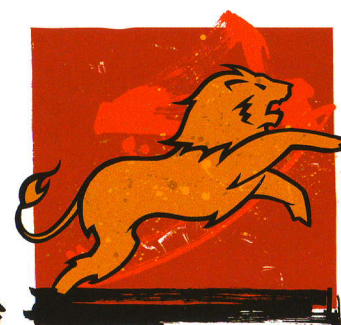
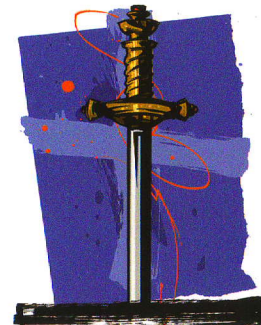
Bree & Hwin Talking horses of Narnia enslaved in Calormen; both convince their humans to journey north to Narnia and face many adventures along the way. Bree is a proud and fierce war-horse who thinks too highly of himself; Hwin is gentle and easily put down. Both learn much about friendship and courage.

Puddleglum Marsh-wiggle (taller and thinner than a man, with leathery skin and webbed feet) who accompanies Jill and Eustace on their mission to find Prince Rilian. Puddleglum has a glum outlook on life, but is generally sensible and practical, eventually breaking the witch's enchantment by stomping out a fire with his bare feet.

Puddleglum was based on C.S. Lewis' gardener, Fred Paxford.



FRED PAXFORD



GLOSSARY

Turkish Delight

Enchanted candy made from fruit juice, rosewater, gelatin, and nuts that the White Witch offers to Edmund. His own desire and greediness prevents him from seeing the witch's true nature and purpose, and he falls under her spell, betraying his brother and sisters.

Deep Magic and Deeper Magic

Deep Magic is the law on which Narnia is founded, in place "from the dawn of time," referring to the demands of justice. The witch's understanding is limited; she knows only that traitors belong to her. Aslan understands the Deeper Magic "from before the dawn of time" which undoes the Deep Magic (and death itself) through his own self-sacrificing compassion.

Deeper Magic is a parallel for grace in the Bible: "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. The law was added so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, so that, just as sin reigned in

C.S. Lewis died on the same day as American President John F. Kennedy and writer Aldous Huxley. death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (ROMANS 5:19-21)

The Wood Between the Worlds

A place outside of time, filled with pools of water that act as portals to different worlds.

Father Christmas

Unlike the modern Santa Claus, this huge, bearded man in a red robe is "big and real and glad." His visit announces

that Aslan is on the move, signaling the beginning of Spring and joy, and marking the end of a hundred years of winter. The gifts he brings for the children are "tools not toys" that help them in their adventures and their obedience to Aslan (SEE EPHESIANS 6:11-17).

Joy

Joy felt by the characters in the Chronicles is not simply happiness, but a sweet desire, or want, of something that is better than the having of any thing. All the characters who are Aslan's children feel joy in his presence and at the mention of his name, but those who oppose him feel only terror.

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'Thy will be done.' All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and consciously desires joy will ever miss it."

—C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

Obedience

"The word obedience is from the Latin *oboedire*, which means "to listen," and it is in this very specific sense that Lewis uses the word in the Chronicles. For Lewis, the primal stance of human beings before God is to be obedient: not to be slavishly devoted, but to be freely attentive."

—Paul Ford, *Companion to Narnia*

A Comparison of Earth Time and Narnia Time

England

1888 Digory Kirk born
1889 Polly Plummer born
1900 Magic rings carry Polly and Digory into Narnia
1927 Peter Pevensie born
1928 Susan Pevensie born
1930 Edmund Pevensie born
1932 Lucy Pevensie born
1933 Eustace Scrubb, Jill Pole born
1940 Pevensies enter Narnia through the wardrobe
1941 Pevensies enter Narnia by magic horn
1942 (Summer) Edmund, Lucy, Eustace join Caspian's voyage (Autumn) Eustace and Jill blown into Narnia
1949 Railway crash in Britain

Narnia

1 Creation of Narnia; Jadis enters Narnia

180 Archenland founded

204 Calormen founded by outlaws from Archenland

300 Calormen colonizes Telmar

302 Aslan turn wicked Calormenes in Telmar into dumb beasts; King Gale of Narnia becomes emperor of the Lone Islands

407 Giant Pire killed by Olvin or Archenland

460 Earth pirates take over Telmar

898 Jadis returns to Narnia from the far North

900 Long Winter begins

1000 Pevensies enter Narnia and defeat the White Witch; Long Winter ends

1014 High King Peter raids Northern Giants; *The Horse and His Boy* adventures take place

1015 While hunting the White Stag, the Pevensies vanish from Narnia

1050 Ram the Great becomes king of Archenland

1998 Telmarines conquer Narnia

2290 Prince Caspian is born; his father is murdered by Miraz

2303 Civil War in Narnia; Caspian defeats Miraz, becomes king

2306-2307 Prince Caspian sails to the End of the World on the *Dawn Treader*

2310 Caspian X marries Ramandu's daughter

2325 Prince Rilian is born

2345 The Queen is killed by a serpent; Prince Rilian disappears

2356 Jill and Eustace rescue Rilian

2534 Outlaws in Lantern Waste result in guard towers being built

2555 King Tirian rescued; the last battle; real Narnia