

## **Always Winter, but Never Christmas**

Lewis fanaticized about **parallel worlds** that existed alongside each other, but were not normally connected. The Narnia Chronicles are a series of 7 books about such parallel worlds. "Many stories by the same author" If you got into one story, you would know the others better, because you knew the story better, your place in it better, and the Author better. You feel that way in Narnia. You feel as though you are reading the same story you are living in this life. And you are getting to know the author better for reading it...

As the Pevensie children stumble into Narnia in LWW, they find a world where it is "**always winter, but never Christmas.**"

The White Witch has cast a spell on Narnia, lasting a hundred years. No flowers, no leaves, no running brooks, no birds singing. No celebrations, parties, singing or dancing. It could be so much more. But it wasn't. And it didn't used to be.

How did this happen? **The Magician's Nephew** tells the story of Narnia's birth..

### **1) Narnia is Aslan's Creation; It is good.**

You know the story of this world's creation...

*And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

Genesis 1:3

*And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.*

Genesis 1:31

## Readings from the Magician's Nephew...

I wonder if you believe in the goodness of life. That...

- This world is our Father's house. It is good.
- My life is my Father's gift. It is good.
- That even with all my challenges, difficulties, failures and opportunities... It is good to be me, good to be living my life. Thank you God.

The daily breath of a disciple of Jesus: [St. Clare]  
*'Lord God, blessed be thou for having created me!'*

"We will never have the easy, unhesitating love of God...unless we are absolutely sure that it is good for us to be, and to be who we are." (Dallas Willard)

Do you think there is a **'catch'** in that? A 'trap'? That God has a mean streak?

*"When 'moral failures' of well-known Christians...are examined, they always turn out to be based on the idea that **God has required them to serve in such a way that they themselves must 'take care of their own needs'** rather than being richly provided for by God."*  
(Divine Conspiracy 338)

If you believe that, you will not trust God to manage this world – or manage your life. You will try to take hold of the world and make it serve you.

On the other hand, if you become convinced there is **no limit** to the **goodness** of his intentions or to **his power** to carry them out, you become free to trust God in every part of your life.

*This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all.*

1 John 1:5 (RSV)

This is the message of the Kingdom that gives us assurance that his universe is **'a perfectly safe place for us to be,'** the perfect love that eliminates all fear.

I want to remind you, this is Aslan's world, and it is good.

## **2) The White Witch Is an Intruder in Aslan's World**

At the beginning of Narnia, there is another character; her name is Jadis, the White Witch you meet in the LWW.

Her story goes back further in the history of the lands of Narnia, even as Satan's goes back further before the Garden of Eden.

We find hints of **Satan's prehistory** in the Bible. Isaiah prophesies against earthly kings, but sees behind them someone far older, far more evil...

*12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low!*

*13 You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high;*

*14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High.'*

Isaiah 14:12-15 (RSV)

*12 "Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: "You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.*

*13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;*

*15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.*

*17 Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground...*

## Ezekiel 28:12-17 (RSV)

**Satan is enamored with himself; he would rather be in charge than be happy.** CS Lewis wrote,

“In a world of light and love, of song and feast and dance, he could find nothing more interesting to think of than his own prestige.” (Preface to Paradise Lost)

In Narnia, **Jadis** herself falls to the same temptation, long before Narnia is born. She had been Queen of another world, Charn. She has **power**, a power Lewis calls the “**Deplorable Word**” the word that kills all living things but its speaker. But for power over that world she sold her soul. In Narnia, it is the power to turn people into stone. She **rules** with that power, but it can **never win the hearts** of her subjects.

Happy with that power, in Charn, she kills all her subjects, **preferring to be Queen over nothing than to be not be Queen over everything.** That will be the destiny of Narnia, unless someone intervenes.

In the Narnia Chronicles there are two kinds of people. Everyone has to decide which one they will be. One is the **magician**, the other is the **adventurer**

**The magician** – someone who looks at life, **distrusts** the goodness of God, and decides that they must **take life into their own hands**, and **seek the power** to bend God’s reality to serve their ever narrowing world.

**The adventurer** – who sees himself in God’s world, the God who is good, the God who can be trusted with life. Who sees the evil in our heart and is determined that it is we who must bent to God’s great reality. Whose cry is “Let us take the adventure that Aslan gives to us.”