

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"

As a rule it seems easier for human beings to be touched by stories and illustrations more than by pure statements of moral truth. Often we may not realize the impact of our own actions until we are able to feel the emotion brought on by the deeds of others.

In the Bible we see this in the example of King David. David had committed adultery with another man's wife and when she became pregnant tried to cover his sin by having her husband killed and taking her for his own wife. The Bible doesn't indicate that David felt any guilt or remorse for his deeds until he was told a little parable by the prophet Nathan. The parable told of a rich man who stole the pet lamb of a poor neighbor that he might kill it to serve at a feast. Only when David sees that symbolically this was exactly what he had done is he moved to remorse (**II Samuel 12:1-7**).

C.S. Lewis was a religious writer who lived in England in the early part of the 20th century. He wrote a series of children's stories entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The first story in the series, entitled *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is an allegorical attempt to illustrate spiritual truths through a children's fantasy story.

The Story

The story revolves around four English children evacuated from London during the war to a large country home owned by an unusual old professor. While exploring the old house the youngest child (Lucy) discovers a spare room with a large wardrobe in which she hides. On the inside of the wardrobe Lucy discovers an opening into a magical fantasy world known as *Narnia*. The other children mock Lucy when she tells them about *Narnia*. Especially Edmund (the "bad egg" of the family) who is always griping and being mean to Lucy.

Eventually Edmund himself finds his way into *Narnia* and meets the white witch. She has captivated all of *Narnia* and subjected it to endless winter. With her magic wand she turns to stone any of those who oppose her. In an attempt to capture the other children she lures Edmund with candy into promising that he will bring the other children to her.

Though the witch claims to be Queen of *Narnia* the real ruler is a powerful lion named Aslan. Aslan has been away from *Narnia* for

The Symbolism

 *Narnia* illustrates the Christian belief that there is a spiritual world which exists as truly as the material world exists (**Hebrews 11:27, Ephesians 6:12, II Corinthians 4:17, 18**). Because this is unseen many people mock Christian beliefs (**II Peter 3:3,4, I Corinthians 1:18**).

 The witch represents Satan, who for the present rules over this world (**John 16:8-11, II Timothy 2:24-26, Ephesians 2:1,2**). His influence on mankind through sin serves to harden their hearts and minds to spiritual truth (**Ephesians 2:1-3**). The pleasures of this world are like the candy which leads Edmund to help the witch (**Luke 8:14, Hebrews 11:26**).

 Aslan represents Jesus Christ. Though God allows Satan to rule for a time He is

many years, but prophecies have foretold his return and that with it he would set all things right and destroy the white witch. He rules by the authority of the great emperor who created *Narnia*.

When all the children finally enter *Narnia* they encounter Aslan. As Aslan begins to restore *Narnia* the white witch comes before him and reveals that Edmund had agreed to betray the other children to her. This was a sin both against the other children and the great emperor himself. The witch reminds Aslan that according to the “stone table” (a huge table of stone on which is written the “deep magic” law of the emperor) every traitor belongs to her, that she may execute them.

Aslan feels compassion for Edmund, who has come to realize how wicked the white witch truly is. Aslan offers to give the witch his life in exchange for the Edmund’s if the witch will surrender her claim to Edmund’s life. The witch agrees and Aslan is spread out on the stone table and tied down. All the witch’s forces converge on Aslan as he submits himself to their torture. His mane is shaved off, he is mocked and eventually they put him to death.

What the witch had not realized was that though the “deep magic” had demanded death for traitors it had also described Aslan’s great power. After Aslan dies, he returns to life—causing the stone table to break in half. This fulfilled the requirements of the “deep magic” but it also saved Edmund from the witch’s power. Aslan then frees those who the witch had turned to stone, restores springtime to *Narnia* and destroys the witch with her forces.

truly the ruler of all things (**Psalm 47:8,9**). The coming of Jesus was foretold in Scripture along with the promise that He would redeem His people (**Acts 3:18-21**).



The Bible portrays Satan both as tempter and accuser (**Revelation 12:10**).



The “stone table” represents Divine law, which during the Mosaic age was written on “tablets of stone” (**Deuteronomy 4:13**). Apart from the redeeming power of Christ’s blood Divine law alone exercises a condemning influence over mankind (**Romans 6:23, Hebrews 2:1-3**).



It was the pure love of God which led Him to send Jesus to die in our place for our sin (**John 3:16,17**). Christ’s death was a horrifying and humiliating experience (**Isaiah 53:3-7, Luke 18:31-33**).



Jesus served as our substitute in order that we might have the hope of salvation. This served to satisfy the justice of God yet also express His compassion for mankind (**Romans 3:23-26**). His death destroyed the condemning influence of Divine law (**Romans 8:2-4, Colossians 2:13-15**), and destroyed Satan and his power over mankind (**Hebrews 2:14,15**).

Conclusion. For all who will submit their lives in obedience to Jesus Christ through His word their is the hope of eternal salvation with God in Heaven. Those who reject this stand as enemies of God, in service to Satan.