



## **The World According to Narnia: Christian Meaning in C. S. Lewis's Beloved Chronicles**

*Jonathan Rogers*

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A lively and engaging exploration of the many Christian themes in C.S. Lewis's widely-known and universally loved children's stories.

## **The World According to Narnia: Christian Meaning in C. S. Lewis's Beloved Chronicles Details**

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## **From Reader Review The World According to Narnia: Christian Meaning in C. S. Lewis's Beloved Chronicles for online ebook**

### **Ashlee Willis says**

What an amazing book! There are so many themes of Christianity in the Chronicles of Narnia, and this author explores them all in a simple and straightforward way. Though I have read the Chronicles over and over again through the years, this book opened up new ideas and points of view to me about aspects of Narnia I had either not thought about before, or had become so familiar with I simply didn't see what was staring me in the face. C. S. Lewis put so much thought and heart into his series, it's great to see a book that takes that passion seriously and points out the themes we as Christians can relate to on many levels. If you aren't familiar with the meaning behind the Chronicles, this book is a great way to learn more. And even if you are familiar, this book gives a truly fresh and insightful perspective. Can't recommend enough to all Narnia fans!

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### **Jeff LeMaster says**

If there's something about the magical land of Narnia that seems so very familiar, that's because C.S. Lewis intended it that way. As the great Lion Aslan said at the end of *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*: "[On Earth] 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."

Fiction author Jonathan Rogers takes up that challenge in writing this book: to know Jesus better in this world by studying the stories of another world.

There are seven, well-written chapters, corresponding to the seven books of the Chronicles of Narnia. Each chapter focuses on the primary Christian theme of each specific book, and opens the doors to the reality within the fantasy.

### **SO WHAT?**

Reading this book was like walking through the wardrobe all over again, only this time into a new reality. As I read through each chapter, I relived the adventures in each book, but from a purely Christian perspective. I empathized deeply with the characters as they faced challenges both internal and external, identifying parallels in my own life experience.

Lewis' stories succeed on every level. The child, reading with a flashlight under his blanket, is lost in the wonder of these fantastic realms. The theologians, sitting around a coffee shop table, discuss the truths of each narrative until well after midnight.

Reading the stories of Narnia is pure fun. That they reinforce a faithful life with Christ is icing on the cake!

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### **Katrina says**

I LOVED this book. It did for me with Narnia what John Granger's books did for me with Harry Potter. I

knew there was Christian meaning in the series, but I knew there were things I was missing. I would go back and reread this book after another readthrough of the Chronicles. It definitely helped me appreciate CS Lewis's books even more. And because Rogers also references other books that Lewis has written, he's given me an appetite for some of the books by Lewis that I haven't read yet. I honestly got more than I bargained for with this book.

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### **Robert Thacker says**

Insightful. Helped me see the books in a new way.

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### **D.W. Kavanaugh says**

Very well done analysis of the Narnia stories.

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### **Brittany Anne says**

Enjoyed the book. Quick easy read... However, I didn't really learn anything I didn't already know or had pulled out from reading the Chronicles myself.

I particularly would have liked for Rogers to go a little further with some of Lewis' themes. The Last Battle for example, how are a plurality of worlds considered a Christian theme?

Overall, a well written scholarly look to help back up some papers.

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### **Danae says**

i was bored. it's basically a summary of the chronicles of narnia except he skips from scene to scene, so you'd be confused reading this without reading the chronicles. in 176 pages, it may have told me 2 things i didn't already know. the synopsis makes it seem like it's really going to dig into the books, but it really was just a summary. i'm glad to be done with it. i would not recommend it.

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### **Michele says**

In some ways this treatment of the Narnia books contains no surprises. Thoughtful multi-readers of the Chronicals will have picked up on some of these themes already and may wonder if it's worth a read.

It is.

For two reasons. First, Rogers deftly assumes his readers thorough intimacy with the Narnia stories. He gives enough information to keep his reader moving through each book smoothly, but without bogging the reader

down with too much reprising of the narrative. Kudos. That's a tough editing line to find.

Secondly, he clearly delves into some deep Christian truths without becoming verbose or overwhelming. There's no oversimplification, just clean delivery, frequently punctuated by Lewis' own pithy commentary from his essays.

The introduction was worth picking this book up. Rogers outlines why fantasy is the proper medium for deep Christian truths and how Lewis used this to exemplify important points of faith. The chapter on A Horse And His Boy is a strong essay about the nature of Christian freedom. There were gems in each chapter that the thoughtful Narnia fan can garner.

It's a must for those seeking the deeper truths behind the stories, not just in their imagery, but in their construction and literary meta-narratives.

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### **Stacie says**

I really liked this book. I appreciated all the Christian meaning it pointed out throughout the Chronicles of Narnia series, book by book. Citing Lewis's work and Bible verses to convey the different points gave me chills. I may still be tearing up.

I especially appreciate the last passage about what the Chronicles ultimately remind us of because I've always felt that in my heart about them.

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### **Michelle says**

rec. on Rabbit Room. from the introduction "Imagination is a serious business. It gives substance to our yearnings for something beyond ourselves. Imagination is what convinces us that there is more to the world than meets the eye. And isn't that the first principle of faith?

The Chronicles of Narnia awaken the reader to the imaginative possibilities of the gospel that have been there all along. The Chronicles serve as a reminder that if the gospel doesn't fill you with overwhelming awe and joy and fear and hope, you may not have really understood what the gospel says."

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### **Matthew says**

Exceptional book study.

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### **Tracy Hall says**

I loved this book I love The Chronicles of Narnia and anything to do with them I love how this book actually goes in-depth into explaining CS Lewis's meanings behind the characters and kind of how it relates to today.

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## Chad Warner says

Average as books about Narnia go; insightful, but not extraordinarily so. Draws Christian life lessons from all 7 Narnia books. References Bible and other Lewis books.

I read it because it was referenced in Inside The Voyage of the Dawn Treader by Devin Brown.

### Notes

#### Voyage of the Dawn Treader

A theme of this book is self-absorption vs. outward-facing selflessness. Also, magnanimity vs. intellect.

#### Magician's Nephew

"[Lewis] had no quarrel with pure science (he called it 'natural philosophy')—the pursuit of knowledge, understanding, even appreciation of the natural world and its processes. But he is very suspicious of applied science. Applied science, he argued, takes an interest in knowledge only as a means of putting Nature to work for human beings ... Applied science, like magic, is about power, however much both disciplines talk about knowledge."

Every villain in Narnia is at some point shown to be ridiculous.

Wood between the Worlds is an ideal place for those free of ambition, for there is only being, no doing, and certainly no undoing. Earth is apparently a good climate for the ambitious, and Jadis recovers.

#### Last Battle

Emeth's presence in "heaven" doesn't teach Universalism. Tash isn't the same as Aslan; they're opposites, so Emeth's good service couldn't have been given to Tash; it went to Aslan. If Emeth had been truly seeking Tash, he would've found him; instead, he finds Aslan ("For all find what they truly seek.").

#### Misc.

Gods in Narnia aren't polytheism. They represent nature obeying God.

Every villain in Narnia is at some point shown to be ridiculous.

Throughout books, Narnians repeatedly lose their way.

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## Rebekah says

I thought this was an excellent look C. S. Lewis's land of Narnia. Rogers used other writings of Lewis to bring some insight into the stores and it made me look at the books differently than I had before. I am eager to go back and read them again.

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## Linda says

An explanation of the spiritual parallel to the entire Narnia series. I'm sure I will read this or listen to it again.

