

Notes on *The Silver Chair*

Sources of evil in Narnia

- The World (Totalitarian political systems or world orders).
- The Flesh (Human pettiness, peevishness, and the seven deadly sins; see <http://cslewis.drzeus.net/papers/7sins.html>).
- The Devil (The White Witch, The Green Lady, Shift, the ape, and the evil creatures that follow them).

Storytelling devices in *SC*

- Enduring and resisting bullies.
- Unique portal from the real world.
- The world between the worlds.
- Involvement in a “good” conspiracy via the Parliament of Owls.
- A quest.
- A new creature—Puddleglum the Marshwiggle.
- “Friendly” giants.
- An enchanted prince.
- A disguised witch.
- A descent into hell.
- A magic chair.
- The breaking of a spell.
- Evil tumbling in on itself.
- An ascent into life.
- Reconciliation and joy at the return of the lost (symbolized by the Great Snow Dance).
- Resurrection of the dead.
- The return to the real world; evil punished and the good vindicated.

Spiritual themes and motifs in Chapter 2

- Aslan, like Jesus, is the breath of life (Gen. 2:7).
- Like Jill, we are dying of thirst—only Aslan for her and Christ for us can satisfy our thirst (Ps. 42:1-3 and Ps. 63:1).
- Aslan, like Jesus, is “living water”; he invites Jill, and Christ invites us to drink from his stream (John 7:37 and John 4:4-14).
- Aslan and Christ are the only streams to drink from (John 4:13-14 and John 14:6).
- Our sin makes it hard to look into God’s face (Luke 22:61-62).
- Aslan, like Christ, deals with our confessed sin simply and directly (John 8:11).
- Aslan knows Jill’s thoughts as Christ knows ours, yet he invites us to articulate them (Heb. 4:13).
- Aslan chooses Jill just as Christ chooses us—we do not choose him (John 15:16; Rom. 3:11 and 5:8; Is. 1:18 and 45:22; Rev. 3:20; Phil 2:13).
- Aslan enables Jill and Christ enables us to respond to his call (Phil. 2:13).

- Aslan gives Jill instructions to live by and calls her to remember them (“Remember the signs”) as Christ does with us (Deut. 6:6-9).

Spiritual themes and motifs in Chapters 11 and 12

- The power of evil to seduce, mesmerize, distract, or confuse as seen in the Witch’s incense and thrumming music.
- Spiritual truth is often mocked, belittled, or explained away.
- The spiritual life seen as a cop out or make believe story.
- The tenacity of simple, genuine faith as portrayed by Puddleglum.
- “Reality” defined as only that which is tangible (materialism), another of the Witch’s lies. The “real” world is all there is.
- Sometimes fighting evil is simply a matter of a direct physical act (Puddleglum putting out the witch’s enchanting fire).
- Spiritual eyes “see” beyond the ordinary, the everyday, the temporary.

Spiritual themes and motifs Chapter 16

- Aslan commends the children at the end just as God does his followers.
- Death should be mourned.
- Aslan’s blood brings new life.
- Aslan’s breath brings power and strength to the children when they return to school.
- The children become instruments of Aslan’s judgment.

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