

Index of Bible Allusions & Parallels

(All Scripture quotations are from the NIV unless otherwise indicated)

How to Use This Index: The wealth of C. S. Lewis's biblical knowledge seems everywhere evident in the Chronicles, from the overarching ideas to the details. Still, Lewis didn't intend for his stories to be proof-texted or interpreted strictly as teaching allegories. He saw Narnia instead as a fantasy—a fairy tale, actually—that he hoped would prepare children to encounter Jesus Christ personally in later years while illustrating biblical truths now. The learned professor's stories are also packed with possible references to other cultural sources he esteemed besides the Bible—ancient Greek and Roman folklore, for example, and the mythology of the Celts and the Vikings. The list that follows is a compilation of some biblical allusions and parallels that the editors of *Roar!* and others have identified in the Chronicles. Use this index to enrich, but not limit, your literary experience.

The Magician's Nephew

Singing Stars

As Aslan sang Nothing into Narnia, the sky suddenly blazed with innumerable stars, which seemed to be singing triumphantly.

In Job 38, God spoke of Creation as a time when “the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy” (v. 7).

Two by Two

After creating the animals, Aslan went up to two at a time and touched them with his nose.

In Genesis, God instructed Noah to save two of each kind of animal to be the start of a new generation (6:19).

Breath of Life

When Aslan breathed on the animals, they were able to love, think, and speak.

Adam did not live, love, think, or speak until God “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life” (Genesis 2:7).

Creation

Aslan says, “Be walking trees. Be talking beasts. Be divine waters.”

These echo God's “Let there be” statements in Genesis.

Animal Names

Aslan gave the first king and queen of Narnia the authority to name and rule over all of the land's creatures.

God gave Adam, the first man, the responsibility of naming all the creatures in Eden (Genesis 2:19–20).

Favoritism

Aslan wanted Narnia's king and queen to rule without partiality.

James forbade believers to practice favoritism (2:1).

Justice and Mercy

Aslan told the first monarchs of Narnia to “be just and merciful and brave. The blessing is upon you.”

The prophet Micah told Israel, “What does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy” (6:8).

Justification

Aslan says, “Evil will come of that evil, but it is still a long way off, and I will see to it that the worst falls upon myself.... As Adam’s race has done the harm, Adam’s race shall help heal it.”

Paul wrote, “Death came into the world because of what one man (Adam) did, and it is because of what this other man (Christ) has done that now there is the resurrection from the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:21, TLB).

Tears of Compassion

Digory learns that Aslan deeply shares his grief about his mother.

When Jesus saw Mary weeping, “he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled...[and] Jesus wept” (John 11:33, 35).

Only Ask

Fledge tells Digory that Aslan would have provided for their meals if he’d asked him to. Polly says, “Wouldn’t he know without being asked?” And Fledge agrees, but adds, “I’ve a sort of idea he likes to be asked.”

Jesus assured us, “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (Matthew 6:8). Matthew 7:7 says, “Ask and it will be given to you.” And James put it bluntly: “You do not have, because you do not ask” (James 4:2).

First Temptation

Digory Kirke’s first temptation in the new land of Narnia was to eat an apple from the tree in the center of the garden. Jadis promised him it was “the apple of youth, the apple of life.... Eat it, Boy...and you and I will both live for ever.”

Eve’s first temptation in the new earth was to eat fruit from the tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden. Satan promised her everlasting life (Genesis 3:4).

Well Done!

When Digory brings the apple, Aslan says, “Well done.”

The master in Jesus’ parable of the talents commends his servant, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” (Matthew 25:21).

Powerful Trees

Aslan’s tree in the garden brings healing life.

Ezekiel wrote of heaven’s trees: “Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing” (Ezekiel 47:12).

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Kingship

Aslan is “Lord of the whole wood.”

Jesus is “KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS” (Revelation 19:16).

The Betrayer

Edmund betrayed his family as well as all of Narnia—and especially Aslan.

Judas betrayed his fellow disciples and especially Jesus.

Expectation and Joy at His Arrival

When Mrs. Beaver meets the children, she says, “To think that ever I should live to see this day!”

Luke recorded that Simeon responded similarly to the arrival of the infant Jesus: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation” (Luke 2:29–30).

Giving of Gifts

Father Christmas gives the children gifts that are “tools not toys,” which will enable them to do all Aslan requires of them.

The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts so believers can do all that God calls them to do (1 Corinthians 12).

Blood Requirement

The White Witch said that the price of Narnia’s freedom was blood. “[Aslan] knows that unless I have blood as the Law says, all Narnia will be overturned and perish in fire and water.”

The price of humankind’s freedom from sin is blood. “The law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Hebrews 9:22).

The Savior’s Loneliness

On the night before his execution, Aslan longed for the comfort of companionship. He said to Lucy and Susan, “I should be glad of company tonight...I am sad and lonely.”

On the night before His execution, Jesus drew away from the group to pray and clearly longed for companions and comfort. He took with him Peter, James, and John, telling them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me” (Matthew 26:38).

Mocking the Savior

Once Aslan was bound, his enemies “surged round...jeering at him.”

Once Jesus was captive, the governor’s soldiers gathered round “and mocked him. ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ they said” (Matthew 27:29).

The Savior’s Silence

As he was being prepared for execution, Aslan “made no noise, even when the enemies, straining and tugging, pulled the cords so tight that they cut into his flesh.”

Jesus was also silent before His accusers. “When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer.... Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge” (Matthew 27:12, 14).

The Innocent Dies for the Sinner

Aslan explained the way of Narnia's "salvation": "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 backwards."

Jesus the Righteous died for the unrighteous. "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God" (1 Peter 3:18).

A Missing Body

When Lucy and Susan returned to the Stone Table, Aslan's body was gone.

When the women returned to Jesus' tomb to anoint His body, it was gone. "They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus" (Luke 24:2-3).

Resurrection Spreads Life

The resurrected Aslan immediately traveled to the Witch's castle, where he restored life to those she had turned into stone.

Even as Jesus died, "the tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life" (Matthew 27:52).

The Breath of Life

Aslan breathed on the stone lion and Dwarf to bring them back to life.

God brought the man made of dust, Adam, to life when He "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7).

Food for Thousands

On a hill, Aslan miraculously feeds an impossible number of creatures.

On a hill, Jesus fed more than five thousand people with just a bit of bread and fish (Matthew 14:15-21).

The Horse and His Boy

The Doubting Disciple

Aslan invited Bree, the "poor, proud frightened Horse" who doubted his existence, to "draw near... Touch me. Smell me. Here are my paws, here is my tail, these are my whiskers. I am a true Beast."

Jesus invited Thomas, the insecure disciple who doubted Jesus' resurrection: "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe" (John 20:27).

The Evil Ones Recognize Their Righteous Nemesis

" 'Demon! Demon! Demon!' shrieked the Prince. 'I know you. You are the foul fiend of Narnia. You are the enemy of the gods.' "

The demons in a possessed man recognized Jesus, saying, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" (Mark 5:7); so did the jealous Jews, who called him "demon-possessed" (John 8:48, 52).

Justice Tempered by Mercy

Aslan decreed, "Justice shall be mixed with mercy."

James wrote, “Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment!” (2:13).

Prince Caspian

Stones at Work

Trumpkin muses on the idea of natural things responding to events in a righteous manner: “Wouldn’t it be even nicer if the stones started throwing themselves at old Miraz?”

When the Pharisees told Jesus to quiet His praising disciples, He responded, “I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out” (Luke 19:40).

The Comfort of the Savior’s Voice

When Aslan called Lucy, she “woke...with the feeling that the voice she liked best in the world had been calling her name.”

Jesus said, “[My] sheep follow [me] because they know [my] voice.... My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:4, 27).

The Sometimes Solitary Disciple

Aslan instructs Lucy that her obedience must not be conditioned on others’ responses: “If they will not, then you at least must follow me alone.”

Jesus said, “Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me” (Matthew 10:37–38).

Watching the Savior

When others mocked her claims to have seen Aslan, “Lucy...[was] biting her lip and trying not to say all the things she thought of saying to Susan.... She forgot them when she fixed her eyes on Aslan.”

The writer to the Hebrews recommended that in response to discouragement, “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith” (12:2).

A Horn of Help

Caspian uses Susan’s horn to draw helpers to his cause.

“Praise be to the Lord.... He has raised up a horn of salvation for us...to rescue us from the hand of our enemies” (Luke 1:68–69, 74).

Radiant Faces

After Edmund encountered Aslan, “a kind of greatness” marked him.
Moses’ encounter with God made his face so

radiant, he had to wear a veil (Exodus 34:29–33).

Christians today “reflect the Lord’s glory” with unveiled faces. Now all believers, “with unveiled faces...reflect the Lord’s glory” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Turning the Tables

Caspian responds to Gumpas’s corrupt government by turning over his desk.

Jesus responded to corruption in the temple by turning over tables (Matthew 21:12–13).

What Doesn’t Change

“Do you think I wouldn’t obey my own rules?” says Aslan to Lucy.

Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished” (Matthew 5:17–18).

The Concept of Time

Aslan “call[s] all times soon.”

Peter wrote, “With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day” (2 Peter 3:8).

Everlasting Symbols

The White Witch used the Stone Knife as a tool of death. Once Aslan rose from death, Narnians revered the Knife as a symbol of his sacrifice and triumph.

Jesus was tortured and killed on the cross. Since His resurrection, Christians treasure the cross as symbolic of His sacrifice and triumph.

Few Are Chosen

On the voyage to the World’s End, Caspian doesn’t ask for volunteers but announces he will choose from those he invites.

Jesus said in one of His parables, “Many are invited, but few are chosen” (Matthew 22:14).

The Burning Coal

On the Island of the Star, as Ramandu and his daughter sang, a bird flew to the Old Man carrying what looked like a “little live coal,” something “too bright to look at”: “And the bird laid it in the Old Man’s mouth.”

Isaiah wrote that when he “saw the Lord,” he despaired of his sinfulness. Then a seraph flew to him and touched a “live coal” to Isaiah’s mouth, thus purifying him (Isaiah 6:1, 7).

Breakfast with the Lamb

At the End of the World, Lucy, Edmund, and Eustace encounter “something so white on the green grass that even with their eagles’ eyes they could hardly look at it. They came on and saw that it was a Lamb.” In a “sweet milky voice,” the Lamb bid them to “come and have breakfast.” There they ate fish the Lamb had prepared for them. He then revealed himself as Aslan.

After Jesus’ resurrection, He appeared to His disciples at a seashore, calling them to a breakfast of fish He prepared (John 21).

He Who Made Himself a Bridge

Aslan tells Lucy, Edmund, and Eustace that his country “lies across a river. But do not fear that, for I am the great Bridge Builder.”

Jesus is “the way into the Most Holy Place,” the “new and living way” to heaven (Hebrews 9:8; 10:20). When Thomas asked how he could get to where Jesus was going, Jesus declared Himself “the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

The Silver Chair

Let the Thirsty Drink

Jill tells Aslan she is dying of thirst, and he invites her to drink from the stream.

And Jesus told the woman at the well, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink” (John 7:37).

Repeating the Signs

Aslan instructs Jill to remember the signs by which he would guide her to Rilian this way: “Say them to yourself when you wake in the morning and when you lie down at night, and when you wake in the

middle of the night.”

When Moses instructed the Israelites to follow the Lord, they were to take His commands and “impress them on your children. Talk about them when you...lie down and when you get up” (Deuteronomy 6:7).

Who Chooses Whom

Aslan: “You would not have called to me unless I had been calling to you.”

Jesus: “You did not choose me, but I chose you” (John 15:16).

The Word Works

Puddleglum reminds the children that Aslan’s instructions “always work.”

God says, “My word...will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

At the Name

Prince Rilian pleads with Jill and Eustace to free him from the Silver Chair, saying, “By the great Lion, by Aslan himself, I charge you.”

Paul wrote that Jesus has “the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow” (Philippians 2:9–10).

In His Hands

Rilian asserts, “Aslan will be our good lord, whether he means us to live or die. And all’s one, for that.”

Paul asserted, “If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord” (Romans 14:8).

Hand Yourself Over

Jill is encouraged during battle to “commend [herself] to the Lion.”

“And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed” (Acts 14:23, KJV).

Sin No More

After Aslan prompts Jill Pole to admit her failing, he responds, “Do so no more.”

Jesus told the woman caught in adultery, “Go now and leave your life of sin” and the healed blind man, “Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you” (John 8:11; 5:14).

Temporary Anger

Aslan promises he will “not always be scolding.”

David wrote in Psalms, “The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve” (103:8–10).

Grieving Savior

When King Caspian dies, Aslan weeps “great lion-tears.”

When Lazarus died, Jesus wept such tears that people exclaimed, “See how he loved him!” (John 11:35–36).

Not for Human Eyes

When they travel to Experiment House, Aslan tells Jill and Eustace that the students will see only his back.

God told Moses, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you.... But...you cannot see my face, for no one can see me and live” (Exodus 33:19–20).

The Last Battle

Fearful Hearts

The Talking Beasts of Narnia begged Shift to approach Aslan for them: “You must always go in and speak to him for us. We daren’t, we daren’t.”

The Israelites begged Moses to “speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die” (Exodus 20:19).

Safe in His Arms

Tirian says to Jill, “Courage, child: we are all between the paws of the true Aslan.”

Deuteronomy 33:27 says, “The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.”

Innocent of Blood

Rishda Tarkaan says of Emeth’s decision to enter

the stable, “Bear witness all that I am guiltless of this young fool’s blood.”

Pilate said something similar about Jesus: “I am innocent of this man’s blood” (Matthew 27:24).

Water from a Rock

In the midst of heated battle, the children were revived by a trickle of water coming down a rock.

When the Israelites were thirsty in the desert, God gave them water from a rock (Numbers 20:11).

The Lion’s Supper

When death seems near, Jewel says the battle “may be for us the door to Aslan’s country and we shall sup at his table tonight.”

The apostle John wrote, “Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” (Revelation 19:9). And Jesus told the thief next to Him, “Today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43).

Taking Sides

The Dwarfs insist that they will not support or join either side. “The Dwarfs are for the Dwarfs.”

But there’s no such thing as not taking sides in the battle between good and evil. Jesus pointed out, “He who is not with me is against me” (Matthew 12:30).

Goats and Sheep

At the end of Narnia, Aslan faces each creature and they go either through his Door on the right or aside to his left, past the Door.

Jesus said that at the judgment of humankind, He would separate the sheep (true believers) from the goats (the unrighteous); He would put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left (Matthew 25:31–33).

Signs of the End

At the end of Narnia, all the Stars fell from the sky, and the sun and moon turned red as they died.

At the end of the world, John wrote, the sun will turn “black like sackcloth” and the moon “blood red, and the stars in the sky [will fall] to earth” (Revelation 6:12–13).

The Savior’s Appearance

When Emeth met Aslan, the “brightness of his eyes [were] like gold that is liquid in the furnace.”

John wrote of Jesus, the Rider on the White Horse, “His eyes are like blazing fire” (Revelation 19:12).

Seek and You Shall Find

Aslan says, “For all find what they truly seek.”

The writer to the Hebrews said that God “rewards those who earnestly seek him” (11:6). Jesus exhorted His followers to “seek [my Father’s] kingdom,” that “he who seeks finds” (Luke 12:31; Matthew 7:8). Proverbs 11:27 says, “He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who searches for it.”

Last Days and Judgment

The phony Aslan is like an anti-Christ; people spread untrue rumors about the Lion; Narnians are made slaves; wars come and creatures betray one another.

Jesus warned what events would herald His return and the end of the world: “Don’t let anyone fool you. For many will come claiming to be the Messiah, and will lead many astray. When you hear of wars beginning, this does not signal my return; these must come, but the end is not yet. The nations and kingdoms of the earth will rise against each other... you will be tortured and killed and hated all over the world because you are mine, and many of you shall fall back into sin and betray and hate each other. And many false prophets will appear and lead many astray” (Matthew 24:4–11, TLB).

The Stable Door

The children travel through a Door into Aslan’s Country.

Jesus said, “I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture” (John 10:9, RSV).

Confirmation of His Coming

“The sky would have foretold [Aslan’s coming],” asserts Roonwit.

“Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7).

The Blood That Saves

Tirian remarked on “the good Lion by whose blood all Narnia was saved.”

“For God was pleased to...reconcile to himself all things...by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross” (Colossians 1:19–20).

Rebel Restored

When Tirian delivers the Dwarfs from a hideous fate in the salt-mines, Poggin alone returns to acknowledge/follow Aslan.

Jesus healed ten men from leprosy, but only one returned to thank Him (Luke 17:15).

A Good Death

Roonwit says, “Noble death is a treasure which no one is too poor to buy.”

Psalm 116:15 says, “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”

Persecuted for Faithfulness

Jewel is sentenced to die for refusing to acknowledge the false Aslan.

In the end times, all who refuse to worship the anti-Christ will be executed (Revelation 13:15).

A Fearful Result

Ginger is struck dumb for telling lies about Aslan.

Paul said to the lying Elymas, “Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind” (Acts 13:11).

Blind and Deaf by Choice

The Dwarfs refuse to believe they can leave the Stable and enter Aslan’s country.

Jesus spoke of the Jews’ refusal to see the Messiah in their midst: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. For this people’s heart has become calloused.... Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them” (Matthew 13:13, 15).

Peter Holds the Keys

Aslan tells Peter to close the Door into heaven. He does so and locks it with a golden key.

Jesus told Peter, “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 16:19).

Just a Hint

The old Narnia, Digory says, is only “a shadow or copy of the real Narnia.”

Moses built a sanctuary that was “a copy and shadow of what is in heaven” (Hebrews 8:5).

Friends in a New Country

“Everyone you had ever heard of”—which means “the great heroes of Narnia”—appear in Aslan’s country.

Hebrews refers to “a great cloud of witnesses” (12:1)—those who triumphed in the faith and who hope for us to do the same.