

JESUS' TRIUMPH OF GOOD OVER EVIL... ACCORDING TO THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA – THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

OUTCOME: OUTLINE THE CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THROUGH JESUS GOOD TRIUMPHS OVER EVIL.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA AS AN ALLEGORY FOR THE CHRISTIAN STORY

ALLEGORY – A STORY, PLAY, PICTURE ETC IN WHICH EACH CHARACTER OR EVENT IS A SYMBOL REPRESENTING AN IDEA OR A QUALITY, SUCH AS TRUTH, EVIL, DEATH ETC

TEACHER NOTES

THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE IS AN ALLEGORY, AND IN AN ALLEGORY IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THE SYMBOLS ARE REFERRING TO AND NOT SIMPLY WHAT THEY ARE REPRESENTED BY.

FOR EXAMPLE, ASLAN'S DEATH AND COMING TO LIFE IS A PORTRAYAL OF CHRIST'S SAVING HUMANITY. IT DOES NOT MATTER THAT IT WAS NOT ON A CROSS, OR THAT SOME ELEMENTS ARE SEPARATED OR OUT OF ORDER IN TIME FROM THE BIBLICAL GOSPEL STORY. WHAT MATTERS IS THAT THE PICTURE IS CORRECT – AND IT IS.

ASLAN (CHRIST) HAS WILLINGLY HUMILIATED HIMSELF AND DIED FOR THE SON(S) OF ADAM (SPECIFICALLY EDMUND) WHOM SIN AND DEATH (THE WHITE WITCH) HAVE A RIGHT TO TAKE DUE TO THE "DEEP MAGIC" (THE LAW) OF NARNIA. BUT ASLAN RISES AGAIN (RESURRECTION), ACCOMPANIED BY AN EARTHQUAKE WHICH DESTROYS THE POWER OF THE DEEP MAGIC OVER MANKIND (NAILING OUR SINS TO THE CROSS), WITH TWO WOMEN PRESENT (THE TWO MARY'S), AND THEN GOES ON TO BREATHE LIFE INTO HIS WARRIORS (THE HOLY SPIRIT COMING ON ALL DISCIPLES) SO THAT THEY MAY WAGE WAR WITH HIM AGAINST THE WHITE WITCH AND HER ARMIES (SPIRITUAL WARFARE). ASLAN ULTIMATELY WINS, BRINGING IN A RE-CREATED WORLD (NEW HEAVENS AND EARTH).

THE LION AND THE WITCH

28.35 – 33.32 (4.57MIN)

1. DESCRIBE HOW EVIL HAS BEEN SHOWN IN THIS SCENE. DOES IT FOLLOW THE USUAL WAYS EVIL IS SHOWN, WHY/WHY NOT? WITCH IS EVIL, BUT PORTRAYED IN WHITE NOT BLACK. NOTE THOUGH THAT SHE IS AN "ICE QUEEN" – COLD IS SEEN AS MORE EVIL THAN WARMTH. THE WITCH IS NICE TO EDMUND. EVIL CAN SHOW ITSELF TO BE TEMPTING, PROPPING UP PRIDE AND SELF-IMPORTANCE.
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2. CAN YOU THINK OF AN EXAMPLE FROM SCRIPTURE THAT IS SIMILAR TO THIS SCENE? HOW IS IT SIMILAR? JESUS BEING TEMPTED IN THE WILDERNESS – LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT SHE OFFERS EDMUND – FOOD, POWER AND...? THEY ARE SIMILAR TO THE THREE THINGS THE DEVIL TEMPTED JESUS WITH IN THE DESERT. NOTE ALSO THAT THE SNOW/ICE ETC IS A DESERT-LIKE CONDITIONS – NOTHING CAN GROW THERE.
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3. DESCRIBE HOW EVIL IS SHOWN THROUGH EACH OF THESE THREE CHARACTERS:

THE WITCH: SHE IS NASTY, ALL-CONSUMING, WANTS TO DRAG OTHERS DOWN WITH HER, REMOVE ALL WARMTH AND FRIENDSHIP. SHE HAS TURNED THE PLACE INTO WHAT SHE CAN GET OUT OF THE WORLD FOR HERSELF.

EDMUND: HE IS GREEDY AND HAS FORGOTTEN HIS SIBLINGS. THEY ARE SUFFERING FROM BEING AWAY FROM THEIR PARENTS DURING THE BLITZ IN ENGLAND DURING WWI WHEN THEY WERE SENT AWAY TO THE COUNTRY TO BE SAFE AWAY FROM LONDON. HE IS MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT HE CAN HAVE HIMSELF THAN CARING FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.

THE WITCH'S HELPER: HE DOES THE WITCH'S BIDDING. HE HAS SUCCUMBED TO FOLLOWING HER DEMANDING WAYS AND DRAGS OTHER PEOPLE (EDMUND) DOWN WITH HIM.

ASLAN'S SACRIFICE

1.28.07-1.33.43 & 1.33.44-1.39.49

1. DESCRIBE HOW GOOD HAS BEEN SHOWN IN THESE TWO SCENES. DOES IT FOLLOW THE USUAL WAYS GOOD IS SHOWN, WHY/WHY NOT? THE WORLD IS DARK, THE ONE WHO SAVES IS A LION WHO ROARS LOUDLY AND HAS THE ABILITY TO KILL IN AN INSTANT AND FRIGHTEN PEOPLE. THE LION (THE ONE WHO SAVES) IS POWERFUL, BUT A KING... THE KING OF THE JUNGLE! ASLAN STEPS IN AND OFFERS HIMSELF TO BE SACRIFICED INSTEAD OF EDMUND, THE BOY WHO HAS BEEN A TRAITOR (HAS SINNED). ASLAN CARES MORE FOR OTHER THAN SELF AND SEES RETURNING EDMUND TO HIS SIBLINGS SAFE MORE IMPORTANT THAN HIS OWN NEEDS.

2. CAN YOU THINK OF AN EXAMPLE FROM SCRIPTURE THAT IS SIMILAR TO THIS SCENE? HOW IS IT SIMILAR? WHEN THE GIRLS WAKE AND WALK WITH ASLAN – JESUS' AGONY IN THE GARDEN. SHAVING ASLAN'S MANE – JESUS BEING STRIPPED, BEATEN AND ROBED IN PURPLE – BOTH THESE ACTIONS MOCK THEM AS "KINGS".
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3. DESCRIBE HOW GOOD IS SHOWN THROUGH EACH OF THESE CHARACTERS:

ASLAN: ASLAN SACRIFICING SELF EVEN THOUGH INNOCENT AND UNDESERVING OF IT. PUT OTHERS BEFORE SELF. PROTECTING OF THE "LITTLE ONES" JUST AS JESUS WAS.

THE GIRLS: STOOD BY ASLAN, JUST AS THE WOMEN IN JESUS' LIFE WOULD NOT LEAVE HIS SIDE IN HIS DEATH. WEPT FOR HIM AND CARED FOR HIM AFTER HIS DEATH.

4. THE WITCH SAYS: "YOU KNOW ASLAN (JESUS), I'M A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED IN YOU. DID YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU COULD SAVE A HUMAN TRAITOR (HUMAN BEINGS)? YOU HAVE GIVEN ME YOUR LIFE BUT SAVED NO ONE. SO MUCH FOR LOVE." THE WITCH IS WRONG ABOUT THIS. WHAT IN THE CHRISTIAN STORY TELLS US SHE IS WRONG? DESPITE ASLAN (JESUS) DYING IT WAS HIS ACTUAL DEATH AND SUBSEQUENT RESURRECTION THAT ENSURED THE SINS OF HUMANITY WERE FORGIVEN AND PEOPLE WERE SAVED FROM THEIR SINS. ASLAN'S (JESUS') RESURRECTION WAS EVIDENCE OF THIS. THE WITCH WAS UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND/BELIEVE THIS, JUST AS THOSE WHO CONDEMNED JESUS TO DIE WERE UNABLE TO SEE IT AT HIS DEATH.

ASLAN'S RESURRECTION

1.48.05-150.20

HOW DOES THIS SCENE TELL THE CHRISTIAN STORY OF THE RESURRECTION (EITHER IN PICTURES OR WORDS)? PICTURES: HE WAS LAID ON STONE. THE WOMEN (THE TWO MARY'S) WERE THE ONES WITH HIM, WHO "WITNESSED" THE RESURRECTION.

WORDS: (FROM A WEBSITE): IT IS THE BOOK'S EXPLANATION FOR THIS KEY SEQUENCE THAT MAKES IT EXCLUSIVELY CHRISTIAN. AFTER EDMUND PEVENISIE BETRAYS ASLAN AND HIS BROTHER AND SISTERS, THE WITCH CLAIMS HIS BLOOD IN ACCORDANCE TO THE LAWS OF "DEEP MAGIC." ASLAN CONCEDES THIS AND OFFERS HIMSELF UP IN PROXY, ANNOUNCING GLUMLY, "I HAVE SETTLED THE CLAIM ON YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD." MIRACULOUSLY REVIVED, HE EXPLAINS, "THE WITCH KNEW THE DEEP MAGIC. BUT IF SHE COULD HAVE LOOKED A LITTLE FURTHER BACK... SHE WOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT 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."

THIS IS CHRISTIANITY IN A KID-LIT VEIL. LIKE ANY GOOD SERMON, ITS KEY POINTS CAN BE TRACED TO BIBLICAL CITATIONS—HERE MOSTLY FROM THE *LETTERS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL*. EDMUND'S TREACHERY CORRESPONDS TO THE SINS OF HUMANITY, WHICH PAUL EXPLAINS IS INHERENTLY DOOMED TO VIOLATE GOD'S LAW ("THE DEEP MAGIC"). BECAUSE OF THIS VIOLATION, WRITES PAUL IN *ROMANS*, HUMANS ARE LITERALLY OWNED BY SATAN ("SLAVES OF THE ONE WHOM YOU OBEY"); AND "THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH." THE IDEA THAT ASLAN, BECAUSE HE IS SINLESS, CAN VOLUNTARILY PAY FOR EDMUND'S BLOOD WITH HIS OWN, IS THE POWERFUL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF BLOOD ATONEMENT, DEVELOPED FROM TEXTS LIKE THE *FIRST LETTER OF*

PETER: "YOU KNOW THAT YOU WERE RANSOMED... WITH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST, LIKE THAT OF A LAMB WITHOUT BLEMISH OR SPOT." LIKE CHRIST'S, ASLAN'S RESURRECTION IS INEVITABLE ("IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN RAISED, THEN ... OUR FAITH IS IN VAIN," PAUL WRITES IN *FIRST CORINTHIANS*.) AND IT CONQUERS NOT JUST HIS DEATH (OR AS ASLAN WOULD SAY, CAUSES IT TO MOVE BACKWARDS) BUT THAT OF ALL BELIEVERS, WHO WILL ALSO SEE RESURRECTION. PAUL REJOICES: "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY... O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING?" IN *THE LION*, ASLAN AND LUCY PEVENSIE CELEBRATE WITH A "MAD" GAME OF TAG.

IN SUMMARY...

KNOWING THAT THE KEY EVENTS SHOWN FROM THIS FILM ARE CLOSELY LINKED TO THE STORY OF CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION, IN YOUR OWN WORDS EXPLAIN HOW JESUS CONQUERED EVIL.
