

## An Introduction: “Further Up and Further In”

Where does the name *Aslan* come from? What are some of the key Bible references in *The Chronicles of Narnia*? When Digory Kirk is considering whether to steal an apple in *The Magician’s Nephew*, why is there a huge bird in the apple tree watching him? How do Lewis’s feelings about prunes show up in *Prince Caspian*? Did Lewis make up names like *Puddleglum* and *Emeth*?

Most adult readers of C. S. Lewis’s *Narnian Chronicles* wonder about these and many other questions. They can tell that certain story elements have a second layer of meaning below the surface. *Aslan*’s death and resurrection, for instance, is clearly analogous to the death and resurrection of Christ in our world. But what else lies below the surface?

That is the purpose of this book—to show you the wonderful assortment of borrowings, allusions, and parallels Lewis blended together to make the magnificent *Chronicles of Narnia*. Like you, I love this series, both for the stories and for their insights into spiritual life. Perhaps unlike you, I have had an occupation (English professor) that has allowed and encouraged me to study them in more depth, especially to see what went into their making. My doctoral specialization was British Renaissance literature, Lewis’s field, and

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my dissertation was entitled *Parallels and Allusions in C. S. Lewis's Narnian Chronicles*, so I have given years of my life to reading what Lewis read and considering what he did with it. I have admired and enjoyed Lewis's inventiveness in polishing up the treasures of his reading, and I hope you do too!

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(Feel free to e-mail me if you have questions or comments.)