

WEEK 2: "The Lion was breathing out." (#1-*The Magician's Nephew*, MN, p. 70)

As Digory Kirke, Polly Plummer, Digory's Uncle Andrew, Frank the cabbie, and his wife Helen watch, Aslan sings the world of Narnia into existence:

The Stars are the first to appear, simultaneously and in harmony with Aslan, the First Voice. The Voice rises and with it the sun rises over Narnia. Its light illuminates the mountains, through which a river runs, and green grass spreads from Aslan Himself to cover all Narnia with plant life and trees.

Following the creation of the natural world, Aslan calls forth living beings from the earth, finally separating the creatures into talking beasts and dumb beasts. At the end of the chapter containing this talk title, they all hear a deep voice proclaim, "Narnia, Narnia, Narnia, awake. Love. Think. Speak. Be walking trees. Be talking beasts. Be divine waters." (Chapter IX)

The breath of Aslan referred to in our talk's title calls to mind Genesis 2:7: "Then the LORD God formed man^l from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

[Digging a bit into a language study, both Greek and Hebrew use a single word to translate *wind/breath/spirit* (lower case *s*)/*Spirit* (upper case *S*). The word is *pneuma* in Greek and *ruach* in Hebrew. In the famous conversation that Jesus had with Nicodemus, as record in the third chapter of John's Gospel, He used a word play, stating that "the wind blows where it wishes, and y you hear its sound but cannot tell from where it comes and where it goes. So is everyone that is born of the Spirit." (same word)]

As we saw in our first talk, Jesus Christ was not only present at the beginning of time He also brought the world into existence. Jesus, the "heir of all things," by whom God created all that is, was referred to as the *Word* by John in the Prologue to his gospel: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." In other words, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the almighty Creator of the universe, "upholding everything by the word of His power."

As we look back at *The Magician's Nephew* for a moment, we see the results of Aslan's song.

Polly was finding the song more and more interesting because she thought she was beginning to see the connection between the music and the things that were happening. ... Thus, with an unspeakable thrill, she felt quite certain that all the things were coming (as she said) "out of the Lion's head." When you listened to his song you heard the things he was making up: when you looked round you, you saw them.

Let's look at the creation narrative from Genesis 1 again. God called specific items into existence by stating, "Let _____ be created, and it was so." He spoke and it came to pass. (As has been half kiddingly and two-thirds seriously stated, "Yes indeed, I believe in the Big Bang Theory. God spoke and *Bang* it happened!")

"I saw it begin; I did not think I would live to see it die," declares Digory in the last book in the series, *The Last Battle*, referring to his presence at the founding of Narnia. He has been brought back by means not yet completely known to him. God now views the destruction of the old Narnia and the recreation of the new one.

As this final book draws to a close, Digory tells Peter (Chapter XV),

When Aslan said you could never go back to Narnia, he meant the Narnia you were thinking of. But that was not the real Narnia. That had a beginning and an end. It was only a shadow or a copy of the real Narnia, which has always been here and always will be here: just as our own world, England, and all, is only a shadow or copy of something in Aslan's real world.

As we know from Scripture and as we will discuss more thoroughly later, Jesus Christ is presently preparing a future home for us that will exceed our wildest imagination, and of which this present world is but a "shadow or a copy." Remember the words of John 14:1-3:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (KJV, of course 😊)

This world is not our home. We're in it but (as Lewis says elsewhere) we're but aliens and strangers in a hostile, foreign world, enemy-occupied territory, longing to reach the Celestial City above, to hear our Father say "Well Done." (*The World's Last Night ...*)

Discussion question: How does the fact that the Son of God who died for your sins is also the Creator of the universe impact your Christian life?

NEXT WEEK; The first (of two) weeks discussing *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Another opportunity to read the story in question.