

Narnia Fever in the Churches

The fascination of Christians with C.S. Lewis' brand of witchcraft is truly amazing.

James Dobson's Focus on the Family filled an entire broadcast in January with utter praise for this witchcraft series of books by C.S. Lewis. It was forcefully stated on that broadcast that this movie was destined to bring thousands of young people to Jesus Christ, who could never have been converted by merely reading the Bible! Dobson's organization had earlier produced a very expensive series of sound portrayals of the entire series.

Many churches throughout America are so thrilled with Lewis' spooky stories that they have celebrated the great event by changing their main auditoriums into a "Land of Narnia."

What is this great event? On December 9, 2005, a major Disney movie, based on the first book of C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*, opened in movie houses across America. Millions of Americans flocked to see it; so much so that the movie took in \$24 million on opening day alone.

Instead of preaching against witchcraft as satanic, and denouncing movie-going as worldly, churches organized large groups of church members to go see it. Christians arrived in busloads at the theaters.

Those entering the Bellaire United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas, must walk through a wardrobe and brush past coats—to emerge into "the land of Narnia," where Pastor Valerie Hudson gives them a Narnia sermon. At the University Baptist Church, also in Houston, Pastor Robert Creech based all his December sermons on Narnia stories.

Church pastors all across the nation are declaring the movie to be "Christian," and many churches are using the story as part of their Sunday school lessons. Perhaps this should not be surprising; since they have said that the book it is based on (*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*) is a glorious Christian allegory.

I am told that the story is about a small girl who walks through a mirror in a wardrobe closet—and enters a strange new world with mythological creatures, pagan gods (including Bacchus, the god of wine and drunken revelry), women who dance around in a frenzy (called Maenads), and a witch who—like the evil people described in the Harry Potter tales—casts spells and tries to kill people. Aslan, the lion, is the hero who gains strength when he faces the Rising Sun

in the East, which causes him to shed rays of light.

This is Christian? Far from it. Like the Harry Potter books and movies, it is an open door to spiritualism.

Satan has a way of captivating minds, especially when they get close to spiritualistic phenomena. If people choose to be attracted—they are overwhelmed by a fascinating delight. The devil wants to lure people into ever deeper involvement with demons;—and witchcraft stories and indoctrination has become an extremely successful device toward this end.

We frequently receive letters and emails from ex-witches and former coven practitioners who, upon reading the information in our website,

harrypottermagic.com,

lament how witchcraft has ruined their lives. They are distraught and fear to trust their self-control. But those who have found Jesus Christ as their only Saviour are able to find release from demonic power and freedom to once again live honest, moral, decent lives.

The Narnia books are required reading for newly initiated members of covens and neophyte witches. Witches and wizards recognize that C.S. Lewis' witchcraft books provide a basic framework, upon which the Harry Potter books and advanced witchcraft lore will build upon.

C.S. Lewis, who never stopped smoking his tobacco-filled pipes, had earlier been an actual witch, illuminist, and member of the coven known as the *Thelemic Order of the Golden Dawn*.

C.S. Lewis wrote, "As I believe, Christ . . . fulfilled both paganism and Judaism" (*Reflections on the Psalms*, p. 129).

In 1999, I wrote an article about C.S. Lewis (*Who Is C.S. Lewis? [WM-857, p. 4]*). Here is information from it: Lewis viewed the atonement as a type of Roman Catholic penance rather than having any element of Messianic substitution. He did not think that baptism amounted to much, said there were errors in the Bible, and believed in a burning purgatory where (after death) souls would be redeemed by fire. His close friends were Catholics and he regularly went to confession. He deeply believed in the Tao (an oriental pagan religious concept), loved fantasy, said that Narnia had nothing to do with Christianity, and wrote science fiction for adults (*Out of the Silent Planet*, etc.) —vf