

The C.S. Lewis Space Trilogy **Gathering #2: C.S. Lewis and the concept of Space**

“For one glorious moment the door was open, the fresh night air was in his face, he saw the reassuring stars and even his own pack lying in the porch...Then a heavy blow fell on his head.” – p.20

RESOURCES

We have a website where our schedule and articles will be posted:

http://www.southridgeworship.com/space_trilogy.htm

We have a FACEBOOK group where you can post great quotes, insights and questions to the group:

C.S. Lewis Space Trilogy Reading Group

There may be a bunch of them, so here is our hard address: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/459585697486792/>

QUESTIONS

What was the most memorable scene for you?

Read together P.11-12 from *“The rise was clearly the last place in the world where a stranger was likely asked... Through “but the words that actually came in a rather unimpressive voice – were “Here! I say!....”*

How you are like and how are you unlike Ransom?

[Read together p. 31- 32 from *“It is hard for a man to brood on the future when he is feeling so extremely well as ransom now felt”* through *“Up in the broad fields of the sky.”* Why does C.S. Lewis think the old ways of viewing the universe should not be lost? See quotes on back]

How might Psalm 19 tie into the view of creation that Lewis takes?

Read together p.41-42 from *“You next,” said Weston curtly....* through *“had somehow taught him to expect nothing on a strange planet except rocky desolation or else a network of nightmare machines”*

What role do fear, courage, beauty, wonder, and keeping your word play see so far?

What world views are in play in the contrasts between Ransom, Weston and Devine?

How is how we perceive connected to what we already think we know?

Scripture

Psalm 19:1-6

1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.

4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,

5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.

6 Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Psalm 51:17

15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

16 You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it; you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

18 In your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem.

Peoples Names and Prayer Requests

FOR NEXT TIME: Read Chapters 8 – 14

What do you like most about the world of Malacandra ?

What scene was most memorable to you?

Pick a favorite passage to share with the group

Have you had experiences of loneliness somewhat like Ransom experiences in the first pages of chapter 8?

Why do you think Lewis uses the word “Bent” to describe Weston and Devine? From a Christian point of view what are the implication of this choice of words?

Quotes on Lewis' understanding of "Space"

"It is a profound mistake to imagine that Christianity ever intended to dissipate the bewilderment and even the terror, the sense of our own nothingness, which come upon us when we think about the nature of things. It comes to intensify them. Without such sensations there is no religion. Many a man, brought up in the glib profession of some shallow form of Christianity, who comes through reading Astronomy to realize for the first time how majestically indifferent most reality is to man, and who perhaps abandons his religion on that account, may at that moment be having his first genuinely religious experience. . . . Christianity does not involve the belief that all things were made for man." — [C.S. Lewis, *Miracles*](#)

"The Ransom Trilogy is in large part an attempt to rehabilitate (imaginatively, not scientifically) {a midlevel understanding of the universe}. For what purpose? Because Lewis considered it to be, in some important ways, a better conception than the modern one. Since the Copernican revolution, the heavenly bodies had been steadily evacuated of spiritual significance until they were regarded as no more than large aggregations of rock or gas. Readers of Narnia will remember an exchange in *The Voyage of the "Dawn Trader"* during which Eustace is rebuked by Ramandu for claiming that "In our world a star is a huge ball of flaming gas": "Even in your world, my son, that is not what a star is but only what it is made of." Because the pre-Copernican model of the cosmos viewed the planets as more than merely material it was a model worth keeping in mind. It was, in this sense, a more Christian model than the Newtonian or Einsteinian versions which have succeeded it....

To Lewis, as to Barfield, scientists in the modern period were too often naturalistic in their worldview, liable to the error of removing their own minds and their thinking processes from the total picture of the world that they were trying to understand and inhabit. This error necessarily de-spiritualizes the universe, for the rational mind is itself spiritual, dependent upon the logos that saturates the universe and which, in turn, depends upon God himself. The universe, perceived within such a naturalistic framework, becomes "all fact and no meaning." What in reality is tingling with life dwindles into nothing more than a complicated machine." - Michael Ward in *Books and Culture Magazine* Jan 2008: *C. S. Lewis and the Star of Bethlehem - Recovering the medieval imagination*.

"You cannot go on 'explaining away' for ever: you will find that you have explained explanation itself away. You cannot go on 'seeing through' things for ever. The whole point of seeing through something is to see something through it." -Lewis, *Abolition of Man*