

# PRINCE CASPIAN: THE RETURN TO NARNIA



Dedicated to  
Mary Clare Havard

# SOME INTRODUCTORY FACTS

- ◉ The second in the series, written in late 1949
- ◉ Published in 1951
- ◉ Like the others, illustrated by Pauline Baynes
- ◉ The initial setting is England in 1941, fourteen months after they first went to Narnia.
- ◉ In Narnia, it is 1,300 years after *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, year 2303 in Narnian time.
- ◉ The topic according to Lewis: “restoration of the true religion after a corruption”

# LEWIS AND LONGING

- ◉ When the children travel from England to Narnia, they almost never leave from their home.
- ◉ By never depicting the children at home, Lewis is able to evoke a longing for home, for a true home.
- ◉ See “The Weight of Glory,” where Lewis claims that we all have a desire for “our own far off country.”

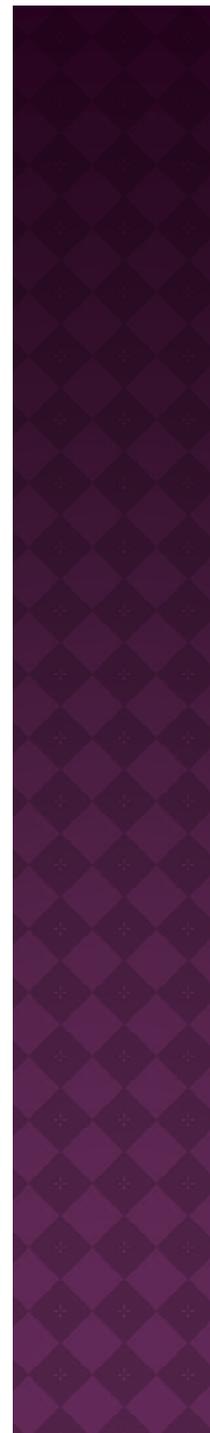




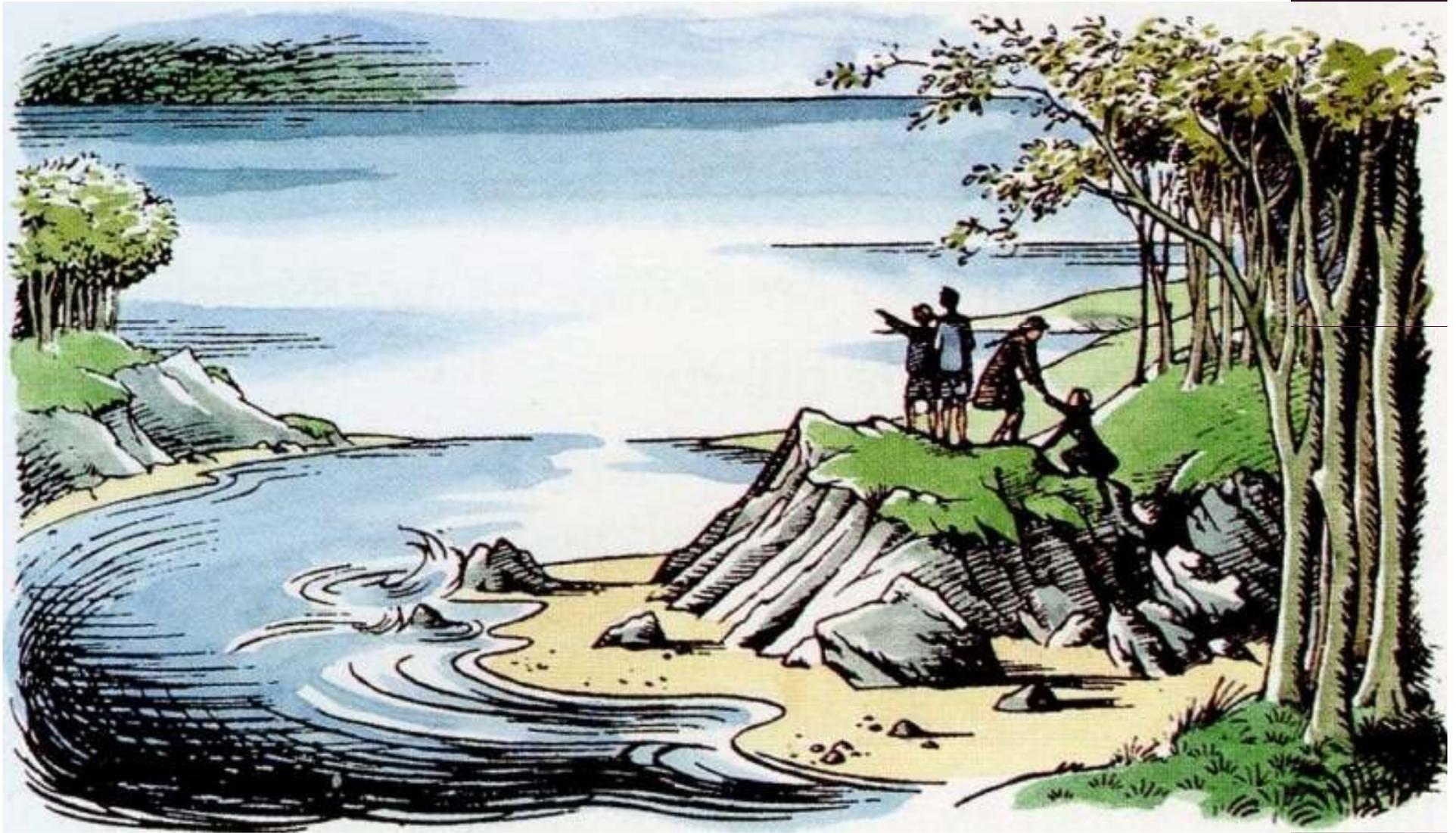




Diagram 3: Narnia's Eastern Peninsula



# PAULINE BAYNES



# PLOT SUMMARY

- ◉ The four children are drawn by Susan's horn (which had been left behind) into Narnia, as the story begins *in medias res* (the plot does not advance until chapter 8).
- ◉ They discover a ruined Cair Paravel, although they do not realize it at the time.
- ◉ They rescue the dwarf Trumpkin, who tells of Miraz, the Telmarines, and the Narnians driven underground.
- ◉ Caspian, nephew; an heir is born to Miraz; at the urging of his tutor Doctor Cornelius Caspian rides away on his horse Destrier and begins to gather an army around him.
- ◉ The four children make a long and arduous journey with Trumpkin to Aslan's How.
- ◉ On the way Lucy sees Aslan, but the others don't believe her. Sub-plot: Lucy's faith vs. Trumpkin's skepticism.



# CHAPTER XI. THE LION ROARS

- “But she [Lucy] forgot them [i.e. things she was going to say to Susan] when she fixed her eyes on Aslan. He turned and walked at a slow pace about thirty yards ahead of them.”
- Hebrews 12:12, “... fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”



# PLOT SUMMARY

- ◉ Later, Lucy meets Aslan in the night. He says, “Every year you grow, you will find me bigger.”
- ◉ Lucy wakes the others and follows Aslan.
- ◉ They arrive at Aslan’s How and prevent Caspian from going to the dark side.
- ◉ Peter proposes monomachy and wins.
- ◉ The trees and river gods awaken and win the battle; some are sent home.



Aslan and Trumpkin

## A Favorite Vignette

“And now!” said Aslan in a much louder voice with just a hint of a roar in it, while his tail lashed his flanks. “And now, where is this little Dwarf, this famous swordsman and archer, who doesn’t believe in lions? Come here, Son of Earth, come HERE!” and the last word was no longer the hint of a roar but almost the real thing.

“Wraiths and wreckage,” gasped Trumpkin in the ghost of a voice. The children, who knew Aslan well enough to see that he liked the Dwarf very much, were not disturbed; but it was quite another thing for Trumpkin who had never seen a lion before, let alone this Lion. He did the only sensible thing he could have done; that is, instead of bolting, he tottered towards Aslan.



Aslan pounced. Have you ever seen a very young kitten being carried in the mother cat's mouth? It was like that. The Dwarf, hunched up in a little, miserable ball, hung from Aslan's mouth. The Lion gave him one shake and all his armor rattled like a tinker's pack and then—hey-presto—the Dwarf flew up in the air. He was as safe as if he had been in bed, though he did not feel so. As he came down the huge velvety paws caught him as gently as a mother's arms and set him (right way up, too) on the ground.

“Son of Earth, shall we be friends?” asked Aslan.

“Ye—he—he—hes,” panted the Dwarf, for it had not yet got its breath back.



# MORAL DEVELOPMENT: OBEDIENCE

- ◉ Trumpkin to Caspian: “You are my King. I know the difference between giving advice and taking orders. You’ve had my advice, and now it’s the time for orders.”



# MICHAEL WARD

- ◉ *Planet Narnia* (scholarly) and *The Narnia Code* (popular)
- ◉ As mentioned in week one: Lewis wrote seven Chronicles of Narnia because there were seven planets in the medieval worldview.
- ◉ The planet Lewis chose to associate with *Prince Caspian* was a planet whose metal is iron, where faithful obedience is the chief benefit, and whose key features are militarism and silvanism (the presence and influence of trees). That planet?
- ◉ Mars

## MARS AND PC

- ◉ March (originally Martius) is the month of Mars because that is the time of year when the woods come back to life.
- ◉ Hence, wood or woods are a prominent feature in the book.
- ◉ The military (“martial”) features of Prince Caspian are numerous: rediscovering armor, rescuing the dwarf from soldiers, the swordsmanship and archery test, etc.
- ◉ Even the chess piece discovered early in the book at Cair Paravel is a chess knight.

## MARS AND PC

- ◉ Queen Prunaprismia's name comes from a Charles Dickens character in the book *Little Dorrit*, who often says “prunes and prism.” Her name?
- ◉ Mrs. General
- ◉ Military settings, military actions, various kinds of armor and weapons
- ◉ The bears have a hereditary right to be marshals (a pun on “martial”). (And a bear attacked the children and Trumpkin during their journey.)
- ◉ Lewis loved Chaucer's *Knight's Tale*.
- ◉ Peter is the model of a true knight.

## MARS AND PC

- ◉ Destrier means “war horse.” The name Lewis means “famous warrior.”
- ◉ Lewis was proud of the fact that on his mother’s side “the blood went back to a Norman knight whose bones lie at Battle Abbey.”
- ◉ Characters become more martial as the story progresses. For example, Caspian begins “to harden” as he sleeps “under the stars.” And Peter is better prepared to fight in hand-to-hand combat.
- ◉ Edmund makes a comment about “knights errant.”
- ◉ There is a lot of (military) marching in the story.

## BIBLICAL THEME I: IRRESISTIBLY DRAWN

- ◉ Edmund: “Golly! It’s a bit uncomfortable to know that we can be whistled for like that. It’s worse than what Father says about living at the mercy of the telephone.”
- ◉ Acts 9, Paul on the road to Damascus
- ◉ Judges 6:14, Gideon, “Am I not sending you?”
- ◉ Isaiah 6:8, Isaiah

# BIBLICAL THEME I: IRRESISTIBLY DRAWN

- ◉ Mark 1:16-18, Peter
- ◉ Luke 5:27-28, Levi
- ◉ John 6:44, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”
- ◉ Perhaps even you.
- ◉ The greatest adventure is the one that is thrust upon us.
- ◉ P.S. Lewis’s original title: *Drawn into Narnia*.





Sword & Shield

Cordial

Susan's Horn

Bow & Arrows

May Howe 1810 1881

## BIBLICAL THEME II: OLD NARNIANS

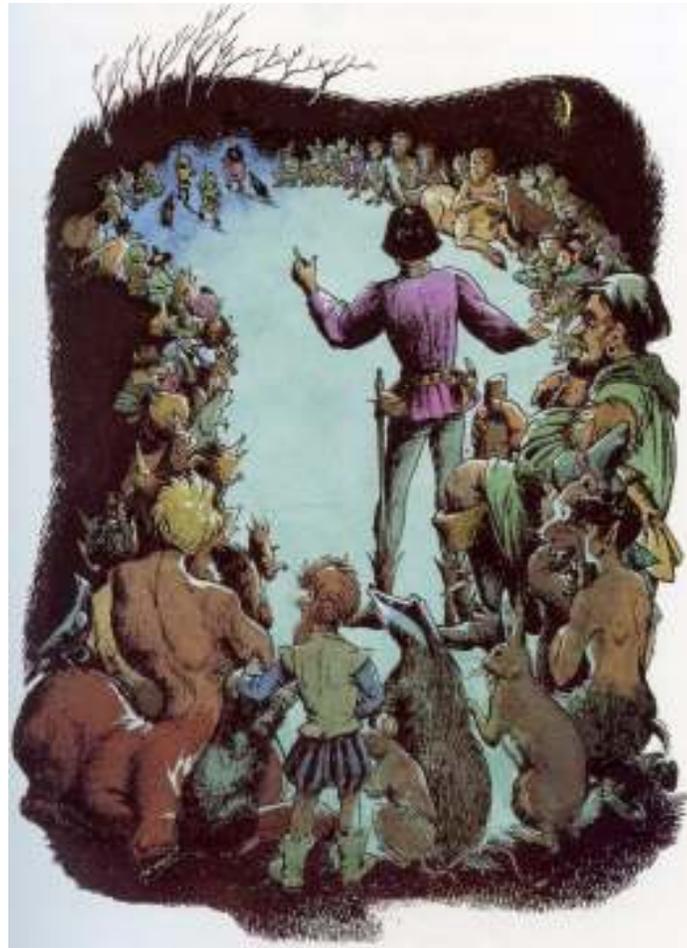
- “What do you mean by old Narnians, please?” asked Lucy.
- “Why, that’s us,” said the Dwarf. “We’re a kind of rebellion, I suppose.”



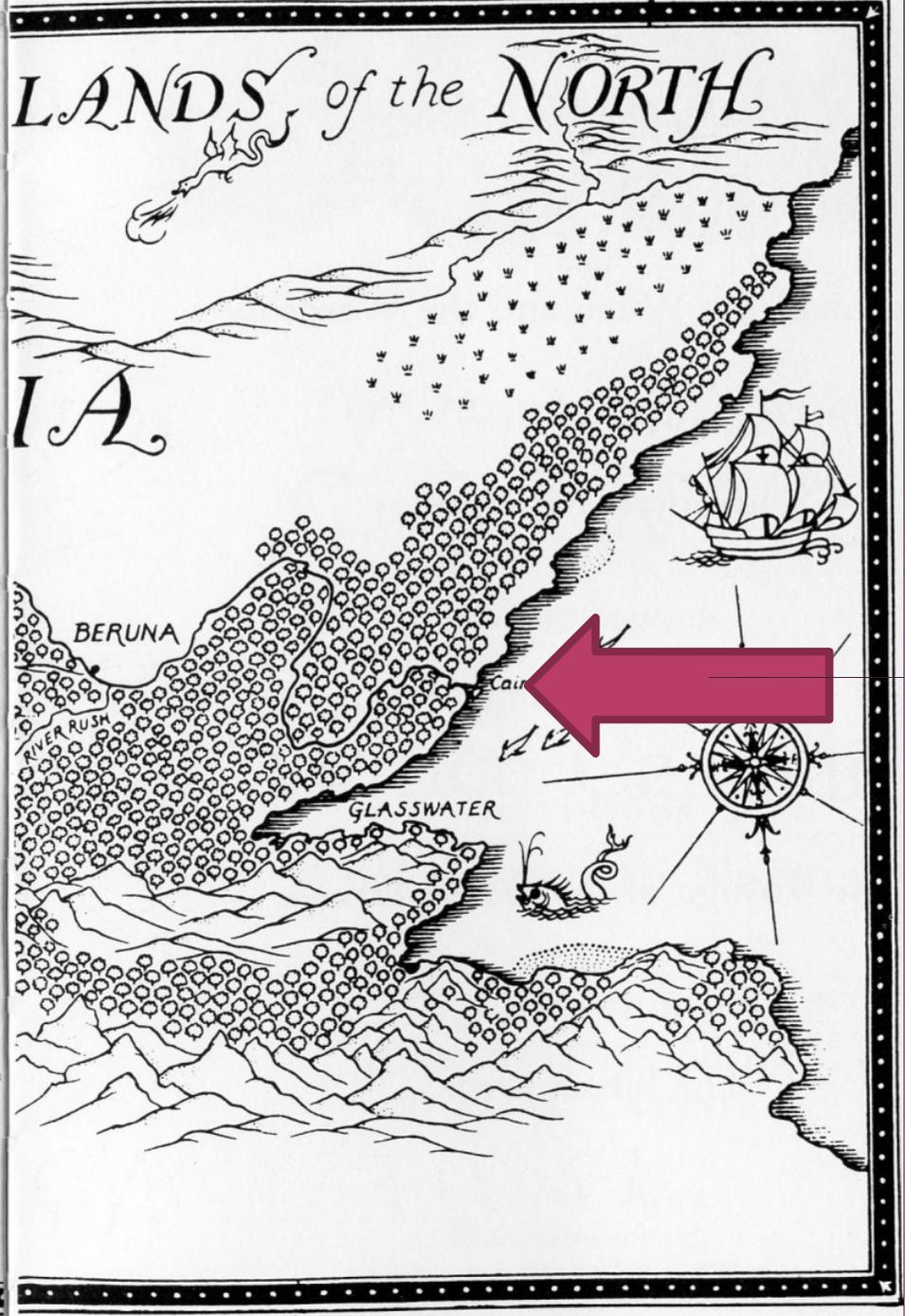
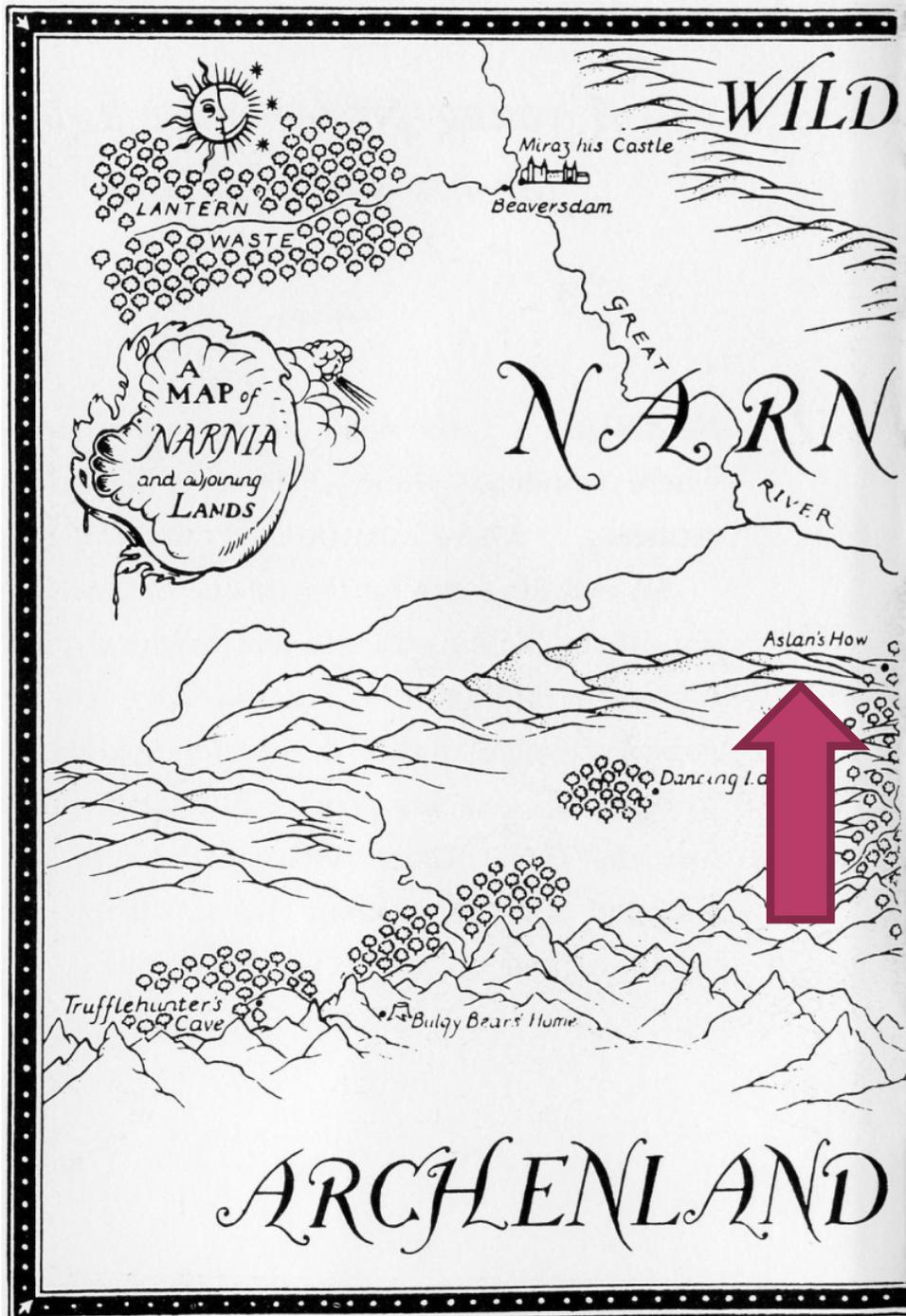
The true church is an underground resistance movement.

## BIBLICAL THEME II: OLD NARNIANS

- ◉ 1 Peter 1:1
- ◉ Deut. 26:5
- ◉ 1 Chron. 16:19,  
God gave the  
land of Canaan  
to His people  
when ...
- ◉ Matt. 7:14
- ◉ Rev. 12:11



Dancing Lawn







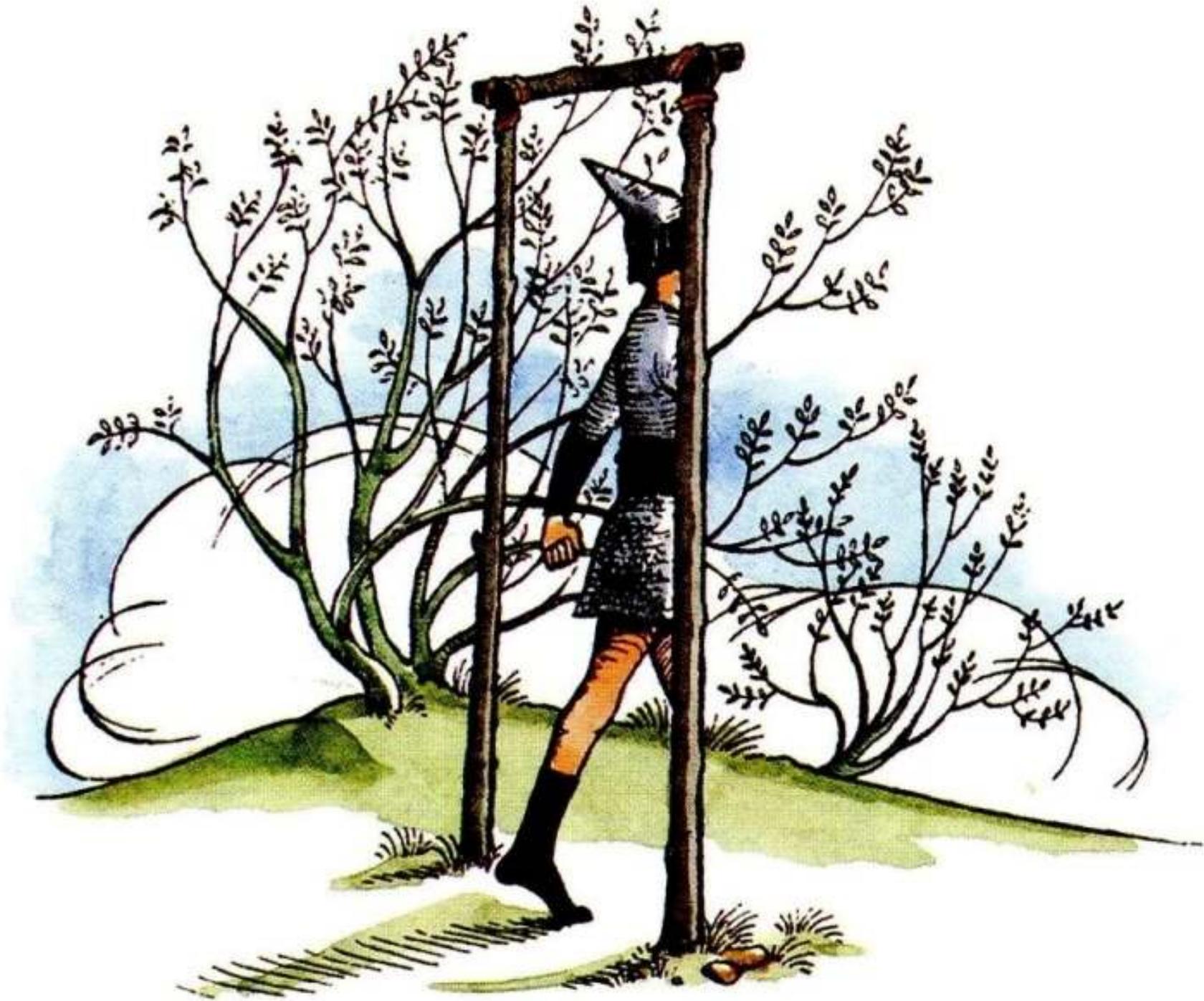
## MARS SILVANUS

- ◉ “Silva” or “sylva” is Latin for “wood.”
- ◉ Mars was associated with the month of March because that is the month when Mars made his impact felt. The woods came back to life as spring emerged.
- ◉ Lewis puts tree spirits in *Prince Caspian*.
- ◉ The word tree appears 100 times in *Prince Caspian*, more than...

# MARS SILVANUS



- The children arrive in a woods: Peter says, “I can’t see a yard in all these trees.”
- When they arrive, they learn that trees have overgrown Cair Paravel.
- The trees awaken when Lucy meets Aslan.
- The trees win the battle at the end.





# FACTUAL QUIZ JUST FOR FUN

1. In this book the children enter Narnia from (a) a wardrobe, (b) a church door, (c) a seat in a railway station, (d) an orchard.
2. The reason they didn't recognize Cair Paravel was that (a) it was so splendid, (b) it was in ruins, (c) they had forgotten it.
3. Peter's sword was named (a) Rhindon, (b) Caspian, (c) Fenris Ulf, (d) Destrier.
4. Doctor Cornelius was *not* (a) Caspian's tutor, (b) part dwarf, (c) a rebel against Miraz, (d) a real Telmarine.

# FACTUAL QUIZ JUST FOR FUN

5. The mysterious hollow mound built centuries ago over the Stone Table is called (a) Aslan's Who, (b) Miraz's Why, (c) Caspian's Where, (d) Aslan's How.
6. Which is *not* one of the three key magical places in Narnia? (a) the Stone Table, (b) Lantern Waste, (c) Telmar, (d) Cair Paravel.
7. Much of this story is told by (a) Trumpkin, (b) Nikabrik, (c) Caspian, (d) King Peter.
8. Who received special guidance from Aslan and failed to follow it? (a) Peter, (b) Edmund, (c) Susan, (d) Lucy.

# FACTUAL QUIZ JUST FOR FUN

9. The formal duel between Peter and Miraz did *not* end in (a) murder, (b) a draw, (c) general battle, (d) a forest alive and rushing to the river.
10. The children returned to England through (a) a blast on the horn, (b) the Wardrobe, (c) a door in the air, (d) a long hike.

# BENEDICTION

- ⦿ Give me patience when I get tired of my day-to-day diet of life.
- ⦿ Give me the courage to follow your leading, even when it makes me unpopular.
- ⦿ Let me always learn and teach with integrity.
- ⦿ Give me a foretaste of joy in the victory feast.
- ⦿ Give me the grace to walk bravely, when my time comes, through your Door in the Air.



## P.S.

- ⦿ “And finally he [Miraz] persuaded the seven noble lords, who alone among all the Telmarines did not fear the sea, to sail away and look for new lands beyond the Eastern Ocean, and, as he intended, they never came back.” (Chapter V. Caspian’s Adventure in the Mountains)
- ⦿ This sets up the next book, *The Voyage of the ‘Dawn Treader.’*