

# The Last Battle

By  
C.S. Lewis

“The Last Battle” won the Carnegie Medal for the best children’s book of 1956. After the illustrator Pauline Baynes congratulated him, Lewis wrote “is it not rather ‘our’ Medal? I’m sure the illustrations were taken into consideration as well as the text.”

Narnia had a beginning, middle, and end, and lasted, according to Lewis, 2555 years, but only 52 earthly years—from Digory and Polly’s day to the train accident in 2555/1949. Lewis always insisted that the stories were NOT allegories. He wrote on several occasions, “Supposing there was a world like Narnia, and supposing, like ours, it needed redemption, let us imagine what sort of Incarnation and Passion and Resurrection Christ would have there.”

# Battle and Casualties

Last week, comments were made about troublesome war passages in the Old Testament. Admittedly, many believers and unbelievers have been put off by such passages. In our story plants, animals, and people die in battle, as was true throughout the history of Narnia. Good guys and bad guys fight each other and die. Lewis fought on the front lines in WW1 and was a Home Guard in WW2. His friend, Paddy Moore, was killed in battle. Lewis was wounded and endured a long recovery in hospital.

# Battle and Casualties

- I have been helped by an esteemed OT scholar, John Goldingay, British and lately of Fuller Seminary. In Vol 3 of his OTTheology “Israel’s Life,” he writes, “The First Testament simply recognizes war as a reality of human life. ...Neither Testament rejoices in war, though neither do they lose sleep over it. It is just one of those things, like death, taxes, patriarchy, servitude and the distinction between clean and taboo. Deal with it.” “Both the First Testament and the New Testament ... [accept] war as a reality while also implying that it had no place at the Beginning and declaring that it will have no place at the End” (556). See also Vol 1, Section 7.4.

# The Last Judgment

- The Last Judgment is surely one of the five realities that involve every person, including Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Pentecost.
- Should Christ's return and the Last Judgment again become a living hope of the people of God?
- If so, how can this change first in my life?

## Memorable Quotations

- Jewel the unicorn to Lucy: “Nay, fair friend, [the stable door] may be for us the door to Aslan’s country and we shall sup at his table tonight.”
- Concerning the tasty fruit: “You can’t find out what it is like unless you can get to that country and taste for yourself.”
- Lord Digory re: the train accident: “Polly and I chiefly felt that we’d been unstiffened. You youngsters won’t understand. But we stopped feeling old.”

# Memorable Quotations

- “Yes,” said Queen Lucy. “In our world too, a Stable once had something inside it that was bigger than our whole world.”
- Aslan: “You do not yet look so happy as I mean you to be.”
- Aslan: “The term is over: the holidays have begun. The dream is ended: this is the morning.”