

THE BULWARK

COUNTERFEIT

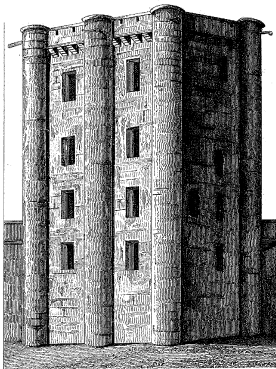
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*“Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following”*
Psalms 48:13

“The Last Battle”, which is the final book in the “Chronicles of Narnia” series, written by C.S. Lewis (who at one time in his life was an atheist), an underhanded ape named Shift, comes upon an old lion’s skin. He persuades a donkey to put it on. Shift then goes about proclaiming that the donkey is really Ashlan (who is The Lion and the rightful king of Narnia), and forms an alliance with the various enemies of Narnia. Together they embark on an effort to control and enslave the subjects of Narnia. The young king Tirian can’t bring himself to believe that Ashlan would stoop to such brutal tactics. He seeks out the real Ashlan and together they defeat Shift and his “counterfeit” Ashlan.



The “Chronicles of Narnia” is said to be Lewis’ commentary on the book of Revelation. Whether or not such is the case, it really doesn’t matter; but what does stand out are the number of powerful spiritual lessons that can be taken away from his writings. As already noted, the example of the defeat of Shift, one can clearly see where a spiritual parallel is in evidence. The Bible clearly lays out that the devil is in the business of imitating the God of Heaven. Take some time to read over Isaiah 14:12-15 and pay close attention to verse fourteen, *“I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.”* Counterfeit.

The Scriptures are replete with warnings about deception. Jesus noted in the Ser-

mon on the Mount, *“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”* (Matthew 7:15) Paul wrote in his second letter to the Corinthians, the following cautionary, *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness...”* (2Corinthians 11:13-15) In Matthew 24:4, Jesus again addresses the need for His follower to be watchful.

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1John 4:1)

“But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil.” (1Thessalonians 5:21-22)

In all candor, it is fairly easy to see through the deceptions of man, that is if we stay strictly with the Word of God. Hold to the axiom of “speaking where the Bible speaks and remaining silent where it is silent.” Just as there are telltale signs of counterfeit money, so it is with that which is counterfeit in a spiritual sense. “Beware of anyone who claims to speak directly from the Lord if what he says does not agree with everything that is found in God’s word.” (Sper) Sound advice. (wbe)