

# The Gospel According To Tolkien Visions Of The Ki

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*The Gospel According to Star Wars* - John C. McDowell 2007-01-01

McDowell explores the many spiritual themes that weave throughout the six films and shows the moral and spiritual complexity of the movies. The author contends that George Lucas, creator of the series, did not intend for his films to be mere entertainment.

**The Transcendent Vision of Mythopoeic Fantasy** - David S. Hogsette 2022-07-22

An ever-expanding critical library on fantasy fiction requires an analysis of why the genre is so ubiquitous, enduring and beloved. This work analyzes the mythic elements in foundational fantasy texts, arguing that mythopoeic fantasy reveals timeless truths that link human cultures past and present. Through close readings of works like *Phantastes*, *The King of Elfland's Daughter*, *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, *A Wizard of Earthsea*, *The Neverending Story*, *A Wrinkle in Time* and *Out of the Silent Planet*, this book explores how mythopoeic fantasy speaks to the deepest concerns of the human heart. It investigates the genre's use of an imagination that is sometimes atrophied by the demands of contemporary life, and explores how fantasy provides restoration, consolation and hope within a cultural context that too often decries such ideas. Each chapter focuses on a representative text, providing author background and engaging relevant scholarship on a variety of relevant thematic issues. Offering new insights on these classic texts by drawing upon post-secular critical approaches, this work is suitable for both new and seasoned students of fantasy.

[Chesterton and Tolkien as Theologians](#) - Alison Milbank 2009-01-01

This book takes Chesterton's 'natural theology' through fairytales seriously as a theological project appropriate to an intellectual attempt to return to faith in a secular age. It argues that Tolkien's fiction makes sense also as the work of a Catholic writer steeped in Chestertonian ideas and sharing his literary-theological poetics. While much writing on religious fantasy moves quickly to talk about wonder, Milbank shows that this has to be hard won and that Chesterton is more akin to the modernist writers of the early twentieth-century who felt quite dislocated from the past. His favoured tropes of paradox, defamiliarization and the grotesque have much in common with writers like T. S. Eliot, Ezra Pound and James Joyce and their use of the demotic as well as the 'mythic method'. Using Chesterton's literary rhetoric as a frame, the book sets out to chart a redemptive poetics that first decentres the reader from his habitual perception of the world, then dramatizes his self-alienation through the grotesque, before finding in that very alienation a sort of pharmakon through paradox and an embrace of difference. The next step is to change one's vision of the world beyond the self through magic which, paradoxically, is the means by which one can reconnect with the physical world and remove the fetishism and commodification of the object. Chesterton's theology of gift is the means in which this magic becomes real and people and things enter into reciprocal relations that reconnect them with the divine.

**On the Shoulders of Hobbits** - Louis Markos 2012-09-14

The world of J. R. R. Tolkien is filled with strange creatures, elaborately crafted lore, ancient tongues, and magic that exists only in fantasy; yet the lessons taught by hobbits and wizards speak powerfully and practically to our real lives. Courage, valor, trust, pride, greed, and jealousy--these are not fictional virtues. This is the stuff of real life, the Christian life. Professor and author Louis Markos takes us on the road with Tolkien and C. S. Lewis, with looks at selected classic works of literature as well, to show how great stories bring us so much more than entertainment. They inspire and convict, imparting truth in unforgettable ways. Rediscover the virtue of great storytelling and the power of fantasy to transform our reality.

*Tolkien's Theology of Beauty* - Lisa Coutras 2016-08-03

In this book, Lisa Coutras explores the structure and complexity of J.R.R. Tolkien's narrative theology, synthesizing his Christian worldview with his creative imagination. She illustrates how, within the framework of a theological aesthetics, transcendental beauty is the unifying principle that integrates all aspects of Tolkien's writing, from pagan despair to Christian joy. J.R.R. Tolkien's Christianity is often held in an unsteady tension with the pagan despair of his mythic world. Some critics portray these as incompatible, while Christian analysis tends to oversimplify the presence of religious symbolism. This polarity of opinion testifies to the need for a unifying interpretive lens. The fact that Tolkien saw his own writing as "religious" and "Catholic," yet was preoccupied with pagan mythology, nature, language, and evil, suggests that these areas were wholly integrated with his Christian worldview. Tolkien's *Theology of Beauty* examines six structural elements, demonstrating that the author's Christianity is deeply embedded in the narrative framework of his creative imagination.

*The Gospel According to Tolkien* - Ralph C. Wood 2003

: In this accessible and engaging book, Ralph Wood shows us that J.R.R. Tolkien's masterpiece is a deeply Christian work because it does not blink back the horrors of our terrible times but confronts them with startling honesty. Readers keep turning to this work because here they are immersed in significance and meaning - perceiving the Hope than can be found amidst despair; the Charity that overcomes vengeance; and the Faith that springs from the strange power of weakness. *The Gospel According to Tolkien* will be loved by both longtime Tolkien fans and those recently drawn to his books through the popular feature films.

**The Good News of the Return of the King** - Michael T. Jahosky 2020-09-15

Although many people today reject Christianity for intellectual reasons, greater numbers of people are rejecting Christianity because it does not engage their imagination. Christians must not only demonstrate that the Christian worldview is true, but that it is also good, beautiful, and relevant. *The Good News of the Return of the King: The Gospel in Middle-earth* is a book that endeavors to show the truth, goodness, and beauty of Jesus Christ, the gospel, and the biblical metanarrative by engaging the imagination through J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, as well as *The Hobbit* and *The Silmarillion*. In this book, I propose that J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* is a story about what Jesus' parables are about: the good news about the return of the king. As a work of imaginative fiction similar to Jesus' parables, *The Lord of the Rings* can bypass both intellectual and imaginative objections to the gospel and pull back the "'veil of familiarity'" that obscures the gospel for many.

**Following Gandalf** - Matthew T. Dickerson 2003

In this new work, Dickerson offers a specifically Christian exploration of morality, choices, and free will in "The Lord of the Rings."

**The Gospel according to Star Wars** - John C. McDowell 2007-03-02

Star Wars is one of the most beloved movie series of all time, and in this book John McDowell explores the many spiritual themes that weave throughout the six films. From the Force to the dark side, the issues discussed in the films have a moral and spiritual complexity that, if paid attention to, can help us better understand our place in the world and our relation to others and to God. George Lucas, the creator of Star Wars, did not intend for his films to be mere entertainment, McDowell argues. Rather, he hoped his films would be used as a vehicle for moral education.

*The Fellowship* - Philip Zaleski 2015-06-02

"A stirring group biography of the Inklings, the Oxford writing club

featuring J.R.R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis C.S. Lewis is the twentieth century's most widely read Christian writer and J.R.R. Tolkien its most beloved mythmaker. For three decades, they and their closest associates formed a literary club known as the Inklings, which met weekly in Lewis's Oxford rooms and a nearby pub. They read aloud from works in progress, argued about anything that caught their fancy, and gave one another invaluable companionship, inspiration, and criticism. In *The Fellowship*, Philip and Carol Zaleski offer the first complete rendering of the Inklings' lives and works. Lewis maps the medieval mind, accepts Christ while riding in the sidecar of his brother's motorcycle, becomes a world-famous evangelist and moral satirist, and creates new forms of religiously attuned fiction while wrestling with personal crises. Tolkien transmutes an invented mythology into a breathtaking story in *The Lord of the Rings*, while conducting groundbreaking Old English scholarship and elucidating the Catholic teachings at the heart of his vision. This extraordinary group biography also focuses on Charles Williams, strange acolyte of Romantic love, and Owen Barfield, an esoteric philosopher who became, for a time, Saul Bellow's guru. Romantics who scorned rebellion, fantasists who prized sanity, Christians with cosmic reach, the Inklings sought to revitalize literature and faith in the twentieth century's darkest years--and did so"--

**The Good News of the Return of the King** - Michael T. Jahosky 2020-09-15

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**The Living Church** - 2004

**The Gospel According to Hollywood** - Greg Garrett 2007

In this new book in the *Gospel According To* series, Garrett looks at the theological elements in dozens of classic Hollywood films, including a discussion about what the new openness to spirituality in the movies might mean for the future of American cinema and American religion. (Biblical Studies)

*Deeper Magic* - Donald T. Williams 2016

"Explore the theology behind Narnia, *The Screwtape Letters*, Mere Christianity, and the other works of C.S. Lewis! The imagination of C.S. Lewis inspired people all over the world. We remember him today as a literary giant and a preeminent apologist for the Christian faith. But what about the theological framework that drove his writing? *Deeper Magic* reveals the foundation of Lewis' thought--the theological underpinnings that gave his prose so much power. If you have been moved by the writing of Lewis, this book will help you understand why"--  
[www.squarehalobooks.com](http://www.squarehalobooks.com)

**The Gospel According to the Simpsons** - Mark I. Pinsky 2001-01-01

Examines the treatment of religion and spirituality in the animated television series, including its depiction of God, Jesus, heaven, hell, and prayer in chapters devoted to Homer, Lisa, Ned, Reverend Lovejoy, Krusty, and Apu.

*Tolkien and the Study of His Sources* - Jason Fisher 2011-09-07

Source criticism—analysis of a writer's source material—has emerged as one of the most popular approaches in exploring the work of J.R.R. Tolkien. Since Tolkien drew from many disparate sources, an understanding of these sources, as well as how and why he incorporated them, can enhance readers' appreciation. This set of new essays by leading Tolkien scholars describes the theory and methodology for proper source criticism and provides practical demonstrations of the approach.

**Tolkien and C.S. Lewis** - Colin Duriez 2003

Reveals the complex friendship between the two literary figures, noting their shared academic experiences at Oxford University, Lewis's influence on Tolkien's completion of *The Lord of the Rings*, and the differences in their temperaments and spiritual beliefs. Original.

**The Hobbit Party** - Jay Richards 2014-09-18

Anyone who has read *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* can gather that their author hated tyranny, but few know that the novelist who once described himself as a hobbit Òin all but sizeÓ wasÑeven by hobbit standardsÑa zealous proponent of economic freedom and small government. There is a growing concern among many that the West is sliding into political, economic, and moral bankruptcy. In his beloved novels of Middle-Earth, J.R.R. Tolkien has drawn us a map to freedom. Scholar Joseph Pearce, who himself has written articles and chapters on the political significance of Tolkien's work, testified in his book *Literary Giants, Literary Catholics*, Òif much has been written on the religious significance of *The Lord of the Rings*, less has been written on its political significanceÑand the little that has been written is often erroneous in its conclusions and ignorant of Tolkien's intentionsÉ. Much more work is needed in this area, not least because Tolkien stated, implicitly at least, that the political significance of the work was second only to the religious in its importance.Ó Several books ably explore how Tolkien's Catholic faith informed his fiction. None until now have centered on how his passion for liberty and limited government also shaped his work, or how this passion grew directly from his theological vision of man and creation. *The Hobbit Party* fills this void. The few existing pieces that do focus on the subject are mostly written by scholars with little or no formal training in literary analysis, and even less training in political economy. Witt and Richards bring to *The Hobbit Party* a combined expertise in literary studies, political theory, economics, philosophy, and theology.

**Finding God in the Hobbit** - Jim Ware 2006

Indulges readers with an exploration of the spiritual significance of J.R.R. Tolkien's famous children's classic.

*The Battle for Middle-earth* - Fleming Rutledge 2004-11-04

Fleming Rutledge discovers the deeper religious meaning behind Tolkien's masterpiece.

**The Gospel according to Star Wars, Second Edition** - John C. McDowell 2017-09-07

In a new and updated version of this best-selling book, John McDowell explores the many spiritual themes that weave throughout the Star Wars films. From the Force to the dark side, the issues discussed in the films have a moral and spiritual complexity that, if paid attention to, can help us better understand our place in the world and our relation to others and to God. George Lucas, the creator of Star Wars, did not intend for his films to be mere entertainment, McDowell argues. Rather, he hoped his films would be used as a vehicle for moral education. This new version has been thoroughly revised to include discussion of *The Force Awakens* and other new developments in the Star Wars universe.

**Tolkien's Sacramental Vision** - Craig Bernthal 2014-06-14

One of Tolkien's great appeals to readers is that he offers a world replete with meaning at every level. To read and reread Tolkien is to share his sense of wonder and holiness, to be invited into the presence of a "beauty beyond the circles of the world." It is to fall in love with a universe that has a beginning and an end, where good and bad are not subjective choices, but objective realities; a created order full of grace, though damaged by sin, in which friendship is the seedbed of the virtues, and where the greatest warriors finally become the greatest healers. A correspondent once told J. R. R. Tolkien that his work seemed illumined "by an invisible lamp." That lamp is the Church, and its light is the imaginative sensibility that we live in a sacramental world. This new book by the author of *The Trial of Man* examines in depth the influence of Catholic sacramentality on the thought and work of Tolkien, with major emphasis on *The Lord of the Rings*, but including his literary essays, epistolary poem "Mythopoeia," short story "Leaf by Niggle," and *The Silmarillion*. Here is a signal contribution to a deeper understanding of Tolkien, whose mythological world is meant to "recover" the meaning of our own as a grace-filled place, pointing toward its Creator.

*Tolkien for Beginners* - Louis Markos 2022-09-23

*Tolkien For Beginners* will introduce the reader to the multilayered depth and breadth of Tolkien's tales of Middle-earth, what critics, following Tolkien's lead, refer to collectively as his *legendarium*. J.R.R. Tolkien sweeps us away to a distant time and place that is at the same time, our own time and place. He takes us to a world where difficult choices must be made and are made, where character is defined by those choices, and where redemption is possible though not always embraced. *The Lord of the Rings* taps a deep root in the human psyche. There is much death, destruction, and defeat in Tolkien's world, but there is even more friendship, courage, and hope. What one remembers when one finishes reading *The Lord of the Rings* is not the vice of the villains, as



strong and as well drawn as it is, but the virtue that empowers the heroes to resist it, even at the cost of their own lives. It will be the goal of *Tolkien For Beginners* to introduce the reader to the multilayered depth and breadth of Tolkien's tales of Middle-earth. To do justice to the full dimensions of that legendarium, author Louis Markos will speak in two voices: that of the storyteller who loves the stories he tells and that of the critic who seeks to identify and explicate key themes from those stories. In his telling and analysis, he will treat the legendarium both as a collection of secondary-world myths with their own integrity and as a reflection of Tolkien's Catholic worldview.

**Beowulf** - John Ronald Reuel Tolkien 2014

Presents the prose translation of the Old English epic that Tolkien created as a young man, along with selections from lectures on the poem he gave later in life and a story and poetry he wrote in the style of folklore on the poem's themes.

**Truths Breathed Through Silver** - Joe R. Christopher 2009-03-26

Representing a decade of scholarly activity within the C. S. Lewis & Inklings Society (CSLIS), this book challenges readers to examine the complex factors that shaped the theological perspectives, cultural concerns, and literary conventions in the works of the Oxford Inklings. The mythopoeic fiction that Lewis, Tolkien, Williams, and their associates enjoyed and composed put mortal humanity in contact with the immortal and the divine. The selection of papers in this volume, intended not only for experts but also for undergraduates and general readers, includes keynote presentations by Joe R. Christopher, Rolland Hein, Kerry Dearborn, David Neuhouser, and Thomas Howard that explore the Inklings legacy of moral mythopoeia, as well as essays that analyze works like *Screwtape* (Tom Shippey), *The Magician's Nephew* (Salwa Khoddam), *The Silmarillion* (Jason Fisher), *The Lord of the Rings* (David Oberhelman) and *The Dark Tower* (Jonathan B. Himes). The Inklings believed there was still power in the old myths, and ultimately that there was still truth to fortify humanity in them. Their friendship and their fiction provided these men a forum for entertaining speculative and sometimes unorthodox answers to the complex realities of sacred tradition.

**J.R.R. Tolkien Encyclopedia** - Michael D. C. Drout 2007

A detailed work of reference and scholarship, this one volume Encyclopedia includes discussions of all the fundamental issues in Tolkien scholarship written by the leading scholars in the field. Coverage not only presents the most recent scholarship on J.R.R. Tolkien, but also introduces and explores the author and scholar's life and work within their historical and cultural contexts. Tolkien's fiction and his sources of influence are examined along with his artistic and academic achievements - including his translations of medieval texts - teaching posts, linguistic works, and the languages he created. The 550 alphabetically arranged entries fall within the following categories of topics: adaptations art and illustrations characters in Tolkien's work critical history and scholarship influence of Tolkien languages biography literary sources literature creatures and peoples of Middle-earth objects in Tolkien's work places in Tolkien's work reception of Tolkien medieval scholars scholarship by Tolkien medieval literature stylistic elements themes in Tolkien's works theological/ philosophical concepts and philosophers Tolkien's contemporary history and culture works of literature

**The Gospel According to Tolkien** - Ralph C. Wood 2003

**Finding God in The Lord of the Rings** - Kurt Bruner 2021

The bestselling book now revised and updated with new content! Hailed as the most popular and best-loved series of the twentieth century, *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy is more than a great story; it's a reflection of life's epic quest for all of us. Examining the Christian themes in J. R. R. Tolkien's masterwork, bestselling authors Kurt Bruner and Jim Ware reveal a rich tapestry of hope, friendship, redemption, and faith in the face of overwhelming odds. More than 200,000 copies sold Includes six new chapters and a discussion guide A helpful resource for personal study, devotions, or group discussion

**Tolkien among the Moderns** - Ralph C. Wood 2015-08-28

It has long been recognized that J. R. R. Tolkien's work is animated by a profound moral and religious vision. It is less clear that Tolkien's vision confronts the leading philosophical and literary concerns addressed by modern writers and thinkers. This book seeks to resolve such uncertainty. It places modern writers and modern quandaries in lively engagement with the broad range of Tolkien's work, while giving special attention to the textual particularities of his masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings*. In ways at once provocative and original, the contributors deal

with major modern artists and philosophers, including Miguel de Cervantes, Friedrich Nietzsche, Emmanuel Levinas, Iris Murdoch, and James Joyce. The essays in *Tolkien among the Moderns* also point forward to postmodernism by examining its implications for Tolkien's work. Looking backward, they show how Tolkien addresses two ancient questions: the problems of fate and freedom in a seemingly random universe, as well as Plato's objection that art can neither depict truth nor underwrite morality. The volume is premised on the firm conviction that Tolkien is not a writer who will be soon surpassed and forgotten—exactly because he has a permanent dwelling place "among the moderns."

**Tolkien: Light and Shadow** - AA. VV. 2019-10-03

A collection of essays by ten international experts on J. R. R. Tolkien's Legendarium, focussed on Light and Shadow. Such leading threads of his literary production are here taken as universal themes to be interpreted in several different senses - ethical, philosophical, psychological, spiritual, historical and biographical - with further insights into their numberless nuances. The Professor's main works (above all, *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion*) are explored in their multifacete aspects, in connection with his life's events and bearing in mind his own opinion on them, through his Letters and his essay *On Fairy Stories*. Thanks to these sharp and compelling reflections, a wide range of viewpoints on his entire opus emerges, confirming its utmost relevance to the history of Literature, and offering some indeed new intuitions on the spirit of his creations.

**Culture, Communion and Recovery** - Alana M. Vincent 2012-11-15

Recent scholarship on Tolkien has been especially attentive not only to the importance of religion in his personal life, but also to the wider theological implications which may be drawn from his works. In this study, Alana M. Vincent argues that the cultural influence of *The Lord of the Rings* provides an excellent model for understanding the mutually transformative relationship between religion and culture, and in so doing also provides an important and unexplored pathway for inter-religious exchange.

**Reading the Bible in an Age of Crisis** - Bruce Worthington 2015-08-03

We live in an age in which economic, ecological, and political crises are not the exception, but the rule. The Cold War polarities that shaped an earlier "political exegesis" have been replaced; increasingly, crisis is the engine of a global "turbo-capitalism." Here, biblical scholars and activists describe and exemplify the shape of a biblical interpretation that takes contemporary crisis seriously. Succinct opening essays summarize the salient aspects of our critical situation; in later parts, contributions address themes of economic, political, and environmental crisis in dialogue with biblical texts.

**Lamb** - Christopher Moore 2009-10-13

Everyone knows about the immaculate conception and the crucifixion. But what happened to Jesus between the manger and the Sermon on the Mount? In this hilarious and bold novel, the acclaimed Christopher Moore shares the greatest story never told: the life of Christ as seen by his boyhood pal, Biff. Just what was Jesus doing during the many years that have gone unrecorded in the Bible? Biff was there at his side, and now after two thousand years, he shares those good, bad, ugly, and miraculous times. Screamingly funny, audaciously fresh, *Lamb* rivals the best of Tom Robbins and Carl Hiaasen, and is sure to please this gifted writer's fans and win him legions more.

**A Companion to J. R. R. Tolkien** - Stuart D. Lee 2022-07-21

The new edition of the definitive academic companion to Tolkien's life and literature *A Companion to J. R. R. Tolkien* provides readers with an in-depth examination of the author's life and works, covering Tolkien's fiction and mythology, his academic writing, and his continuing impact on contemporary literature and culture. Presenting forty-one essays by a panel of leading scholars, the Companion analyzes prevailing themes found in *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, posthumous publications such as *The Silmarillion* and *The Fall of Arthur*, lesser-known fiction and poetry, literary essays, and more. This second edition of the Companion remains the most complete and up-to-date resource of its kind, encompassing new Tolkien publications, original scholarship, *The Hobbit* film adaptations, and the biographical drama *Tolkien*. Five entirely new essays discuss the history of fantasy literature, the influence of classical mythology on Tolkien, folklore and fairytales, diversity, and Tolkien fandom. This Companion also: Explores Tolkien's impact on art, film, music, gaming, and later generations of fantasy fiction writers Discusses themes such as mythmaking, medieval languages, nature, war, religion, and the defeat of evil Presents a detailed overview of Tolkien's legendarium, including Middle-earth mythology and invented languages and writing systems Includes a brief chronology of Tolkien's works and

life, further reading suggestions, and end-of-chapter bibliographies A Companion to J. R. R. Tolkien, Second Edition is essential reading for anyone formally studying or teaching Tolkien in academic settings, and an invaluable resource for general readers with interest in Tolkien's works or fans of the films wanting to discover more.

**Tolkien, Race, and Racism in Middle-earth** - Robert Stuart  
2022-04-15

Tolkien, Race, and Racism in Middle-earth is the first systematic examination of how Tolkien understood racial issues, how race manifests in his oeuvre, and how race in Middle-earth, his imaginary realm, has been understood, criticized, and appropriated by others. This book presents an analysis of Tolkien's works for conceptions of race, both racist and anti-racist. It begins by demonstrating that Tolkien was a racist, in that his mythology is established on the basis of different races with different characteristics, and then poses the key question "Was Tolkien racist?" Robert Stuart engages the discourse and research associated with the ways in which racism and anti-racism relate Tolkien to his fascist and imperialist contemporaries and to twenty-first-century neo-Nazis and White Supremacists—including White Supremacy, genocide, blood-and-soil philology, anti-Semitism, and aristocratic racism. Addressing a major gap in the field of Tolkien studies, Stuart focuses on race, racisms and the Tolkien legendarium.

**The Gospel According to Harry Potter** - Connie W. Neal 2002-01-01

Contrary to those who reject the Harry Potter books as a threat to Christian faith, Neal demonstrates how the lessons in these books reinforce the central messages of the Bible.

**Hearing a Film, Seeing a Sermon: Preaching and Popular Movies** - Timothy B. Cargal

*Preaching and Professing* - Ralph C. Wood 2009-01-30

Testifies to the presence of God as both our post-earthly hope and our present-world existence. / These thought-provoking sermons by Ralph Wood, a layman who has taught religion and literature for many years, seek to till new soil in the fertile field of Christian faith and life. They draw on a wide range of reading not only in Christian theology but also in both classical and contemporary literature and culture. And they also mine Wood's own professorial and personal experience in dealing with both the old and the young amid "the chances and changes of life." / Wood squarely engages the American "culture of death" by wrestling with such vexing questions as sexuality and marriage, war and peace, abortion, racial injustice, and abuse of the elderly. By grounding his homilies in specific times, places, and quandaries, Wood demonstrates

that Christianity remains a vigorous set of doctrines and morals precisely as preaching and ethics give shape to our worship and living in the here and now. Focusing not so much on our "getting to heaven," Wood's *Preaching and Professing* shows concretely how the gospel "gets heaven into us."

**At this Time and in this Place** - David S. Cunningham 2016

This book champions vocation and calling as key elements of undergraduate education. It offers a historical and theoretical account of vocational reflection and discernment, as well as suggesting how these endeavors can be implemented through specific educational practices. Against the backdrop of the current national conversation about the purposes of higher education, it argues that the undergraduate years can provide a certain amount of relatively unfettered time, and a "free and ordered space," in which students can consider the kinds of lives to which they are being called. The book is divided into four parts; the first of these explores the broader context within which vocational reflection takes place (attending both to the current state of higher education and to broader cultural trends). The second part examines the contours of vocation from historical, theological, and philosophical perspectives, with particular attention to narrative as a key factor in shaping (and accounting for) one's various callings. Part three considers the relationship between vocation and virtue, both of which encourage the cultivation of good habits with the goal of living a fulfilled and fulfilling life. The last part of the book explores vocational reflection beyond the classroom, suggesting that it can also be sustained through co-curricular activities, programs for community engagement, and attention to a campus's physical features. Concluding with an epilogue that summarizes that various pedagogies of vocation that are developed throughout the book, this book also suggests that vocation may itself serve as a kind of pedagogy by encouraging undergraduates to examine larger questions of meaning and purpose. *At This Time and In This Place* offers a compelling argument for vocational reflection and discernment in undergraduate education; as such, it represents a significant contribution to the emerging scholarly literature in this field.

**The Messiah Comes to Middle-Earth** - Philip Ryken 2017-11-14

Can *The Lord of the Rings* help us understand the Christian faith more deeply? From the inaugural Hansen Lectureship series, Wheaton College president Philip Ryken mines the riches of Tolkien's theological imagination. In the characters of Gandalf, Frodo, and Aragorn, Ryken hears echoes of the one who is the true prophet, priest, and king, considering what that threefold office means for the calling of all Christians.