



The Cosmic Trilogy

with Dr. Junius Johnson

Lesson 1: Out of the Silent Planet

Outline:

The Cosmic Trilogy by C.S. Lewis

- **Out of the Silent Planet**, Perelandra, That Hideous Strength
- Ransom (character) images Christ.
 - The hotel, though obviously empty, refused him a bed.
 - The last thing Ransom wanted was an adventure.
 - They kidnap and drug Ransom in exchange for the woman's son.
 - He had an inability to make sense of what he sees in space.
 - There is a notion of space being incredibly different.
 - Ransom could not recognize the Earth. Lewis has no idea what the Earth looks like from space. Ransom can't imagine that he is in space. He struggles toward awareness.
- A man can radically cut himself off from perception of reality by force of mental habit.
- Theme: Our beliefs shape what experiences we are able to have.
- Theme: Heaven is full of light. Light has a different quality than it does on Earth.
- You cannot see things until you know roughly what they are.
- Ransom has an opportunity that no linguist has ever had before. Can you see really what is going on? Is he able to understand an intellectual vision of what is happening?
- Seeing Earth from space was the bleakest moment in all his travels.
- They want to take the place of the top of the hierarchy (Go ahead taste, you'll be like God).
- Major theme in Perelandra: What does the human situation look like outside of Earth?
- The wonder of Christ's incarnation is greater than every other wonder.
- We think of space as dark, cold, and silent. Heaven is bright, warm, and full of the music of the spheres. This is the underlying goal of the trilogy.