



# The Cosmic Trilogy

with Dr. Junius Johnson

## Lesson 2: Perelandra

### Outline:

The Cosmic Trilogy by C.S. Lewis

- Out of the Silent Planet, **Perelandra**, That Hideous Strength
- Ransom is sent space travelling. This story begins with the Lewis character in the book who is going to visit Ransom and is experiencing spiritual resistance on his way there.
- We tend to think about nonhuman intelligences in two categories: scientific and supernatural.
- These spiritual beings are not what we call angels, there is something fairy like about them. The natural is spiritual too, and the supernatural is also physical.
- Is he sure that the beings that Ransom has been in contact with are good? Do you really love the good? This is the adult version of what you see in Narnia where Mr. Beaver says that Aslan is not safe but that he is good. Goodness is dangerous for us.
- Perelandra is our Venus. There are foreign experiences, but here he is better prepared and is able to see things properly. Tastes are more real, and the colors are more vibrant.
  - Perelandra is an unfallen world.
  - Ransom is here to prevent Perelandra from becoming a fallen world.
  - He is walking in what is essentially a paradise. It is Eden.
  - The whole of Perelandra is ordered to its humans.
- Theme: What might a fallen world look like?
- Theme: The presence of Maleldil and communing with Maleldil.
  - To be in an unfallen world is to have the kind of communion with God where there is a constant conversation with him.
- The omnipresence of God means that God is everywhere...In Him we live, and move, and have our being. In the unfallen world where the presence of God is full, Ransom feels himself almost suffocating.
  - If we submit then we find that God makes room for us within himself.
- Any rational creatures will have to be human because the incarnation changed the universe. Who Maleldil is has changed. Maleldil is not just God, he is God and man.
- What humans do in stewarding their world is bring it to a completion.
- There's no fear from the conversation of a sinless woman with a sinful man, even from talking about sin itself, of the sinless woman being corrupted.
  - Weston becomes corrupted, possessed by Satan.



- Have your students read Genesis 1-3 for the echoes and parallels that are here.
- Ransom asks why God is not there to do something about this? Then, he knew that Maleldil was not absent. Where is Maleldil's representative? He himself was the miracle.
- He battles Weston.
- This is the thing that is right to hate. This is righteous hate. The reason he can have this experience of perfectly lawful hatred is because he is in an unfallen world.
- There is a moment where they get into a hymn where they run through all the deepest mysteries of the Christian faith. It is deeply and profoundly orthodox and imaginative and creative at the same time.