

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

A Christian's life is filled with many values which are often expressed through parables from the Bible. More than that, the Bible also encloses the story of Jesus Christ's work of salvation. Romans chapter 6:22-23 says, "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God... For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord" (King James Version). The quotation above explains that the sin of man can only be redeemed by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The concept of salvation is interesting to be discussed, not only from a theological point of view, but also in the world of literature.

C. S. Lewis is one of the authors of English literature, and he is well known for his children stories as well as books about Christianity. "C. S. Lewis was the finest writer of children's stories and the most popular author of books about Christianity of his age" (Coren 3). He also writes many books that strongly convey

the Christian message, and he even makes it very enjoyable for the young readers. “Lewis seeks to remove children from the oppressive church and Sunday school and to transplant them to a new fantastic world. There, Lewis can introduce basic concept of Christian religion, using an exciting background, with fun characters and talking animals” (Hourihan). His most popular work is a series of novels entitled The Chronicles of Narnia and, “The most famous and beloved book in the chronicle – the one that started it all: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe” (Ditchfield 44). I will analyze The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe because of its fame for its interesting story, and as this novel also reveals the Christian message of salvation. “Over the years, millions of readers have thrilled to discover the ‘story within the story’ of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. It’s the story of the Gospel – the story of salvation” (Ditchfield 46).

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe contains symbols related to the Christian message. Michael Coren, the author of The Man Who Created Narnia : The Story of C. S. Lewis, says: “In everything Lewis wrote he was trying to make more than one point, and in his children’s tales he was also writing of the Christian story, of the salvation of humanity by God. He used symbolism, representing parts of the Bible – such as the creation and the fall of man – with animals and children” (70).

This novel contains symbolism; therefore, I would like to analyze the symbols which appear. According to Perrine in his book Story and Structure, symbolism is: “...something that means *more* than what it is. It is an object, a person, a situation, or

some other item that has a literal meaning in the story but suggests or represents other meaning as well” (196).

I found that the symbolism in the novel helped me perceive the Christian message of salvation.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

1. What are the symbols found in the The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe?
2. How do the symbols reveal the Christian message of salvation?

### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

1. To identify the symbols found in the The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.
2. To reveal the Christian message of salvation.

### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

The method of research used in this thesis is library research. I have used the New International Version of the Bible, the Quick Verse Application Bible and the King James Version Bible as the references to reveal the Christian message contained in the novel. I have also read and compiled some texts that are taken from the Internet. Finally, I will draw some conclusions about what I have analyzed.

## **THE ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

I present the thesis in four chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, which contains the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two presents The Analysis of The Symbolism in The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Chapter Three is the conclusion of what has been analyzed in the previous chapter. The thesis ends with Bibliography, which presents the list of references that have been used in writing this thesis, and Appendices consisting of the biography of C. S. Lewis, and a synopsis of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.