

[A QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION WITH THE AUTHOR](#)

Why do your books appeal to homeschooling families?

Homeschoolers are among my most ardent and loyal fans, in part because many of them are Christians seeking age-appropriate fiction that doesn't glorify the occult, youthful rebellion, sex, vampires, zombies, gore, etc. (My books have been featured on "Squeaky Clean Reads.") In my "King of the Trees" series, each title recapitulates Christ's redemptive sacrifice and victorious resurrection with unique metaphors woven into a matrix of high adventure that appeals to young readers.

Moreover, I have created an Activity Book supplement with a Study Guide (and answer key!) that helps homeschooled students delve into my use of Biblical symbolism and make personal life applications. The Activity Book is available ONLY on my website in PDF format (<http://bit.ly/1zkbZcl>) and is free to anyone who purchases the entire set of seven titles (<http://bit.ly/1Gg4yY9>).

In addition, each "King of the Trees" title features a glossary/pronunciation guide at the back for easier reading and/or reading aloud. Many families have told me they read a chapter or two before bedtime—and some families have read the entire series aloud.

Finally, my newest title, *The Lake Lights* (Book 1 in my new "Creation Seekers" series) depicts a homeschooling family in a positive but realistic light—in contrast to the prevailing negative perception of homeschoolers in our society. In *The Lake Lights*, I also emphasize the Biblical account of Creation found in the Book of Genesis.

For what ages are your titles appropriate?

The minimum age for independently reading my titles is seven or eight. However, some younger children with advanced reading skills can manage titles in the “King of the Trees” series with the help of the appended glossary/pronunciation guides. Also, as mentioned above, all of my titles make great read-alouds. (Young adults and adults enjoy this series as well.)

Who is “The King of the Trees”?

The King of the Trees is God Himself. In my series, He goes by the name of “Gaelathane” and possesses all of God’s attributes, including self-existence, pre-existence, omniscience, omnipotence, creativity, immortality, holiness, righteousness, mercy and love.

What is the central metaphor of the “King of the Trees” series?

The central metaphor is what I call the “Torsil Principle.” Torsils are trees that transport climbers into other worlds by a natural process. In my books, a towering tree known as the “Torsil of torsils” leads not only to all Gaelathane’s worlds, but also to His home, a deathless paradise called Gaelessa, symbolic of Heaven. Since this Tree of trees is the only torsil to Gaelessa, it represents Christ, Who is the only way to Heaven. Moreover, the Tree ultimately gives its life for the salvation and healing of all torsil worlds, thereby vanquishing the story’s villain, who is symbolic of Satan.

(This extended tree-metaphor, which runs through the series, reflects God’s symbolic use of trees and other plants in the Bible.)

What makes your style of fantasy storytelling unique?

Most modern fantasy authors create imaginary worlds and settings that are cosmologically humanistic. That is, there is no room for God, unless it is a pagan god. Characters in these soulless fantasies must rely upon their own wits and resources, magic, and/or their unique superpowers in order to resolve conflicts.

By way of contrast, I scrupulously avoid the use of magic and the occult, which I debunk. Instead, I introduce a God-figure Who specializes in working miracles, especially those of the heart and soul. My characters pray for wisdom, guidance and divine assistance and are at their best when they are trusting Gaelathane to help them.

What makes your style of science-fiction storytelling unique?

The cornerstone of the modern science-fiction genre is evolutionary theory, or Darwinism. Science-fiction authors typically draw upon Darwinism to speculate on the independent evolution of other life-forms in the universe. While it is theoretically possible that “alien” forms of life exist in our universe, I am vehemently opposed to the notion that living things in our world (or elsewhere) arose from a series of random mutations blindly guided by natural selection.

Instead, in *The Lake Lights* I not only soundly debunk Darwinism at its root but also make the case for Biblical truths, such as the reality of the Genesis Flood (of which fossils are the product). By the same token, I emphasize God’s role as the incomparable Creator of all living creatures and of the universe as a whole.