

# Vampires and the Christian Faith

By  
Chawna Schroeder

It's the tale of two books. One is *Twilight*, the highly popular teen book written by a Mormon and published by a secular press. The other is *Shade*, an adult novel authored by a Christian and released by a respectable Christian publisher. Both well written. Both dealing with vampires. And as a reviewer, I could no longer put off the obvious question: how should we as Christians view these supernatural beings?

Traditionally I've written vampires off as evil and something to be avoided, end of the discussion. However, the rise of vampire novels in CBA (Christian Booksellers Association) and *Twilight*'s "good" vampires has forced me to reexamine my views.

Can vampires be good? Is it possible for them to be the hero of the story? Can Christians write and read about them? Especially after reading *Shade*, I felt torn.

## What are vampires?

Paradoxically, it was *Twilight* that helped clarify the issue. In the middle of the novel, the question of the vampire's origin arises. Edward, the vampire hero, responds, "Well, where did you come from? Evolution? Creation? Couldn't we have evolved in the same way as other species, predator and prey? Or, if you don't believe that all this world could have just happened on its own, which is hard for me to accept myself, is it so hard to believe that the same force that created the delicate angelfish with the shark, the baby seal and the killer whale, could create both our kinds together?"

Here was the key, I realized. If I can understand the origins of vampires, or answer definitively where they came from, I'll know how to deal with them. For supernatural beings do exist. Some are of God. Some are of Satan. So are vampires evil, as I have always believed, or can they be a mixed race (some good like angels while others are demonic) as *Twilight* suggests? Why or why not?

The answer lies in the world which vampires inhabit: most vampire stories happen in the "real" world (historical or contemporary), as opposed to an imaginary fantasy world. This means the world is intended to mimic the real one in which we live and as such must play by the same basic rules. (Whether the author consciously acknowledges those rules or not is immaterial; if he doesn't keep to them without a reasonable explanation, the world won't seem realistic.) In this case, Edward hit upon the ultimate rule: we live in a world created by Elohim—the God of the Bible, the Creator of Genesis 1:1.

## So did God create vampires?

After some study of Scripture, I must answer no. God did not and would not create vampires, at least not directly.

Why? Because to create vampires as we know them—as blood drinkers, whether human or animal—would directly violate His character and standards. For of all things created, blood is

considered the one of most sacred in Scripture. It is where the life is contained (Leviticus 17:14); eating or drinking it carried strict consequences in the Law (Leviticus 17:10-14); the shedding of blood is necessary for forgiveness (Hebrew 9:22); drinking/eating it was one of four things forbidden to Gentile Christians (Acts 15:28-29); and it is through the blood of Christ that we are made right with God.

This is not to say God could not have created a supernatural race that would later drink blood, but **the drinking of blood would have come from Satan twisting what God had created**, just in the same way sin—lying, murder, adultery, coveting, etc.—results from the twisting of the human heart. Therefore, if a race drinks blood—human *or* animal—it is not of God. **Anything not of God is of Satan and evil.**

### ***Does that mean Christians cannot write about or read about vampires?***

That would be like saying we could not write or read about **demons** (*Screwtape*, anyone?), or for that matter, **humans bent on evil** (What?! No villains?). But *how* the vampires are portrayed must conform to Scripture.

So a story where vampires are evil would be fine. A redemptive vampire tale would also be viable. But just as God provided His Son on the cross to destroy sin and death and continues to give his people a route out of temptation, an author would need to provide a way around the drinking of blood. That way does not need to be easy, nor does the “good” vampire need to take it at first. But the action should carry negative consequences, and for the vampire to be a true hero—that is, on the side of good—he must choose to live by the standards of God and not drink blood.

***At least for the moment, that’s my take on the topic.***

### **About Chawna Schroeder**

Chawna Schroeder spends her days working as a professional liar, better known to most people as a novelist. She loves spinning stories and fabricating fantastical tales about characters caught between two worlds—not to mention fiction writing provides the easiest explanation for her imaginary friends. Otherwise people tend to look strangely at a 20-something adult conversing with invisible people.

When Chawna isn’t working or meeting other novelists’ imaginary friends, you can usually find her poring over her studies in biblical Greek and Hebrew. She has studied both languages under a seminary-trained pastor for several years and has done some teaching of the Greek and Hebrew.

Since she doesn’t have a split-personality (despite what family members and friends may contend), these dual passions for fiction and Scripture must share the same mind and therefore often collide. Sometimes that’s not a problem; fiction and Scripture meet and part on congenial terms. But at other times they get into a fight. So what is a writer to do? Write, of course!

So Chawna is writing *Bearing the Sword*, a six-part a curriculum teaching discernment in and through fiction. The first part is available this spring. In addition to this, she posts frequently on her blog, Imagination Investigation ([www.chawnaschroeder.blogspot.com](http://www.chawnaschroeder.blogspot.com)). There she explores the boundaries of fiction and faith, reviews books, and talks about the occupation of writing.

Not convinced that you trust this strange person named Chawna Schroeder? Stop by [www.chawnaschroeder.com](http://www.chawnaschroeder.com) to find out more about her and the stories she writes, or contact her directly at [imaginationinvestigation@yahoo.com](mailto:imaginationinvestigation@yahoo.com).