



The Silmarillion Reader's Guide

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A Five-Part Overview of *The Silmarillion* by J.R.R. Tolkien
Presented by the Tea with Tolkien Community

How to Use this Guide

This five-part guide to *The Silmarillion* is meant to serve as a chapter-by-chapter reference, a companion to keep close as you're reading. For each chapter, you'll find a breakdown of key events to help you keep track of what's going on within the story. There are also a few visual guides included at the end of the book that I hope will be helpful, as well as links to other *Silmarillion* resources I've published. For this second edition of The Silmarillion Reader's Guide I've chosen to update the formatting and correct a few typos I had noticed since original publication. Thank you so much for reading!

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Part One: Introduction to *The Silmarillion*

Introduction to *The Silmarillion*

The Silmarillion is one of Tolkien's most challenging works and yet also the most beautiful and important in my opinion. Many Tolkien fans new and old often feel intimidated by its depth and bewildered by its vocabulary, but it's become my goal to encourage, equip, and inspire Tolkien fans to not only pick up *The Silmarillion* — but to finish it as well!

Like many new Tolkien readers, I struggled through several attempts to read *The Silmarillion* for the first time. I had been captivated by *The Lord of the Rings* and read it many times in high school, but I couldn't seem to make it past the first few pages of *The Silmarillion* and eventually every attempt ended right around the Valaquenta. It gathered dust on my bookshelf for years until I finally picked it up again about five years ago. But this time, I took a different approach.

Rather than attempting to understand the complexities of Tolkien's mythology on my own, I surrounded myself with as many resources as I could find. And approaching it with this mindset made all the difference. Thanks to a handful of Tolkien podcasts, the audiobook narrated by Martin Shaw, pages of handwritten notes, and many, many visits to Tolkien Gateway, I was able to finish *The Silmarillion* for the first time!

The Silmarillion is very different from *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, so it can be a bit disorienting if you aren't prepared. The narrative style is much more wandering, poetic, and reminiscent of older texts (some have compared its style to that of the Old Testament at times). The events of *The Silmarillion* occur thousands of years before Bilbo found the Ring, so you'll find very few familiar faces or locations. In fact, it's in *The Silmarillion* that we witness the very creation of the world itself!

The Silmarillion is primarily a history book (if you insist on placing it into a genre) that looks at the various major stories of Arda from a wider perspective. In a sense there is less character development than in Tolkien's other Middle-earth tales, as there is no single

protagonist throughout the whole book. Instead, many characters shine through as the protagonist of their own stories, which are often contained within a single chapter.

It is my belief that one's first reading of *The Silmarillion* should be focused on simply enjoying the text and not worrying too much about remembering every single detail. Once you fall in love with the stories of this book, you'll want to come back for a second, more careful reading. In this summer series, we are going to do our best to breeze through *The Silmarillion* in order to retain the general plotlines and essentially “get to know” the main characters.

Framing *The Silmarillion* in Context

The Waldman Letter

The Waldman letter is a letter written to Milton Waldman, an editor and advisor to publishers in London, who had expressed an interest in *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion* after the widespread success of *The Hobbit*. For context, *The Hobbit* was published in 1937, this letter was written in 1951, and *The Fellowship of the Ring* would not be published until 1954. Unfortunately, *The Silmarillion* itself was not published until 1977 after Tolkien's death.

Tolkien had hoped to publish *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion* together and this letter reflects his belief that the two were interdependent. This letter is important because it pieces together all of Tolkien's stories concerning Middle-earth, showing how they are all a part of the same “great tale”.

The letter can be read in a few places:

- [In part, on the Tolkien Estate Website](#) (there is a large chunk missing in the middle in which Tolkien writes about the creation of his world and its history through the Second Age)
- [The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien, Letter 131](#)
- In the preface to *The Silmarillion* (second edition only)

What's in the Waldman Letter?

- Tolkien writes that he can't remember when he wasn't building his imaginary world or its languages, noting that almost all the names in his world are derived from these languages. This gives his works a specific kind of consistency that others may not have.
- Tolkien has always been passionate about myth, desiring a myth that could be uniquely English.
- Tolkien states that the three major themes of his works are Fall, Mortality, and Machine.
- He then goes on to write about the Magic of the Elves as *Art* versus the enemy's use of Machine.
- After that, he launches into a summary of his world's history, from its creation all the way through its third age, which I will not attempt to summarize for the sake of brevity and in hopes of simply encouraging you to read this letter for yourself.

Further Reading: [Introduction to The Waldman Letter \(Letter 131\)](#)

Ainulindalë: The Music of the Ainur

It is in this chapter that we see the creation of the world through the music of Eru Ilúvatar and the Ainur, the beginning of the unrest of Melkor, the descent of the Valar into the world, and the first battle of the Valar against Melkor.

The Music of the Ainur

There was Eru, the One, also called **Ilúvatar**, the creator God of Tolkien's myth. He made first the **Ainur**, the Holy Ones, which are angelic beings and have been called gods. Ilúvatar spoke to the Ainur, teaching them in song, and they sang before him. First alone, next together. Ilúvatar introduced the first theme, and there was harmony for a time.

Melkor, greatest of the Ainur, altered his part in the music in an attempt to increase his power and glory. Discord arose among the Ainur. Ilúvatar began a new theme (the second theme), but Melkor contended with it. Then, a third. Finally, Ilúvatar arose and ended the Music entirely.

Ilúvatar showed the Ainur a vision: the world and its history unfolding. "Behold your music" — for through it was the world made. In the vision, the Ainur saw the **Children of Ilúvatar**, and they loved them. Many desired to go down into the world and prepare it for the Children; Melkor desired to rule over them and be called "Lord".

The vision ended but Ilúvatar then spoke the world into being. Some of the Ainur chose to go into the world — they are called the **Valar**. The Valar then began the long work of preparing the world for the Children, all the while Melkor meddled in their plans.

Valaquenta

Valaquenta begins with a short summary of Ainulindalë. It then goes on to introduce the Lords and the Queens of the Valar, giving a bit of background information on each of them and explaining how they relate to one another. I know these can be difficult to remember or differentiate so I've included a printable chart at the back of this book.

Next, we are introduced to the Maiar, spirits like the Valar but of a lesser degree. The last section is titled "Of the Enemies" and explains a bit more about the cruelty of Melkor as well as introducing his servant Sauron.

Meet the Valar

- **Manwë**, King of the Ainur; delights in air, wind, sky, height
- **Ulmo**, Lord of Waters: seas, rivers, fountains, lakes
- **Aulë**, Lord of Substances; Craftsman of the Valar
- **Oromë** (Aldaron), Hunter of monsters and fell beasts
- **Mandos** (Námo), Keeper of the Houses of the Dead
- **Lórien** (Irmo), Master of visions and dreams
- **Tulkas** (Astaldo), Delights in strength and contests
- **Varda** (Elbereth), Lady of the Stars
- **Yavanna** (Kementári), Giver of Fruits; delights in growing things
- **Nienna**, Lady of Sorrow and Lament of Grievances
- **Estë**, Healer of Hurts and Sorrows
- **Vairë**, Weaver of Time
- **Vána**, who delights in birds and flowers
- **Nessa**, who delights in dance and racing

The Relationships of the Valar

- Manwë dwells with Varda
- Aulë dwells with Yavanna
- Mandos dwells with Vairë

- Lórien dwells with Estë
- Tulkas dwells with Nessa
- Oromë dwells with Vána
- Ulmo dwells alone
- Nienna dwells alone

Melkor, now named Morgoth, is no longer counted among the Valar.

See the chart at the end of this document for reference.

The Maiar

The Maiar are spirits of the same kind as the Valar but of lesser degree. They are often servants or helpers to the Valar.

Tolkien writes in Valaquenta that the chief of these are...

- **Ilmarë**, Handmaid of Varda
- **Eönwë**, Standard-bearer and Herald of Manwë
- **Ossë**, Vassal of Ulmo and Master of Seas
- **Uinen**, Lady of Seas, Protector of Númenóreans
- **Melian**, Spouse of Thingol, mother of Lúthien; Servant to Vána and Estë
- **Olórin** (also called Mithrandir and Gandalf), Wisest of the Maiar, defender of the Free Peoples
- **Sauron** (also called Gorthaur the Cruel), Servant of Morgoth

Quenta Silmarillion

Chapter One: Of the Beginning of Days

The Spring of Arda

In the first war of the Valar against Melkor, Tulkas came to Arda, and Melkor fled. Aulë wrought the two lamps: **Illuin** to the North and **Ormal** to the South. Yavanna's seeds began to sprout, and the beasts arose on the earth. The first dwelling of the Valar was made and called the Isle of Almaren. The Valar rested and held a great feast during which Tulkas married Nessa.

After the festival, Tulkas rested; Melkor seized this opportunity to come back into Middle-earth unnoticed. Melkor knocked over the two lamps and fled to Utumno. The Valar were unable to pursue him because they were preoccupied with repairing the earth and reining in the destruction caused by Melkor. *"Thus ended the Spring of Arda."*

The Days of Bliss in Valinor

The Valar then left Middle-earth and went to Aman. The Valar established their home in Valinor and all was at peace there. Yavanna created the two trees of Valinor: **Telperion** (dark green and silver) and **Laurelin** (light green and gold).

With the Trees began the **Days of Bliss** in Valinor and the **Count of Time**. As time passed and Melkor had his way in Middle-earth, Yavanna urged the other Valar to make war against him again.

The Children of Ilúvatar

The Valar awaited the coming of the Children of Ilúvatar, who are **Elves and Men**. Elves are the firstborn and immortal; they are also called the Quendi. Men are the followers and are mortal; they are also called the Atani.

Chapter Two: Of Aulë and Yavanna

“For thou hast from me as a gift thy own being only, and no more; and therefore the creatures of thy hand and mind can live only by that being, moving when thou thinkest to move them, and if thy thought be elsewhere, standing idle. Is that thy desire?”

Aulë, impatient for the coming of the Children of Ilúvatar, created the Dwarves in secret. Ilúvatar chastised him for doing so but ultimately forgave him and allowed the Dwarves to live — giving them life of their own whereas Aulë had not had the authority to do so. However, the Dwarves were not permitted to awaken before the coming of the Elves and Men. The Dwarves are the Children of Ilúvatar by “adoption,” which differentiates them from the Elves and Men. Afterwards, Yavanna created the Ents and the Great Eagles to defend the living things that could not defend themselves.

Chapter Three: Of the Coming of the Elves and the Captivity of Melkor

Middle-earth lay in a twilight — but Melkor did not sleep. Instead, he built up his strength in the North, gathering evil creatures such as Balrogs. Sauron was in charge of Melkor’s stronghold called Angband. In this time, Varda (Elbereth) made the stars.

The Coming of the Elves

Finally, the Elves awakened beneath Varda’s stars. They named themselves the **Quendi**. **Oromë** was the first of the Valar to find the Elves, but they feared him because Melkor had gotten to them first and taught them to fear. Oromë named the Elves the **Eldar**, but this name is only used for the Elves who followed him later. Melkor made the **Orcs** by capturing Elves and tormenting them, corrupting them into his service.

The Captivity of Melkor

Finally, the Valar made war against Melkor on behalf of the Elves. **Tulkas** wrestled with Melkor and won; Melkor was taken into captivity. Sauron was not found at this time, so he remained free. Melkor was sentenced to prison for three ages before he could plead for pardon again.

The Summons to Valinor

The Valar summoned the Quendi to come to Valinor, but only some were willing to come. In order to earn their trust, **Oromë** brought ambassadors to Valinor: **Ingwë**, **Finwë**, and **Elwë**. These Ambassadors returned and urged their kindred to answer the summons and remove to the West. Some agreed, and others did not. The **Eldar** are the elves who agreed to leave; the **Avári** are the elves who refused the summons.

Thus began a great march of the Eldar to Aman. Those who arrived in Aman are called the **Calaquendi**; those who either remained at first or left the march along the way are called the **Moriquendi**.

The Sundering of the Elves

See the chart at the end of this document for further understanding of The Sundering of the Elves.

Chapter Four: Of Thingol and Melian

“And of the love of Thingol and Melian there came into the world the fairest of all the Children of Iluvatar that was or ever shall be.”

Melian was a Maia who lived in Lórien. She was beautiful, wise, and skilled in songs of enchantment; nightingales follow her. When the Quendi had recently awoken, she left Valinor and dwelt in the woods of Middle-earth. **Elwë**, Lord of the Teleri, first heard Melian singing in the wood of Nan Elmoth, and an enchantment fell upon him. He forgot all else, passing into the woods, and became lost. There he saw Melian, and they immediately fell in love.

Elwë and Melian stood still as if under a spell for years, and he was counted as lost among his kindred. Olwë, his brother, became the King of the Teleri and departed without him. Elwë Singollo remained with Melian and became the King of the Eldar of Beleriand —

called the Sindar, the Grey-Elves, the Elves of Twilight. Elwë was called **King Greymantle**, **Elu Thingol**, and Melian was his queen.

Chapter Five: Of Eldamar and the Princes of the Eldalië

Making the Journey to Aman

Oromë brought the Vanyar and Noldor through Beleriand. Ulmo uprooted an island and moved it as a boat to bring the Elves to Valinor. Part of the island broke off and was left behind. This is called the Isle of Balar.

The Teleri

The Teleri took Olwë as their king and dwelt near the shores of Beleriand. They befriended Ossë and Uinen and learned sea-lore and sea music from them. After a time, many of the Teleri agreed to go to Valinor and departed on Ulmo's island. At Ossë's request, Ulmo anchored the isle of the Teleri just off the shores of Valinor, and it was called Tol Eressëa, the Lonely Isle. In this time, the Teleri's speech was sundered from that of the Vanyar and the Noldor.

Those of the Teleri who remained in Middle-earth were called the **Falathrim**, the Elves of the Falas. Círdan the Shipwright was their Lord. The friends of Elwë wouldn't leave Middle-earth, and they were called the **Eglath**, the Forsaken People.

A Home In Valinor

In Valinor, the Vanyar and the Noldor were given a home. They missed the stars, so the Valar created a gap in between the Pelóri. There, they created a hill called Túna where the Elves would be able to see the stars.

Upon the crown of Túna the city of the elves was built: **Tirion**. There, the Vanyar and Noldor dwelt in friendship. Manwë and Varda loved the Vanyar (called "the Fair Elves") most; Aulë loved the Noldor most. In this time, the Noldor first discovered the gems of the earth and thus enriched all Valinor.

Finwë's Family Tree

See Finwë Family Tree at the end of the book for clarification. This can get rather confusing!

Finwë was King of the Noldor. The sons of Finwë were Fëanor, Fingolfin, and Finarfin. The mother of Fëanor was **Míriel**; the mother of Fingolfin and Finarfin was **Indis**, who Finwë wed after the death of Míriel.

Seven sons of Fëanor: Maedhros, Maglor, Celegorm, Caranthir, Curufin, Amrod, and Amras

Children of Fingolfin: Fingon, Turgon, Aredhel, and Argon

Children of Finarfin: Finrod, Angrod, Aegnor, and Galadriel

The Eldar in Aman

Eventually, the Teleri of Tol Eressëa desired to go all the way to Aman. Ulmo sent Ossë to them, and he taught them the craft of ship-building so they could travel all the way to the shores of Valinor.

The Vanyar became sundered from the Noldor: the Vanyar left Tirion and dwelt upon the mountain of Manwë, or about the plains and woods of Valinor.

Finwë was king of Tirion; Olwë king in Alqualondë; Ingwë was High King of all the Elves.

At the end of this chapter, all but two groups of elves are now in Aman. The two groups left behind in Middle-earth are the **Falathrim** and the **Eglath**.

Part Two: Of Fëanor and the Silmarils

Chapter Six: Of Fëanor and the Unchaining of Melkor

“Now the Three Kindreds of the Eldar were gathered at last in Valinor, and Melkor was chained.”

As this chapter begins, the three kindreds of the Eldar are living together in Valinor. It is also in this time that the Noldor first invented letters.

The Coming of Fëanor

Finwë was wed to Míriel, and their son Fëanor was born. However, after the birth of Fëanor, Míriel languished and was unable to continue living. She went to Lórien to rest, and her spirit departed from her body and went to the Halls of Mandos. Finwë was grieved at the loss of his wife. Fëanor grew swiftly and was the most subtle in mind and skilled in hand of the Noldor. Fëanor devised letters that bear his name (Fëanorian letters), and was the first who discovered how to make gems. Fëanor was married to Nerdanel.

The Sons of Finwë

Finwë took a second wife, Indis. They had two children: **Fingolfin** and **Finarfin**. Fëanor was not pleased with his father's marriage and had little love for his stepmother or half-brothers.

The Unchaining of Melkor

After completing his three ages in prison, Melkor sued for pardon before the Valar. Manwë granted him pardon, but Melkor was required to remain inside the gates of Valmar. After a while, Melkor was allowed to leave and roam freely. Melkor hated the Eldar, and so he feigned love for them, seeking out their friendship and plotting their downfall. He specifically targeted the Noldor.

Chapter Seven: Of the Silmarils and the Unrest of the Noldor

“For Fëanor began to love the Silmarils with a greedy love, and grudged the sight of them to all save his father and his seven sons; he seldom remembered now that the light within them was not his own.”

The Silmarils

Fëanor made, in secret, the Silmarils: three jewels which contained the light of the Two Trees of Valinor. The heart of Fëanor was bound to the Silmarils, and Melkor lusted for them.

The Unrest of the Noldor

Melkor conspired to destroy Fëanor and end the friendship between the Elves and the Valar. He turned the Sons of Finwë against one another, whispering lies about the Valar, men, and each other. He also convinced them to begin making weapons. The Noldor became proud, jealous, and suspicious.

Finwë summoned his kindred to discuss the unrest. Fingolfin urged his father to denounce Fëanor’s rebellious words and plans, but Fëanor accused Fingolfin of trying to usurp him. Fëanor drew his sword upon his half-brother, and with that, the Unrest of the Noldor was no longer hidden.

The Exile of Fëanor

The Valar brought Fëanor before the Ring of Doom, and he was sentenced to 12 years in exile. Fëanor left Tirion, and the Silmarils were locked away. After a time, Melkor came to Fëanor and offered to help him — in a thinly veiled attempt to gain the Silmarils. However, Fëanor refused him, and Melkor fled. The Valar searched but were unable to find him.

Chapter Eight: Of the Darkening of Valinor

“So the great darkness fell upon Valinor... The Light failed; but the Darkness that followed was more than loss of light. In that hour was made a Darkness that seemed not lack but a thing with being of its own: for it was indeed made by malice out of Light, and it had power to pierce the eye, and to enter heart and mind, and strangle the very will.”

Melkor secretly passed into the south hiding in the region of **Avathar** where Ungoliant dwelt. Ungoliant agreed to help Melkor after he promised to give her “whatsoever her lust may demand”. Melkor and Ungoliant came secretly closer and closer towards the Light of the Two Trees. Because it was a time of festival, the Valar, Maiar, and most of the Eldar were gathered upon Taniquetil. Even Fëanor came, at the bidding of Manwë.

The Death of the Trees

Melkor and Ungoliant came, and they smote and killed the Two Trees of Valinor. A great darkness fell upon Valinor. Manwë perceived that this was done by Melkor and thus began a great pursuit, but the hosts of the Valar could not find him.

Chapter Nine: Of the Flight of the Noldor

The Valar asked Fëanor to give them the Silmarils so they could heal the Trees. However, Fëanor refused. Shortly after, messengers came from Formenos with news that Melkor had killed Finwë and stolen the Silmarils. Fëanor cursed Melkor, naming him **Morgoth, the Black Foe of the World**. After this, Fëanor ran and disappeared into the night.

All grieved for the loss of Finwë and the Silmarils and the light of the Trees of Valinor. Meanwhile, Morgoth and Ungoliant came to the wastes of Araman.

Ungoliant demanded more from Morgoth, attempting to take even the Silmarils. At this, Morgoth cried aloud, and the Balrogs came to his aid. Ungoliant fled. Morgoth forged for himself an iron crown in which he placed the Silmarils, and his power grew in the North.

The Oath of Fëanor

Fëanor came back to Tirion, against his banishment, and began a great speech before the Noldor. In this speech he claimed kingship of the Noldor and urged them to leave Valinor and take dominion of Middle-earth before the coming of Men. Fëanor had believed the lies of Morgoth: that the Valar held the Eldar captive in Valinor so that Men might rule Middle-earth. He then swore an oath to reclaim the Silmarils at any cost, and his sons joined him in this. Galadriel swore no oath but did go to Middle-earth with her family.

The greater part of the Noldor agreed to leave Aman, but not all agreed to take Fëanor as their king. Many preferred Fingolfin for king, so two divided hosts departed. Before they could leave, a messenger from Manwë came and urged them not to go. Fëanor laughed and brushed off this warning.

The Kinslaying at Alqualondë

Fëanor tried to persuade the Teleri to join them, but they would not join Fëanor, nor would they aid him. Fëanor tried to take the ships of the Teleri by force, but they withstood him, and a bitter battle followed. This was called the **Kinslaying of Alqualondë** (the first kinslaying). The Noldor took the ships and continued.

The Doom of Mandos

The Noldor were met by a figure who cursed those who would not stay or seek the pardon of the Valar, but Fëanor was not dissuaded. The Doom of Mandos was pronounced upon them: “Ye have spilled the blood of your kindred unrighteously and have stained the land of Aman. For blood ye shall render blood, and beyond Aman ye shall dwell in Death's shadow.”

Finarfin forsook the march at this time; he turned back and received the pardon of the Valar. He ruled the remaining Noldor in the Blessed Realm.

The Betrayal of Fëanor

Fëanor abandoned Fingolfin in Araman, bringing with him only those he deemed worthy, and set foot in Middle-earth. The host of Fingolfin was left in Araman and had no choice but to endure the Helcaraxë, the hills of ice.

Chapter Ten: Of the Sindar

“But of bliss and glad life there is little to be said, before it ends: as works fair and wonderful, while still they endure for eyes to see, are their own record, and only when they are in peril or broken for ever do they pass into song.”

The Birth of Lúthien

Elu Thingol and Melian were king and queen of all the elves in Beleriand. These elves were called the Sindar, the Grey-elves of star-lit Beleriand. **At the end of the first age of Melkor's captivity**, Melian gave birth to Lúthien. During the second age of Melkor's captivity, the Dwarves came into Beleriand.

The Coming of the Dwarves

The Dwarves named themselves the **Khazâd**, but the Sindar called them the **Naugrim** (“the stunted people”) and **Gonnhirrim** (“Masters of Stone”). The Dwarves delved great halls and mansions for themselves, and the greatest of these was Khazad-dûm, later called Moria.

The elves were amazed to see the Dwarves, but they could not understand each other at first. The dwarves were eager to learn the Elvish speech but reluctant to teach their own. The friendship between Elves and Dwarves was always a bit tense; however, in those days they were willing to work together and coexist for the most part.

The Quiet Return of Shadow

Melian knew the Peace of Arda would not last, so she and Thingol commissioned the Dwarves to build and fortify **Menegroth**, the Thousand Caves. As the third age of Melkor's captivity drew on, evil creatures came into Beleriand. Thingol commissioned the Dwarves to make weapons. Denethor, son of Lenwë, came to dwell in Ossiriand with his kindred.

Morgoth Returns to Middle-earth

When Melkor slew the trees and came back to Middle-earth, Ungoliant went to the region named Ered Gorgoroth, the Mountains of Terror. Morgoth returned to Angband and grew in strength.

Morgoth's forces assailed King Thingol but, with the aid of the Naugrim and the hosts of Denethor, they were defeated and retreated to Morgoth. However, Denethor was slain, and many of his people hid away in fear. They were now called the **Laiquendi**, the green-elves. Melian put forth her power and guarded their region with the Girdle of Melian. Their hidden kingdom was called Eglador; later it was called **Doriath**. There, they sat in watchful peace. Around this time, Fëanor arrived in Middle-earth, at the Firth of Drengist.

Chapter Eleven: Of the Sun and Moon and the Hiding of Valinor

After the flight of the Noldor, the Valar sat long in the Ring of Doom. But they were not idle. When they learned that Fëanor had come to Middle-earth, they tried but were unable to heal the trees. However, Telperion bore one last silver flower, and Laurelin bore one last golden fruit. Manwë hallowed them, and Aulë made vessels in which to preserve them. They were given to Varda that they might become “lamps of heaven”.

The sun was a sign for the awakening of Men and the waning of the Elves; but the “moon cherished their memory.” The sun and moon were each guided by one of the Maiar.

The moon arose first, just as Fingolfin blew his silver trumpets upon the shores of Middle-earth. Varda set the sun and moon on their journeys, each lighting the earth in their own time. Morgoth hated the new lights and was confounded by them.

The Sun and Moon

The Sun

- Made from the last golden fruit of Laurelin
- Guided by Arien, a Maia of Vána
- Called “Anar” (The Fire-Golden) by the Vanyar
- Called “Vása” (The Heart of Fire) by the Noldor
- Arien was chosen because she was a spirit of fire who was not deceived by Melkor in the beginning, and she did not fear the heats of Laurelin
- The Sun signified the dominion of men and the waning of the Elves
- The Sun is given feminine attributes

The Moon

- Made from the last silver flower of Telperion
- Guided by Tilion, a Maia of Oromë
- Called “Isil” (the Sheen) by the Vanyar
- Called “Rána” (The Wayward) by the Noldor
- Arose first, before the Sun
- Tilion is said to be in love with Arien and is always pursuing her
- Cherished the memory of the Elves
- The Moon is given masculine attributes

The Hiding of Valinor

“And of the many messengers that in after days sailed into the west, none came ever to Valinor — save one only: the mightiest mariner of song.”

The Valar raised the Pelóri and smoothed its outer sides. They fortified the outer area and placed a sleepless watch upon the **Calacirya**. They set the Enchanted Isles and filled the seas with shadow and bewilderment. Thus Valinor was hidden; the Blessed Realm was shut against Middle-earth.

Chapter Twelve: Of Men

Now the Valar were at peace in Valinor, but Morgoth had dominion of Middle-earth, held back only by the light of the Sun and the valor of the Noldor. Then began the Years of the Sun, and the younger children of Ilúvatar awoke in Hildórien.

They were called:

- The Atani, the Second People
- The Hildor, the Followers
- The Apanónar, the After-born
- The Engwar, the Sickly
- The Fírimar, the Mortals
- The Usurpers
- The Strangers
- The Inscrutable
- The Self-Cursed
- The Heavy-Handed
- The Night-Fearers
- The Children of the Sun

The Men befriended the Dark Elves and learned a lot from them, but they learned little of the Valar and knew of them only by rumor. For a time, they lived in happiness, but the lies of Morgoth and the curse upon Fëanor were ever at work.

Elves and Men

Elves and Men were alike in body, but Elves were immortal and Men were not. Men were more prone to illness and injury, and their fate after death was unknown to the Eldar.

Chapter Thirteen: Of the Return of the Noldor

The Last Days of Fëanor

As Fëanor and his sons came to Middle-earth, they burned the ships at Losgar. Unbeknownst to them, this scene drew the attention of the servants of Morgoth. The hosts of Fëanor passed into Hithlum and made their dwelling in Mithrim. Suddenly, the servants of Morgoth attacked the Noldor at their encampment. This was the Second Battle in the Wars of Beleriand, called the **Dagor-nuin-Giliath**. The Noldor were victorious.

Driven mad in wrath, Fëanor believed that he could take on Morgoth himself. He rushed ahead of his hosts and so found himself alone, surrounded by the servants of Morgoth. He was “smitten to the ground by Gothmog, Lord of Balrogs.” His sons carried him back towards Mithrim, but he died along the way. His body fell to ash as his fiery spirit left him.

The Noldor in Beleriand

The Noldor met the Grey-Elves in Beleriand and were glad to see one another, but their speech had been sundered, so it was hard for them to communicate. An embassy came to the sons of Fëanor from Morgoth, feigning defeat. Maedhros agreed to meet with Morgoth’s ambassadors in bad faith, but he was taken hostage by Morgoth.

Morgoth demanded that the Noldor forsake their war against him and depart Beleriand. Bound by their oath, the sons of Fëanor were unable to agree — and they also knew Morgoth would not give them Maedhros either way. Maedhros was taken and hanged by the wrist from a precipice upon Thangorodrim.

The People of Fingolfin

Eventually, the kindred of Fingolfin arrived in Middle-earth and came to Mithrim as the Sun was rising. They settled in Hithlum by the northern shores of Lake Mithrim. The people of Fingolfin and Finrod had no love for the people of Fëanor, and they consistently worked against each other.

Fingon Rescues Maedhros

Fingon resolved to heal the feud between the Noldor by rescuing Maedhros. When Fingon found him, Maedhros begged Fingon to kill him. Feeling like he had no other option, Fingon prepared an arrow and begged Manwë to have pity on the Noldor.

At this moment, **Thorondor** came at the bidding of Manwë and carried Fingon to the rock where Maedhros was. He was unable to free his hand, so Fingon cut off Maedhros' hand above the wrist, and Thorondor bore them back to Mithrim. This heroic deed healed much of the hurt between the two groups of the Noldor.

Unrest among the Eldar in Beleriand

Fingolfin was then the king of the Noldor, but not everyone accepted him in their hearts. At the same time, King Thingol was hesitant to welcome the Noldor in Beleriand. And only those of the house of Finarfin were allowed into Doriath because they could claim kinship with Thingol since their mother was Earwen, Olwë's daughter.

Angrod, son of Finarfin, was the first of the Exiles to come to Menegroth, and he spoke to the King. He didn't tell him about the kinslaying because he thought all was healed and forgiven. Thingol still would not allow anyone into Doriath unless they were his guest or sought him in great need, which angered the sons of Fëanor. The kin of Caranthir met the Dwarves, and while their friendship was not very great, they did profit from each other.

After twenty years, Fingolfin made a great feast called Mereth Aderthad, the Feast of Reuniting. Elves from many regions came. Long years of peace came after that. Thirty years passed.

Dreams from Ulmo

Turgon, son of Fingolfin, and **Finrod** went on a journey and slept on the banks of the river Sirion. There, Ulmo gave them dreams, though they didn't tell each other about them. Because of these dreams, they felt that they should prepare for a day of evil and establish a retreat.

There came a time when Finrod and Galadriel were guests of Thingol in Doriath. Galadriel stayed in Doriath, in part because she loved Celeborn. Finrod told Thingol about his dreams, and Thingol told him about the deep gorge of the River Narog and the caves under the High Faroth. Finrod came to the Caverns of Narog and began to delve mansions and called it Nargothrond. He commissioned the Dwarves to help with this. The Dwarves also made the Nauglamír, the Necklace of the Dwarves. **Finrod was renamed Felagund**, Hewer of Caves.

Turgon, guided by Ulmo, discovered the hidden vale of Tumladen and began plans to build a city there.

The Dagor Aglareb, the Glorious Battle

Morgoth sent earthquakes and orcs from the North. This was the third great battle of the Wars of Beleriand, the **Dagor Aglareb, the Glorious Battle**. The elves were victorious, but they were also more cautious and watchful afterward.

Nearly 100 years after the Dagor Aglareb, Morgoth sent forth an army to the Firth of Drengist, but Fingon drove most of the orcs into the sea. After that there was peace for many years.

Morgoth realized that Orcs alone could not defeat the Noldor. After another 100 years, Glaurung, the first of the Urulóki, the fire-drakes of the North, came forth from Angband. He was young and not full strength. Fingon pushed him back, and he retreated to Angband. There was peace again for about 200 years, and the Elves prospered.

Chapter Fourteen: Of Beleriand and its Realms

“This is the fashion of the lands into which the Noldor came, in the north of the western regions of Middle-earth, in the ancient days...”

This chapter is essentially a description of a map that details how the Eldar divided up Beleriand. I would not recommend trying to read this chapter without looking at the map. This chapter would’ve served best as an appendix, so don’t spend too much time dwelling on every minor detail if this is your first time reading *The Silmarillion*. Below are a few online resources to help understand this map a bit better.

Resources for this Chapter:

- [Interactive map of Beleriand available via LOTRProject.com](#)
- [Map via deviantart by Sirielle](#)
- [Silm. Guide, Part 18: Of Beleriand and Its Realms](#)
- [The Silmarillion Writers’ Guild: Of Beleriand and Its Realms](#)

Chapter Fifteen: Of the Noldor in Beleriand

In this chapter, we witness the beginning of two great hidden kingdoms: **Gondolin** (Turgon / House of Fingolfin) and **Nargothrond** (Finrod Felagund / House of Finarfin). We also watch as the shadow of Fëanor’s actions follows the rest of the Noldor and the damage that is caused, specifically in their relationship with the Sindar.

Gone to Gondolin

With the guidance of Ulmo, Turgon built the city of Gondolin (“the Hidden Rock”) in secret. Ulmo promised that Gondolin would be the longest realm to stand against Morgoth, but that the curse and the Doom of Mandos still rested upon him. Turgon departed to Gondolin with all of his people, a third of Fingolfin’s people, and many of the Sindar.

For many years, no one came into Gondolin after that — save Húrin and Huor. And the people of Turgon did not leave Gondolin until the **Year of Lamentation** Idril, Turgon's daughter, was the fairest of all in Gondolin.

While Gondolin was being built, Finrod Felagund built Nargothrond.

Meanwhile, in Doriath

Galadriel (Finrod's sister) dwelt in Doriath with Melian. Melian confronted Galadriel about the Noldor, saying, "There is some woe that lies upon you and your kin." Finally, Galadriel told Melian about the Silmarils and the Noldor's desire to wage war against Morgoth. However, Galadriel did not tell Melian about the Oath of Fëanor, the Kinslaying, or the burning of the ships at Losgar.

Melian told Thingol about the Silmarils, and he began to understand the purpose of the Noldor more clearly. Melian and Thingol began to see the Noldor as a threat. Rumors concerning the Noldor spread among the Sindar, perpetuated by Morgoth.

When the sons of Finarfin were in Doriath again, he confronted Finrod about the rumors he had been hearing. Finrod replied: "What ill have I done you, Lord?" Thingol marveled at Finrod because he believed that Finrod had been a part of the kinslaying, and Finrod felt that he couldn't defend himself without telling Thingol everything. Then Angrod (son of Finarfin, Finrod's brother) finally told Thingol of the Kinslaying, the Doom of Mandos, and the burning of the ships at Losgar. Although the sons of Finarfin did not participate in the Kinslaying, the shadow of Mandos still lay upon them.

Thingol commanded them to leave. He told them that they may be allowed back later, and he also did not break his friendship with Fingolfin and his people entirely because he felt they had bitterly atoned for what they did by having to endure the Grinding Ice.

Thingol also commanded that the language of the Noldor (Quenya) never be spoken in his realm again. They all spoke Sindarin after that. The House of Fëanor was banned from Thingol's realm.

Chapter Sixteen: Of Maeglin

Aredhel Leaves Gondolin

Aredhel, daughter of Fingolfin, wished to leave Gondolin. Turgon (her brother) was reluctant to allow her to leave, but he eventually yielded to her request. She went first to Himlad and dwelt with the people of Celegorm and Curufin for a time.

Eventually, she became restless and wandered off into Nan Elmoth, the tallest and darkest of forests in all of Beleriand. There dwelt Eöl, the Dark Elf, alone. He saw Aredhel and set about enchantments that guided her towards his home. When she arrived, he took her as his wife. Tolkien writes that she was not “wholly unwilling” or entirely miserable; however, Eöl commanded that she shun the sunlight and forbade her to seek out the sons of Fëanor.

Maeglin is Born

Aradhel bore a son who she named in secret Lómion, but Eöl named him Maeglin. Maeglin grew and loved his mother more than his father, and she taught him about her kindred. She began to desire to seek out her own kin again. And Maeglin desired to meet the sons of Fëanor. Eöl forbade Maeglin from this and threatened Maeglin. Eöl went to a feast in Nogrod, and when he left, Maeglin urged his mother to flee from Nan Elmoth and seek Gondolin.

Together, they left. But Eöl returned sooner than he had planned. When he saw that they had left, he pursued them in anger. Aredhel and Maeglin came to the Outer Gate of Gondolin and were received with joy. Unfortunately, Eöl had been following them, and he found the secret path into Gondolin. He was taken by the guard. He told them that Aredhel was his wife and demanded to be brought before Turgon.

Eöl was brought to Turgon’s hall, where Turgon told him that he would dwell in his kingdom as a kinsman — but that he would not be allowed to leave. Eöl refused to acknowledge Turgon’s law and demanded that Maeglin be returned to him. However, Turgon gave him a choice: “This choice only is given to you: to abide here, or to die here; and so also for your son.”

The Choice of Eöl

Eöl threw a poisoned javelin at Maeglin, but Aredhel jumped in front of it and was mortally wounded. Eöl was judged by Turgon and cast down from the sheer walls of the city.

Before his death, Eöl cried to Maeglin: “So you forsake your father and his kin, ill-gotten son! Here shall you fail of all your hopes, and here may you yet die the same death as I.”

Maeglin in Gondolin

Maeglin remained in Gondolin and grew great among the Gondolindrim. However, he was grieved because he loved Idril (his cousin), but “it was not the custom of the Eldar to wed with kin so near,” and Idril did not return his love anyways. She also thought it was weird that he liked her. Nevertheless, Maeglin became obsessed with Idril and the pursuit of power.

Chapter Seventeen: Of the Coming of Men into the West

This chapter is about the race of Men (humanity) but specifically the three kindreds of men, and these are called the **Edain**, the Men of Beleriand.

Three Households of the Edain:

House of Bëor — most like the Noldor, love knowledge

House of Haleth (The Haladin) — not interested in learning lore, want to be left alone

House of Marach — strongest/most warlike

The Elf-Friends: refers to anyone who the Elves have deemed allies; in this chapter, it specifically refers to the Edain in general who were friendly with the Elves.

As the chapter begins, we are in a period of general peace. However, the servants of Morgoth are still wreaking havoc around Middle-earth, so these groups of Men come into Beleriand to escape them.

Finrod and the House of Bëor

Finrod Felagund, lord of Nargothrond, came into the land of Ossiriand. There, he beheld a “strange people”: Men of the house of Bëor.

The Men called King Felagund “Nóm” (Wisdom). And they named his folk Nómin, the wise. The Men thought Felagund was of the Valar, but he taught them “true knowledge.” And they loved him and were loyal to the house of Finarfin.

Felagund realized that he could read the minds of Men when they wished to reveal through speech to him so their words were easily understood. He also learned that the men didn’t know a lot about their own origins, which was different from the Elves. Since they did not die of old age, they were able to pass down their history more easily.

The Elves understood that Morgoth had found the Men even as they awoke and had already been working to corrupt them.

Bëor told Felagund that the other two houses of Men would be coming over the Mountains soon: the **Haladin** and the House of **Marach**.

Unfriended by the Green-Elves

The Green-Elves of Ossiriand were troubled by the coming of the men and asked Felagund to tell them to return to where they had come from, or else to go forward and away. They desired no strangers in their land and called themselves the “unfriends” of the men, threatening them.

At the advice of Felagund, Bëor moved his people to **Estolad**, “the encampment.” When Felagund returned to Nargothrond, Bëor went with him as a servant until the end of his life. Bëor left his people under the protection of Baran, his son. Felagund often visited the Men.

The Rest of the Edain Arrive in Beleriand

When the Haladin came over the mountains, they went to Thargelion (the country of Caranthir, son of Fëanor). When the House of Marach came in the next year, they settled in Estolad, close to the people of Bëor. They were more warlike, and the Green-Elves were a little bit afraid of them, so they didn't bother them along their way.

Fingolfin, King of all the Noldor, welcomed the Men, and many of them went into the service of the lords of the Eldar. One of these was Malach, son of Marach, also called Aradan.

The Migration of the Edain

The Kings of the Noldor sent word to the Edain that they might live among their people. Thus began the great migration of the Edain. Over the next 50 years, many thousands of Men moved to various regions of the Noldor.

- The people of Bëor came to Dorthonion.
- The people of Aradan went to Hithlum.
- Magor, son of Adaran, went to Ered Wethrin.

Finrod was the only one of the Noldor to speak to Thingol about the coming of Men. Thingol was troubled concerning the coming of Men and would not allow them to dwell in Doriath. **However, Melian made a prediction to Galadriel that one man would indeed come into Doriath.**

Of the Men in Estolad

Many men remained in Estolad, and many of them distrusted the Eldar. Eventually, these Men gathered in council to debate what to do about Morgoth and his servants.

Bereg and **Amlach** were the chief instigators of the unrest, saying that they would not go North because this was where Morgoth dwelt, and they were trying to escape him. The Elf-Friends advised the Men that they could aid the Elves in their war against Morgoth.

Amlach, **or one who appeared to be Amlach**, said: “All this is but Elvish lore, tales to beguile newcomers that are unwary. The Sea has no shore. There is no Light in the West. You have followed a fool-fire of the Elves to the end of the world! Which of you has seen the least of the Gods? Who has beheld the Dark King in the North? Those who seek the dominion of Middle-earth are the Eldar...”

However, later the real Amlach came into the group and denied ever saying this. And then they realized that a servant of Morgoth had taken on Amlach’s form in order to deceive them. After this, Amlach had a personal grudge against Morgoth. Amlach went into the service of Maedhros to fight Morgoth.

Many listened to Bereg and many doubted what they had been told. Bereg led a thousand of these people southward, and they passed out of this story. Some of his people went back over the mountains into Eriador and passed out of this story.

The Haladin in Thargelion

Morgoth sent out orcs to destroy the Haladin who remained in Thargelion. **Haldad** gathered all the men he could find, and they built a stockade behind which to protect their women and children. However, they were held under siege until their food was gone. Haldad had two children: Haleth his daughter and Haldar his son. At last, Haldad and Haldar were slain by the orcs.

Haleth held her people together and fought for seven days until suddenly the people of Caranthir came and drove the Orcs into the rivers. Caranthir offered Haleth and her people the friendship and protection of the Eldar, if only they would dwell further north.

Haleth instead chose to go west to Estolad, where she brought her people to the Forest of Brethil. Brethil was claimed by King Thingol, and he would have denied it to Haleth, but Felagund spoke to Thingol on her behalf. Haleth lived in Brethil until her death.

Of Elves and Men

The Elves and Men dwelt in peace together for a long time. After a while, the Elf-kings set regions apart where the Men would rule themselves.

Hador, of the house of Malach, entered the house of Fingolfin and was loved by the King. Fingolfin gave Hador the lordship of Dor-lomin.

In Dorthonion, the lordship of the people of Bëor was given to Boromir, great-grandson of Bëor the Old.

Here, Tolkien drops a family tree for Hador, which includes a few names that we'll see later on: Húrin and Húor; Túrin; Eärendil; Beren; Lúthien; Elwing; and from these came all the Kings of Númenor.

The Death of Bëor

When Bëor the Old died at age 93, of no wound or illness, the Elves were grieved but also confused by the mortality of Men.

Chapter Eighteen: Of the Ruin of Beleriand and the Fall of Fingolfin

The Dagor Bragollach: The Battle of Sudden Flame

455 years after the coming of Fingolfin began the 4th of the great battles: **the Dagor Bragollach, the Battle of Sudden Flame**

During this battle came Glaurung the Golden, Father of Dragons, in his full might. Balrogs and the armies of Orcs came behind them. Most of the Grey-elves fled and forsook the northern war.

The sons of Finarfin were most hurt because they lived directly south of Ard-galen. Angrod and Aegnor were slain. Finrod was cut off from his people and would've been slain, but

Barahir rescued him and was able to return to Nargothrond. He swore an oath to Barahir and his people and gave him his ring.

Fingolfin and Fingon were driven back to the fortresses of Ered Wethrin. Hador the Golden-haired died defending Fingolfin; his son Gundor died with him.

Hithlum remained unconquered for the time being, but Fingolfin was cut off from his kinsmen. Celegorm and Curufin were overcome and fled to Nargothrond. Maedhros and his people fought valiantly but could not stand against Glaurung, and everyone fled. The Orcs did not come into Ossiriand.

Fingolfin rode to Angband's gates to challenge Morgoth in battle. Fingolfin had called him craven and lord of slaves for all of his servants to hear, so Morgoth felt forced to answer the challenge. Fingolfin fought against Morgoth valiantly but became weary and was crushed under Morgoth's shield. Morgoth pressed his foot against Fingolfin's neck, but Fingolfin stabbed Morgoth in the foot in one last desperate stroke. Thus, Fingolfin died.

Morgoth broke the body of Fingolfin and planned to feed it to the wolves, but Thorondor (Lord of Eagles) came and scratched Morgoth's face and took the body of Fingolfin, carrying it to Gondolin where Turgon buried him. Morgoth was permanently wounded in his foot due to Fingolfin and in his face by Thorondor.

Now Morgoth had dominion over the North and pursued the people of Barahir until one by one, only a few of them remained. They became so desperate that they sent their women and children away to Brethil to safety. Most of these men were not seen again for they were killed one by one until **only 12 remained** with Barahir: Beren his son, Baragund, Belegund, and nine of their servants: Radhruin, Dairuin, Dagnir, Ragnor, Gildor, Gorlim, Arthad, Urthel, and Hathaldir. These men were "outlaws without hope", hunted like beasts, wandering in the forest homeless.

For two years after the Dagor Bragollach, the Noldor fought to defend the western pass, and Minas Tirith withstood against the Orcs. But after the fall of Fingolfin, Sauron, greatest of the servants of Morgoth, took Minas Tirith and made it a watchtower for Morgoth. The fair isle of Tol Sirion became called **Tol-in-Gaurhoth, the Isle of Werewolves**

The Swarthy Men

In this time, the Swarthy Men came into Beleriand. Some of them had already secretly come under the service of Morgoth, but not all. Maedhros made an alliance with them and was friends with their chieftains, Bór and Ulfang.

The sons of **Bór** were Borlad, Borlach, and Borthand, and they followed Maedhros and Maglor faithfully. The sons of **Ulfang** were Ulfast, Ulwarth, and Uldor, and they followed Caranthir but “proved faithless.”

Húrin and Huor, the sons of Galdor in Dor-lómin, lived with the Haladin. When they were young (Huor was only 13), they went into battle but were cut off from their company and became lost in Dimbar.

They would’ve died, but Thorondor carried them to Gondolin. Turgon allowed them to live in Gondolin, but they eventually wished to return home. This was usually forbidden, but because they had been carried in by Thorondor, Turgon allowed them to depart in the manner in which they arrived.

Maeglin doubted this decision, but the boys swore an oath to never reveal anything about Gondolin. Then the eagles carried them back to Dor-lómin.

Turgon perceived that the end of the Noldor was coming soon, so he sent some of the Gondolindrim to the Isle of Balar to build ships and sail West in order to ask for pardon and help from the Valar. However, they were unsuccessful, and no help came.

Morgoth sent forth more spies to gather information about Nargothrond and Gondolin.

After a few years, Morgoth assailed Hithlum. Galdor was killed. Húrin drove the Orcs away. Fingon was outnumbered as he fought against the Orcs, but Círdan came with his ships up the Firth of Drengist, and they were victorious.

After this, Húrin was lord of the house of Hador and served Fingon. His wife was Morwen, daughter of Baragund.

Part Three: The Great Tales

Chapter Nineteen: Of Beren and Lúthien

Beren, the Wandering Outlaw

Barahir and his companions were pursued to the death by the servants of Morgoth and dwelt in the wilderness as wandering outlaws. Eventually, all were killed except Beren. Beren pursued the orcs that had killed his father and retrieved his father's ring. After that, he wandered in the wilderness for about four years.

Beren Meets Lúthien

He came to the land of Doriath and stumbled upon Lúthien as she danced in the grass. Upon seeing her, he was unable to speak as he had fallen under some kind of spell. Lúthien vanished.

In the spring, Beren found her again, and the spell of silence was lifted from him. He called to her, naming her **Tinúviel**. She came to him and loved him, but she slipped away once more, and Beren fell deep into grief. However, after a time she returned to him, placing her hand in his. After that, they spent a lot of time together in secret.

Daeron the Minstrel also loved Lúthien and was jealous that she was hanging out with Beren, so he told Thingol about their meetings. As you might guess, Thingol, who wouldn't even allow Men into his service, was pretty mad.

Lúthien wouldn't tell Thingol anything about Beren until he swore not to harm or imprison him. So after he agreed, Lúthien led Beren before the throne of Thingol. Beren declared to Thingol that he loved Lúthien and would like to marry her. Thingol was very offended and regretted his oath to Lúthien.

Thingol gave Beren a deal: **If you bring me a Silmaril**, I will give you permission to marry Lúthien. Beren laughed, accepting the quest and setting off at once.

Beren's Quest Begins

Beren passed through Doriath and sought out Felagund, who felt bound to help him. But Celegorm and Curufin, who had been living with Felagund, were furious to hear that someone else was seeking a Silmaril, and they refused to help.

Felagund gave the crown of Nargothrond to his brother Orodreth and left with Beren. The companions disguised themselves as orcs and were eventually brought before Sauron. Sauron stripped them of their disguise, but he was unable to learn their names or purpose, so he imprisoned them in a deep pit. Every so often, a werewolf would come and devour one of the companions, but all of them were faithful. Eventually, one by one were slain until only Felagund and Beren remained. At last, Felagund was also killed.

Lúthien Joins Beren

Lúthien learned that Beren was held captive by Sauron and decided to run away to help him. She asked Daeron for help, and he betrayed her. Thingol built a tree-house in which to hold Lúthien captive, but she wove a cloak and rope from her own hair and escaped.

Huan, the great hound of Valinor, found Lúthien and brought her to Celegorm and Curufin. Lúthien asked them for help, but they betrayed her, instead scheming to force Thingol to give her in marriage to Celegorm. However, Huan was pure of heart and loved Lúthien, and he helped her escape.

Sauron's Isle

In the hour of Felagund's death, Lúthien came to Sauron's isle. Sauron recognized the voice of Lúthien and was eager to capture her and bring her to Morgoth for a reward. Sauron sent out wolves, but Huan slayed them one by one until Sauron himself came as a great werewolf. Huan held wolf-Sauron, and Sauron was unable to escape without forsaking his body entirely, which he wanted to avoid because it would have been humiliating to return to Morgoth without it. Lúthien demanded Sauron yield the mastery of his tower and isle, which he agreed to, and then he shapeshifted into a vampire and fled away.

Lúthien found Beren and they buried Felagund together. Beren resolved to take Lúthien back to Doriath and finish his quest, but she was unwilling to be parted from him.

Of Celegorm and Curufin

Huan returned to Celegorm, and there was tumult in Nargothrond as the people grieved the loss of Felagund. They suspected Celegorm and Curufin of treachery. Celegorm and Curufin left Nargothrond; however, **Celebrimbor**, the son of Curufin, remained.

In the Forest of Brethil, Celegrom and Curufin came upon Beren and Lúthien and tried to kill him. However, Lúthien used her power to heal him. Once again, after this, Beren tried to leave Lúthien behind. However, Huan and Lúthien pursued him, and Beren finally understood that he could not dissuade Lúthien.

Beren and Lúthien disguised themselves in the raiment of two of Sauron's servants, putting on the wolf-hame of Draugluin and the bat-fell of Thuringwethil, and came to the Gate of Angband.

Of Morgoth

Carcharoth, Morgoth's hound, was set before the doors of Angband. Lúthien commanded him to sleep, and they were able to walk past him.

Together they came before the throne of Morgoth, but Beren, still disguised as a wolf, lay before the throne. Lúthien was stripped of her disguise but was not daunted.

Lúthien's song lulled everyone in Morgoth's court to sleep, and when she cast her cloak before Morgoth's eyes, he fell to the ground, and the iron crown rolled from his head. Beren drew Angrist and cut one of the Silmarils from the crown. Beren tried to free a second Silmaril, but the knife snapped and a shard smote the cheek of Morgoth. After this, they fled.

Carcharoth met them at the gate, and he bit off Beren's hand as it held the Silmaril. The Silmaril burned the hound from inside, and he went forth in rage and madness, killing anything that crossed his path. The great eagles came and carried Beren and Lúthien away, just as the forces of Morgoth were awakening.

“Even Now a Silmaril is in my Hand”

After Beren was healed, he and Lúthien returned to Doriath and came before the throne of Thingol.

“But Beren knelt before him, and said: ‘I return according to my word. I am come now to claim my own.’ And Thingol answered: ‘What of your quest, and of your vow?’ But Beren said: ‘It is fulfilled. Even now a Silmaril is in my hand.’” After this Beren showed that his right hand was gone, which softened Thingol's mood.

Together they told Thingol of their journey and everything that happened, and Thingol finally agreed to allow them to marry. However, Carcharoth was still on the loose, and so they prepared to hunt him. Huan slew Carcharoth but also died in doing so. And Beren was mortally wounded after protecting Thingol.

Lúthien's Choice

As Beren died, Lúthien bade him to “await her beyond the Western Sea,” and his spirit tarried in the halls of Mandos. Lúthien's spirit also faded. Lúthien came to the Halls of Mandos and sang before his throne, and he was moved to pity (which had never happened before and never happened again).

Mandos offered Lúthien a choice: to go to Valimar and dwell in the Blessed Realm, free from all grief; or to return to Middle-earth, taking Beren with her, and becoming mortal. **Lúthien chose mortality.**

Chapter Twenty: Of the Fifth Battle: Nirnaeth Arnoediad

The Union of Maedhros

Beren and Lúthien returned to Doriath, but Melian grieved the loss of Lúthien's immortality and turned away from her. After this, Beren and Lúthien lived in Tol Galen until their death. They had a son named Dior, who was Thingol's heir.

In this time, Maedhros was emboldened by the victory of Beren and Lúthien against Morgoth and urged the Eldar to unite against him. He formed the **Union of Maedhros**. However, the Oath of Fëanor loomed over the Noldor, and he received little help from the rest of the Eldar. Maedhros and his brothers demanded that Thingol give them the Silmaril, or else become their enemy. Melian counseled him to surrender it, but Thingol refused. Celegorm and Curufin vowed to kill Thingol, and Thingol fortified Doriath.

The Nirnaeth Arnoediad

With the help of the Naugrim and some of the houses of Men, Maedhros prepared for war with Morgoth. The hosts of Turgon from Gondolin came unexpectedly to aid Fingon.

The Treachery of Men

“Yet neither by wolf, nor by Balrog, nor by Dragon, would Morgoth have achieved his end, but for the treachery of Men. In this hour the plots of Ulfang were revealed...”

Morgoth had many spies amongst the houses of Men, and they ultimately betrayed the Eldar. The Naugrim stood firm against Glaurung, and if not for them, all of the Noldor would have perished. Fingon and Turgon were attacked by Gothmog, Lord of Balrogs, and Fingon was killed. Húrin and Huor urged Turgon to return to Gondolin, and so he escaped. Huor was then slain, and Húrin stood alone. At last he was taken alive to Morgoth.

Morgoth’s victory was great, and the sons of Fëanor were scattered. Thus ended the Nirnaeth Arnoediad.

The Aftermath of Battle

The servants of Morgoth roamed freely, destroying as they desired. The Easterlings who had served Morgoth were given the realm of Hithlum. At Turgon’s bidding, Círdan built seven swift ships to ask the Valar for help; only the ship of Voronwë returned.

Morgoth was obsessed with Turgon, and the thought of finding him consumed his mind. Húrin was brought before Morgoth but would not yield to him, so Morgoth cursed him and forced him to watch as everything he loved was destroyed. Morgoth also cursed Húrin’s family/offspring.

Morgoth commanded his servants to gather the slain into a great pile, and the Elves named it the Hill of Slain, or the Hill of Tears.

Chapter Twenty-one: Of Túrin Turambar

Rían, wife of Huor, gave birth to a son named **Tuor** in the months after her husband died. He was fostered by the Grey-elves of Mithrim, and she died shortly after.

Morwen, wife of Húrin, had three children: **Túrin**, Lalaith (who died at age 3), and Nienor. In this time, the Easterlings oppressed the people of Hador, and Morwen feared that Túrin would be enslaved, so she sent him to Doriath. Túrin was fostered by Thingol, who sent messengers to Hithlum asking Morwen to join them in Doriath, but she would not leave the house in which she had lived with Hurin. When Túrin grew up, he became friends with **Beleg** Cuthalion.

The Flight of Túrin

One day Saeros, one of the Nandor, taunted Túrin, and Túrin lashed out at him. The next day, Saeros died by accident after getting into a fight with Túrin. Túrin left Doriath, thinking himself an outlaw, despite Thingol's promised pardon. Túrin lived in the wilderness with a band of criminals.

Beleg sought out Túrin and tried to persuade him to return to Doriath, but Túrin refused. Beleg returned to Thingol and resolved to go back out again to seek out Túrin. Beleg was given Anglachel, a sword of great worth, and a store of Lembas.

Túrin and his companions took a dwarf named Mîm captive, but Túrin pitied him and spared his life and told him to bring them to his home. Túrin realized that he had killed Mîm's son, and he repented and promised to pay Mîm a ransom of gold for his son. After that he lived in Mîm's home.

After some time, Beleg and Túrin met once more. And since Túrin would not return with him, Beleg remained with their company.

Every so often, Morgoth would send out his forces across Beleriand. Túrin bore his father's dragon-helm in battle, and by this, Morgoth knew that he had found Hurin's son and sent out his spies to find him.

Mîm was taken captive by orcs and was forced to lead them to his home, where they captured Túrin and slew many of his company. However, Beleg was left alive and looked desperately for Túrin. Beleg met up with Gwindor and they searched together for Túrin. Beleg and Gwindor found

Túrin and cut him free, but Túrin — seeing someone above him with a knife — mistook Beleg for an orc and killed him. When Túrin realized what he had done, he repented bitterly.

Túrin in Nargothrond

Gwindor and Túrin went to Nargothrond together. But Túrin did not tell them his real name. There, Finduilas, who had loved Gwindor, fell in love with Túrin instead. Gwindor then told Finduilas Túrin's real name. However, Túrin did not love her and was angry at Gwindor for revealing his name.

Túrin became a great warrior in Nargothrond and counseled the King to fight in open battle, rather than in stealth, and **to build a bridge over the Narog**.

Mowen and Nienor fled, at last, to Doriath but were saddened to learn that Túrin was not there anymore. Nevertheless they remained in Doriath. Ambassadors came to Nargothrond and urged the king to cast down the great bridge, but Túrin would not allow it.

Morgoth sent out his forces against Nargothrond, and Gwindor died. As he died, he warned Túrin and urged him to return to Nargothrond and save Finduilas. “And this last I say to thee: she alone stands between thee and thy doom. If thou fail her, it shall not fail to find thee. Farewell!”

Túrin fled to Nargothrond, but Glaurung (the Dragon) got there before him. Glaurung blocked Túrin from the bridge. Túrin fell under the spell of the Dragon's eyes, and the Dragon told Túrin to go to his kin, cursing him as he fled away.

Túrin came to Dor-lómin seeking his mother, but he learned that they had gone to Doriath. He decided not to go to Doriath because he brought doom with him wherever he went. Instead he decided to search for Finduilas, but it was too late for she had already died. Because of this, he fell into a grief that was like death.

Turambar and Níniel

He was taken in by the people of Haleth, and they gave him a new name, **Turambar**, which meant “Master of Doom.” Morwen left Doriath in search of Túrin, and Nienor fled as well.

Nienor met Glaurung. He cast a spell of forgetfulness upon her so she couldn't even remember her own name. He left her standing alone upon Amon Ethir and went back to Nargothrond. Turambar found Nienor and brought her into a lodge nearby. Since she didn't know her own name, Turambar named her **Níniel**, Tear-maiden. After three years, Turambar and Níniel were married.

After a while, Turambar went off once more to fight Glaurung. Turambar killed Glaurung but was burned by his venomous blood, and he swooned and "lay as one dead."

Níniel came to find Turambar, and Glaurung spoke to her: "Hail, Nienor, daughter of Hurin. We meet again ere the end. I give thee joy that thou hast found thy brother at last...." Nienor was freed from Glaurung's spell and remembered who she was, then in despair she cast herself off a cliff into the waters and died. Turambar awoke and killed Brandir, but he later understood that this was unjust. After this, Turambar killed himself.

Chapter Twenty-two: Of the Ruin of Doriath

The Deaths of Morwen and Húrin

Morwen wandered alone and distraught in the wild. After 28 years, Morgoth feigned to pity Húrin and so released him. He wandered, unwelcome with his own kin, and sought out Gondolin without realizing that the servants of Morgoth were watching him. Thorondor saw Húrin and brought word to Turgon, but Turgon would not allow him into Gondolin at first. After a while, his heart changed, but it was too late because Húrin was gone by then.

Húrin had called towards Gondolin in desperation, and the servants of Morgoth heard him. "This was the first evil that the freedom of Húrin achieved."

Húrin found Morwen at the tomb of Túrin and Nienor, and she died in the evening and he buried her.

Húrin went to Nargothrond, where he killed Mîm the dwarf and took the Nauglamír. Húrin went to Doriath and gave the Nauglamír to Thingol. At first, Húrin was wrathful, thinking his family was wronged by Thingol, but Melian spoke to him, and the lies of Morgoth were understood. Húrin then cast himself into the western sea.

The Death of Thingol

Thingol had the idea to have the Nauglamír remade to hold the Silmaril. After the dwarves completed this task, they refused to return it to Thingol. Thingol lashed out against the dwarves, and they ended up killing him. The dwarves were pursued, and the Nauglamír was brought to Melian. The Dwarves of Nogrod sought vengeance against Doriath.

After this, Melian's power was diminished, and Doriath lay open to its enemies. And she knew that the doom of Doriath was coming near. After this, Melian disappeared and returned to Lórien.

The Nauglamír

The dwarves passed into Menegroth where they met the elves in battle; the dwarves were victorious and reclaimed the Nauglamír.

In Tol Galen, Dior was wed to Nimloth, and they had three children: Eluréd, Elurîn, and **Elwing**. In battle, Beren killed the Lord of Nogrod and gave the Nauglamír to Lúthien. After this, Dior — Thingol's heir — brought his family to live in Doriath.

At last, Beren and Lúthien died, and the Nauglamír was brought to Dior in Doriath.

Dior refused to give the Silmaril to the sons of Fëanor, re-awakening their oath. Celegorm attacked Doriath, killing Dior and Nimloth, and left their two young sons in the forest to die. However, they did not retrieve the Silmaril as Elwing had escaped to the mouth of the River Sirion with it.

Chapter Twenty-three: Of Tuor and the Fall of Gondolin

Of Tuor

The son of Huor, brother of Húrin, was named Tuor and was raised by Annael of the Grey-elves. When he was 16, he was taken and enslaved by Lorgan, chief of the Easterlings in Hithlum. After three years, he escaped. When he had lived as an outlaw for four years, Ulmo put it on Tuor's heart to seek out Gondolin.

Tuor came to Nevrast, where Ulmo arose from the waters and spoke to Tuor: “And Ulmo bade him depart from that place and seek out the hidden kingdom of Gondolin; and he gave Tuor a great cloak, to mantle him in shadow from the eyes of his enemies.”

Tuor met Voronwë, and they traveled to Gondolin together. Tuor stood before Turgon and warned him that the Curse of Mandos was now drawing near and urged him to depart from Gondolin and go down Sirion to the Sea. But Turgon’s pride did not allow him to accept this counsel.

Tuor remained in Gondolin, where he married Idril; Maeglin hated Tuor because he had loved Idril. Tuor and Idril bore a son, **Eärendil Halfelven**.

In this time, Morgoth continued to desperately seek Gondolin, and Idril built a secret path that would lead out of Gondolin in case of emergency.

The Betrayal of Maeglin

A time came when Maeglin had traveled outside the realm of Gondolin and was taken as prisoner to Angband. Maeglin purchased his life and freedom by telling Morgoth the location of Gondolin. In return, Maeglin was promised the lordship of Gondolin as Morgoth’s vassal and the possession of Idril.

The Fall of Gondolin

When Eärendil was seven years old, Morgoth attacked Gondolin. **Ecthelion** and Turgon both fell in battle. Tuor fought Maeglin and cast him down (remember what doom Maeglin’s father laid upon him as he died?).

Tuor and Idril escaped with as many people as possible through the secret passages Idril had made. Thorondor came to their aid. Glorfindel dueled with the Balrog but died; and Glorfindel was buried.

Tuor led the remnant of Gondolin through the mountains in secret and came to the Vale of Sirion, and Morgoth thought himself victorious. Idril and Tuor joined with the company of Elwing, Dior’s daughter.

Ulmo came to Valinor and pleaded to the Valar on behalf of the Elves and Men, but the Valar did nothing. In the end of his life, Tuor built a ship and set sail into the sunset in the West with Idril, and they were not heard from again.

Chapter 24: Of the Voyage of Eärendil and the War of Wrath

The Children of Eärendil

Eärendil and Elwing had two children: **Elrond** and **Elros**. Eärendil grew restless and longed for the sea, desiring to seek out his parents and to find the last shore and bring the message of Elves and Men to the Valar. Eärendil built a ship called **Vingilot** with the help of Círdan. But he was unable to find his parents or the shores of Valinor on his journeys, and his heart instead caused him to return to Elwing.

The Oath of Fëanor Still at Work

After a time, Maedhros was tormented once again by his oath and demanded the Silmaril from Elwing. But she refused because it was won by Beren and Lúthien, and because of the slaying of Dior, and because Eärendil was not at home. War broke out once more: the sons of Fëanor came upon the exiles of Gondolin and the remaining people of Doriath.

The Flight of Elwing

Elros and Elrond were taken captive, and Elwing, with the Silmaril on her breast, cast herself into the sea. But she was not lost: for Ulmo bore her up in the form of a bird.

She found Eärendil and returned to her bodily form, and they had great sorrow over the destruction of their dwelling and the captivity of her sons. However, Maglor took pity on Elrond and Elros and loved them as much as he could despite the sickness of his heart and the burden of his oath.

The Journey of Eärendil

Eärendil and Elwing sailed to the Blessed Realm, but as they got closer Eärendil decided that he had to go on alone and said to Elwing: "Await me here; for one only may bring the message that it is my fate to bear." Eärendil came to Túna and found it bare; Tirion was empty; "and his heart was heavy, for he feared that some evil had come even to the Blessed Realm."

When he turned at last back to the sea, he heard the voice of Eonwe: "Hail Eärendil, of mariners most renowned, the looked for that cometh at unawares, the longed for that cometh beyond hope! Hail Eärendil, bearer of light before the Sun and Moon! Splendour of the Children of Earth, star in the darkness, jewel in the sunset, radiant in the morning!"

And Eärendil went into the halls of Valimar, never to set foot again upon the lands of Men.

Eärendil's Plea

Eärendil pleaded before the Valar: to pardon the Noldor and to have mercy upon the Men and Elves. This time, they agreed.

Manwë declared that Eärendil and Elwing should not walk again in the Outer Lands; and that they and their sons would be given the choice between mortality and immortality. Elwing and Eärendil chose immortality.

The ship of Eärendil, Vingilot, was taken and hallowed and filled with light. Eärendil was placed at its helm, with the Silmaril at his brow to journey through the sky as a star. For Elwing was built a tall tower from which she would sometimes fly as a bird to meet Eärendil.

When Eärendil arose in the sky, the people of Middle-earth were given new hope. They called the star **Gil-Estel, the Star of Hope** Maedhros wondered if the star was a Silmaril. Maglor replied that if it is a Silmaril, this is good news because that means it is finally safe from all evil. The Elves despaired no longer, but Morgoth was filled with doubt.

The War of Wrath

At last, the host of the Valar prepared for their final battle against Morgoth. The Vanyar and the Noldor who had remained in Valinor with Finarfin marched with the Valar, as well as some of the Teleri.

The Changing of the World

Morgoth was bound, and the remaining two Silmarils were taken from him. Though the realm of Morgoth was ended, the world was changed entirely after this.

The remaining sons of Fëanor demanded the Silmarils, but Eonwë denied them this. They were tormented by their oath and felt it was inescapable. Maedhros and Maglor resolved, then, to take the Silmarils by force. The Silmaril burned Maedhros unbearably, and he ultimately cast himself with the Silmaril into a chasm filled with fire. The other Silmaril was so painful for Maglor to hold that he cast it into the sea.

“And thus came to pass that the Silmarils found their long homes: one in the airs of heaven, and one in the fires of the heart of the world, and one in the deep waters.”

The Doom of Mandos Laid to Rest

The Noldor were then pardoned; the Doom of Mandos was laid to rest. **Elrond** chose to remain in Middle-earth as an elf while **Elros** chose to be counted among the Men. Morgoth was sent to the Timeless Void, never to be released again.

Here Ends the Silmarillion

“Here ends the Silmarillion; and if it has passed from the high and the beautiful to darkness and ruin, that was of old the fate of Arda Marred; and if any change shall come and the Marring be amended, Manwë and Varda may know; but they have not revealed it, and it is not declared in the dooms of Mandos.”

Part Four: Akallabêth: The Downfall of Númenor

Akallabêth begins with exposition on the coming of Men under the dominion of Melkor, the voyage of Eärendil, the downfall of Melkor (renamed Morgoth), and the descendants of the Edain.

After the downfall of Morgoth, the Valar forsook the men of Middle-earth for a time and summoned the Eldar to return to the West, and most of them went and dwelt in the Isle of Eressëa.

A land was made for the Edain that was neither part of Middle-earth nor Valinor. The Valar called it Andor, the Land of Gift; the Edain called it **Anadûnê** (Westernesse) and Númenórë in the High Eldarin tongue. They also called it **Elenna** (Starwards).

The Rulers of Númenor

For more information about all Númenórean rulers, visit [Tolkien Gateway](#). All dates are Second Age.

32–442 Elros Tar-Minyatur	2221–2386 Tar-Ancalimon
442 Tar-Vardamir	2386–2526 Tar-Telemmaitë
442–590 Tar-Amandil	2526–2637 Tar-Vanimeldë
590–740 Tar-Elendil	2637–2657 Tar-Anducal
740–883 Tar-Meneldur	2657–2737 Tar-Alcarin
883–1075 Tar-Aldarion	2737–2825 Ar-Belzagar, Tar-Calmacil
1075–1280 Tar-Ancalimë	2825–2899 Ar-Abattârik, Tar-Ardamin
1280–1394 Tar-Anárion	2899–2962 Ar-Adûnakhôr
1394–1556 Tar-Súrion	2962–3033 Ar-Zimrathôn
1556–1731 Tar-Telperiën	3033–3102 Ar-Sakalthôr
1731–1869 Tar-Minastir	3102–3177 Ar-Gimilzôr
1869–2029 Tar-Ciryatan	3177–3255 Tar-Palantir
2029–2221 Tar-Atanamir	3255–3319 Ar-Pharazôn

The Beginning of Númenor

The Edain began a great journey to this land, and their arrival marked the beginning of the people of Númenor. While the Númenóreans were still mortal, they were given a long span of years. For example, **Elros lived 500 years**.

The Númenóreans spoke the Elvish tongue as well as the High Eldarin tongue of the Blessed Realm. The Númenóreans became great mariners, but the Valar forbade them from sailing too far west of Númenor lest they would try to sail all the way to the Blessed Realm, and they were content with this rule for a time. The Númenóreans, instead, sailed ever more Eastward to Middle-earth, where they came as teachers and bringers of hope. They were revered by the Men and even called gods.

Obsession With and Fear of Death

Despite their long lives, the Númenóreans grew to fear death and wondered how they might escape their fate. The Númenóreans murmured against their mortality and the Ban, asking why they should die when the Valar and the Eldar would not? Why should they not go to Avallóne? Why should they not even travel all the way to Valinor?

The Eldar told what they heard to the Valar, and Manwë was grieved. He sent messengers to speak to them and explain their fate to them. The Númenóreans were not pleased with the answer of the Valar; the messenger of Manwë had spoken to Tar-Atanamir, the thirteenth king of Númenor, and he gave little heed to his counsel. Instead he sought more power and glory, even going so far as to demand tribute from the Men of Middle-earth.

Atanamir was the first of the Númenorean kings to hold onto the throne until death took him; in the past, the King would relinquish the throne to his heir when they came of age. Atanamir, instead, clung to his life and his kingdom until he was witless and without all joy.

His son and heir, Tar-Ancalimon, was of the same mindset as his father and under his reign the people of Númenor became divided.

- **The King's Men:** the greater party, of like mind with the king and estranged from the Valar and Eldar.
- **The Elendili, the Faithful, the Elf-friends:** the lesser party, who wished to remain loyal to the Valar and in friendship with the Eldar.

In this time the Bliss of Westernesse was diminished. The Númenóreans sought to discover a way to bring people back from death, or to prolong life, but they only achieved the art of preserving bodies after their death. After Tar-Ancalimon, the practice of offering the first fruits to Eru was neglected, and few came to Meneltarma anymore. The Númenóreans made settlements upon the shores of Middle-earth, behaving as cruel masters rather than helpers.

The Rise of Sauron

Around this time, Sauron arose again in Middle-earth and grew in power. He hated the Númenóreans and desired to become “as a god unto Men.”

There is a reference to the making of the Rings of Power, which were created around 1500ish of the Second Age by the Elves under the direction of Sauron; Sauron himself forged the One Ring around 1600. This occurred while Tar-Telperiën was Queen of Númenor, and the War of the Elves and Sauron began in Middle-earth during her reign as well (but she did not intervene). Since this chapter is about the Númenóreans, it doesn't go into their creation.

Sauron enslaved nine great lords of men (three of which were Númenóreans), and they became the **Úlairi**, the **Ringwraiths**, and they assailed the Númenóreans along the shores of Middle-earth.

The Shadow Grows Deeper

When the twentieth king of Númenor, **Ar-Adûnakhôr**, took the throne he named himself Lord of the West (a direct attack upon the Valar), and he forbade the use of Elvish speech in Númenor. He ruled from 2899–2962.

Ar-Gimilzôr, the 23rd ruler of Númenor, was “the greatest enemy of the Faithful.” His rule lasted from 3102–3177 S.A. He neglected the White Tree.

The **Elendili** were essentially cast out from Númenórean society, and many of them went to the kingdom of Gil-galad (which was in Middle-earth, in Lindon). The King's Men, alternatively, desired to sever all ties between the Númenóreans and the Eldar.

Ar-Gimilzôr took Inzilbêth as his Queen, though she was secretly one of the Faithful. Theirs was an unhappy family life, to say the least! They had two children: **Inziladûn**, the oldest, was of like mind to his mother, and **Gimilkhâd**, the youngest, was favored by his father.

Inziladûn became the 24th ruler of Númenor and took the name of **Tar-Palantir**. He returned to many of the old traditions of Númenor, tending the White Tree and going to the Hallow of Eru—but he was too late. All the while, his brother continued to lead the people in rebellion against the Valar.

Tar-Palantir had one daughter and no son. His daughter was named Míriel. Gimilkhâd had one son, Pharazôn, who was much like his father: restless and eager for wealth and power. Míriel was the rightful heir to the throne of Númenor, but Pharazôn married her against her will and took the scepter from her. This was wrong for two reasons: first, because he married her against her will; second, because they were cousins. Míriel's name was changed to Ar-Zimraphel.

The Reign of Ar-Pharazôn

Ar-Pharazôn desired even more power and glory, seeking to be the King of all Men. He came up with a plan to bring even Sauron under his command. Sauron, deeming himself unable and unready to fight against the Númenóreans, did not put up a fight. Sauron was brought as a prisoner to Númenor.

Sauron in Númenor

Within three years, Sauron was so cunning that he went from prisoner to advisor of the King. Sauron convinced the Númenóreans to **worship the Darkness**, saying that it alone was worshipful. Sauron then convinced the King that Melkor was the Lord of the Darkness. Under Sauron's counsel, the people of Númenor were forbidden to visit the temple of Eru. Sauron also urged the King to cut down the White Tree.

The Flight of the Faithful

The chief of the Faithful, who were called rebels, was **Amandil**. His son was named **Elendil**, and his sons were **Isildur** and **Anárion**. They led the remainder of the Faithful to **Rómenna** for they were in danger. Fearing that the White Tree would be cut down, Isildur took a fruit from the tree and planted it in secret. Shortly after this, the tree was indeed cut down.

“Melkor, Giver of Freedom”

Sauron instructed the King to build a temple to Melkor in Armenelos. In the temple, there was a great altar of fire on which Sauron burnt the wood of Nimloth. After this, the Númenóreans offered human sacrifice to Melkor “that he should release them from Death.” But rather than save them from death, these sacrifices hastened death and brought it more abundantly. Madness and sickness assailed Númenor. The lords of Númenor hunted the men of Middle-earth, enslaving them and sacrificing many of them to Melkor. When Ar-Pharazôn had grown old and was coming close to death, Sauron spoke to him and convinced him to make war with the Valar and claim the Blessed Realm for himself.

Amandil’s Plight

Amandil, knowing that the end of Númenor was near, told his son Elendil that he planned to sail to the Blessed Realm and plead before the Valar. He urged Elendil to gather the Faithful and flee to Rómenna. Amandil sailed into the West and was not seen again. For “**Men could not a second time be saved** by any such embassy, and for the treason of Númenor there was no easy absolving.” Then Elendil and his sons prepared their ships to depart. They brought with them the Seven Stones (the Palantíri!) and the young tree, the descendant of Nimloth.

The Last Days of Númenor

While the weather had previously been mild, the skies darkened. And there were great storms, with clouds shaped as Eagles bringing lightning. The Men called them the Eagles of Manwë, and while some repented, most hardened their hearts against the Valar. Sauron was unharmed by the lightning, and the Númenóreans took this as a sign that he was a god.

The King prepared the fleets of Númenor, and they readied themselves for battle against the Valar; Sauron withdrew into the Temple where he continued to make human sacrifices to Melkor.

Ar-Pharazôn led the fleets of the Númenóreans to Aman, where **he stepped foot on the shores of the Blessed Realm**

The Changing of the World

In this time, the Valar relinquished their dominion of Arda for a time, and Ilúvatar stepped in. All the fleets of Númenor were swallowed up into the abyss. All who had set foot upon the shores of Aman were buried under falling hills. Lands were destroyed, and new lands were formed; the geography of Arda was completely changed after this.

The Downfall of Númenor

The Blessed Realm and Eressëa were removed, and Númenor was swallowed into the sea. Elendil and his sons were saved, for they had stayed in Rómenna. They came to Middle-earth.

Sauron fell, as he laughed, into the abyss. He was not mortal and could not die, but he was unable to return to his physical form after this. His spirit remained and fled back to Mordor, taking up his great Ring. It is said that the summit of the Meneltarma, the Pillar of Heaven, remained as an island. After the downfall of Númenor, the world was made round (whereas it had been flat).

Part Five: Of the Rings of Power and the Third Age

“Of the Rings of Power and the Third Age: In which these tales come to their end.”

After the Storm

In the beginning of Arda, Sauron was seduced to Melkor’s service. When Morgoth was overthrown, Sauron repented before Eönwë. However, when Eönwë commanded Sauron to come before the Valar for judgment, he refused and instead went back to his evil ways.

After the War of Wrath, the geography of Beleriand was changed, and most of it was now underwater.

As the Second Age began, many of the Noldor who would not go to the Blessed Realm dwelt in **London**: including Gil-galad son of Fingon and Elrond Half-elven. The Elves built the **Grey Havens** in this area and were permitted by the Valar to depart from Middle-earth if they desired. Some of the Teleri moved to the realms of the Silvan Elves, in the woods and mountains. Some of the Noldor dwelt in Eregion (Hollin), which was near the West-gate of Moria; there they dwelt in friendship with the Dwarves. In this time, there was a period of peace in Middle-earth.

Sauron believed that the Valar had once again forgotten Middle-earth, and he set to work. He sought to turn Elves and Men to his service but was more successful with Men. He went by the name **Annatar, Lord of Gifts**, concealing his true identity. Gil-galad and Elrond were wary of Annatar and would not permit him into their lands.

The Making of the Rings of Power

Sauron was welcomed by the Elves in Eregion and under his counsel they learned much and made Rings of Power. However, unbeknownst to them, Sauron forged the One Ring to rule all the others.

Sauron intended to use the Rings of Power to control the Elves, but they took off the rings once they realized he had forged the One Ring. In his anger, he came in open war against them and demanded the rings back.

The Elves fled along with three of their rings:

Narya: The Ring of Fire; ruby

Nenya: The Ring of Water; adamant

Vilya: The Ring of Air; sapphire

The Three Rings were hidden, and Sauron was unable to find them. These rings remained unsullied because **Celebrimbor** had forged them alone, and Sauron had not touched them. However, they were still under the rule of the One Ring.

After this, war continued between Sauron and the Elves. Eregion was destroyed, Celebrimbor was killed, and Moria was shut. **Imladris**, called Rivendell, was founded by **Elrond**.

Of Dwarves and Men

Sauron gave seven Rings to the Dwarves and nine to Men.

The Dwarves did not easily fall under Sauron's control and used the Rings primarily to gain more wealth. In the end, some of these rings were consumed in fire, and others were recovered by Sauron.

Men fell under the dominion of Sauron much more easily. Those who had been given the Nine Rings became slaves to Sauron and were called the Nazgûl, the Ringwraiths. Sauron grew in power and worked toward three goals: to become master of all Middle-earth, to destroy the Elves, and to bring about the fall of Númenor.

Sauron in Númenor

As told in the Akallabêth, Sauron brought about the destruction of Númenor. Afterwards, Sauron returned in spirit to Middle-earth and was dismayed to see that the power of Gil-galad had grown great in his absence.

The Last of the Númenóreans

A small part of the people of Númenor survived its destruction. Elendil came to Lindon where he befriended Gil-galad and then established his realm beyond Ered Luin; his chief city was at Annúminas. Isildur and Anárion were carried South and came up the Great River Anduin.

They established their realm in the land that was later called **Gondor**; the Northern Kingdom was later named **Arnor**. In Minas Ithil was the house of Isildur; in Minas Anor was the house of Anárion; and they shared Osgiliath. The White Tree, grown from the fruit of Nimloth, was planted in Minas Ithil since Isildur was the one who had saved it.

The Seven Stones

The Palantíri, the Seven Stones, were divided amongst the Kingdoms: three to Elendil and two to each of his sons. The Stones were used to communicate across distances, and by using them, the Númenóreans were able to learn many things that their enemies had wished to conceal.

In the Land of Mordor

As the Exiles of Númenor established their realms in Arnor and Gondor, Sauron regained his strength in Mordor and built Barad-dûr, the Dark Tower; in that land was the mountain of fire, Orodruin (Mount Doom). Sauron took up a new form since his previous form had been destroyed with the fall of Númenor. Sauron gathered his servants, which included some Númenóreans that he had swayed to his service.

The Last Alliance

Sauron attacked Minas Ithil and destroyed the White Tree of Isildur, but Isildur escaped with his wife and sons along with a seedling from the Tree. They fled seeking Elendil. Anárion held Osgiliath against Sauron for a time and drove him back into the mountains.

Elendil and Gil-galad formed a League called **the Last Alliance** and marched against Sauron. Gil-galad and Elendil held Mordor under siege for seven years. In this time, Anárion was slain. Finally Sauron himself came forth and wrestled with Gil-galad and Elendil. Both were slain, and the sword of Elendil, called Narsil, broke as he fell. Isildur used the hilt-shard of Narsil to cut the One Ring from Sauron's finger, defeating him for a time. **Thus ended the Second Age.**

The Third Age

The Fate of Isildur

“Thus began the Third Age of the World, after the Eldest Days and the Black Years; and there was still hope in that time...”

Isildur would not surrender the One Ring, despite the counsel of Elrond and Círdan. Instead he kept it for himself. Isildur returned to Minas Anor and planted the White Tree in memory of his brother.

Isildur gave the realm of the South to his brother's son, Meneldil, and marched north to take up his father's realm. However, he was ambushed along the way and ultimately slain along with most of his people after the Ring slipped from his finger. Luckily, he had left his wife and youngest son, Valandil, in Imladris.

Also note: the shards of Narsil were brought to Isildur's heir in Imladris. “Only three of his people came ever back over the mountains after long wandering; and of these one was Ohtar his esquire, to whose keeping he had given the shards of the sword of Elendil.”

Narsil was not remade at the time. Valandil lived in Annúminas. As the years went on, the Men of Westesse became divided and dwindled. Eventually there was nothing left of the great Men of Númenor but a “strange people wandering secretly in the wild.” However, the line of Isildur remained unbroken.

The Realm of Gondor

The Realm of Gondor endured and flourished for a time but eventually fell into ruin. In the time of the 23rd king in the line of Meneldil, Telemnar, a plague came from the east and the King, his children, and many of the people of Gondor died.

Minas Ithil was abandoned, and evil came once more to the Black Land as the Ringwraiths came to prepare for Sauron's return. In the time of Eärnil, the Ringwraiths came and took Minas Ithil. It was renamed Minas Morgul, the Tower of Sorcery. Osgiliath was deserted.

Minas Anor endured and was renamed Minas Tirith, the Tower of Guard. There was built a white tower, and the White Tree endured before the house of the Kings. Eärnur, son of Eärnil, was the last King of Gondor. He fought in single combat in Minas Morgul but was taken captive into the city and never seen alive again. He left no heir.

The Stewards of Gondor

After the death of the King, Gondor was ruled by the Stewards of the house of Mardil the Faithful. The Rohirrim, the Horsemen of the North, came to live in Rohan.

In Imladris

Elrond lived in Imladris. The Heirs of Isildur were kept safe in Imladris in their youth and old age. The shards of Narsil were also kept with Elrond.

Círdan was Lord of the Grey Havens.

The Three Rings of Power

During Sauron's reign, the Three Rings were not used or spoken of. The Ring of Sapphire was with Elrond in Rivendell; the Ring of Adamant was with Galadriel in Lothlorien. The beauty and bliss of these Elvish realms were preserved by the power of the Rings.

However, the Elves knew that if Sauron should come again and the One Ring was found or destroyed, the power of the Three Rings would fail, and the Elves would have to leave Middle-earth.

In Mirkwood

Mirkwood was once called Greenwood the Great, before the darkness of Sauron came into the forest. As evil spread throughout the forest, Thranduil's people held it at bay in the north. The people of Mirkwood began to fear the **Sorcerer of DolGuldur** but did not realize he was in fact Sauron returned.

The Coming of the Istari

“Even as the first shadows were felt in Mirkwood there appeared in the west of Middle-earth the Istari, whom Men called the Wizards.”

The **Istari** were sent as messengers from the Valar to contest with Sauron. They did not reveal their true names, but they were given various names by different people.

- **Mithrandir:** Gandalf; closest with the Elves and Elrond; did not make a home anywhere; most vigilant
- **Curunír:** Saruman; oldest; went most amongst Men; dwelt at Orthanc in Isengard
- **Radagast:** friend of beasts and birds
- **Others** of the Istari went east of Middle-earth and are not a part of this tale

The White Council

The White Council was a gathering of the Wise in order to discuss the growing Shadow. It included Elrond, Galadriel, and Círdan, as well as Gandalf and Saruman. Saruman was the head of the Council, though Galadriel had hoped it would've been Gandalf.

Gandalf went to Gol Guldur and discovered that the Sorcerer was, in fact, Sauron. He returned to Imladris, and the White Council was called. While Gandalf urged the council to act swiftly against Sauron, Saruman urged them to wait and watch — and so they did.

Saruman had, in secret, begun to desire the Ring for himself, and so he sought to delay anyone else from finding it. After a while, the White Council drove Sauron from Dol Guldur, and Mirkwood was free from his influence for a time.

The Ring is Found

Sauron fled to Mordor where the Ringwraiths had prepared for his coming. Unbeknownst to the Wise, the Ring was found and kept hidden for a long time. After this, it was found again and taken into the **Land of the Periannath, the Little People, the Halflings**, who dwelt in the west of Eriador. Mithrandir first learned of the Ring and, with the help of the Dúnedain, set a watch on the borders of the land of the Periannath. Eventually Sauron heard a rumor of the Ring and sent for the Nazgûl to retrieve it, and war began.

The War of the Ring

Aragorn, the Heir of Isildur, arose, taking the shards of Narsil reforged, and went to war with Sauron. There was battle in Rohan. Saruman the traitor was thrown down, and Isengard was broken.

In the last hopeless battle before the Black Gates of Mordor, Mithrandir, the sons of Elrond, the King of Rohan, the lords of Gondor, and the Heir of Isildur came against the full strength of Sauron. And they would have failed utterly if it were not for Frodo the Halfling.

“There at the last they looked upon death and defeat, and all their valour was in vain; for Sauron was too strong. Yet in that hour was put to the proof that which Mithrandir had spoken, and help came from the hands of the weak when the Wise faltered. For, as many songs have since sung, it was the Periannath, the Little People, dwellers in hillsides and meadows, that brought them deliverance.”

Frodo the Halfling and his servant passed into Mount Doom, and the Great Ring of Power was unmade in the fires from whence it came. Thus the Realm of Sauron was ended. The Heir of Isildur was crowned King of Gondor and Arnor. The White Tree flowered again.

Mithrandir

After the War, it was revealed that Mithrandir (Gandalf) had carried the Red Ring of Power. After the destruction of the One Ring, the power of the Three Rings faded, and the Keepers of the Three left Middle-earth. At this, the age of the Eldar has come to an end and the time of Men began.

“In the twilight of autumn it sailed out of Mithlond, until the seas of the Bent World fell away beneath it, and the winds of the round sky troubled it no more, and borne upon the high airs above the mists of the world it passed into the Ancient West, and an end was come for the Eldar of story and of song.”

Meet the Valar

<p>Manwë</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • King of the Ainur • delights in air, wind, sky, height • Lives atop Mount Taniquetil 	<p>Varda (Elbereth)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lady of the Stars • Dwells with Manwë • Most hated by Morgoth 	<p>Oromë (Aldaron)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunter of monsters and fell beasts • Lord of Forests
<p>Aulë</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lord of Substances and Craftsman • Creator of the Dwarves • Most loves the Noldor 	<p>Yavanna (Kementári)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giver of Fruits • Delights in growing things • Creator of the Ents and Great Eagles 	<p>Vána</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also called the Ever-Young • Delights in Flora and Fauna • Sister of Yavanna • Queen of Flowers
<p>Mandos (Námo)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeper of the Houses of the Dead • Doomsman of the Valar 	<p>Vairë</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weaver of Time • Weaver of the Story of Arda • Her woven tapestries cover the Halls of Mandos 	<p>Ulmo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwells alone • Lord of Waters: seas, rivers, fountains, lakes • Never forsook Middle-earth
<p>Lórien (Irmo)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of visions and dreams • Dwells in the Gardens of Lórien 	<p>Estë</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dwells in the Gardens of Lórien • Healer of Hurts and Sorrows 	<p>Nienna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lady of Sorrow and Lament of Grievs • Teacher of Mercy and Pity
<p>Tulkas (Astaldo)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delights in strength and contests • Wrestled with Melkor 	<p>Nessa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delights in dance and racing • Deer follow her • Sister of Oromë 	<p>Melkor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melkor, now named Morgoth, is no longer counted among the Valar.

The Sundering of the Elves

<p>The Quendi All of the Elves</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">The Calaquendi Elves of the Light who came to Aman in the Days of the Two Trees</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Moriquendi Elves of Darkness who never saw the Light of the Two Trees</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">The Eldar Elves who accepted the summons and began the journey to Aman</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Eldar Some of the Eldar began the journey but ended up staying in Middle-earth. They are also called the Úmanyar.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Avari The Unwilling, who refused the Summons</p>
<p>Vanyar Noldor Teleri</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Completed the Journey to Aman</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Teleri</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Sindar ("Grey-Elves") Stayed in Beleriand</p> <p>The Nandor left the March of the Teleri East of the Misty Mountains.</p> <p>Some of the Nandor entered Beleriand and were called the Laiquendi, the Green-Elves of Ossiriand</p>	

Further Reading Resources:

Further Reading Resources and Recommendations can be found at:

www.teawithtolkien.com/silmarillion

For our Summer 2022 series on *The Silmarillion*,

visit www.teawithtolkien.com/silm-summer

Thank You:

Thank you to Marlene Ocampo and Maria Zielenbach for their time and dedication spent editing and revising this guide.

I dearly hope you've enjoyed this book and have found it helpful.

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