



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH JILL WILLIAMSON

1. THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES is a prequel series to the BLOOD OF KINGS trilogy. Is it necessary to have read the BLOOD OF KINGS trilogy to understand THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES?

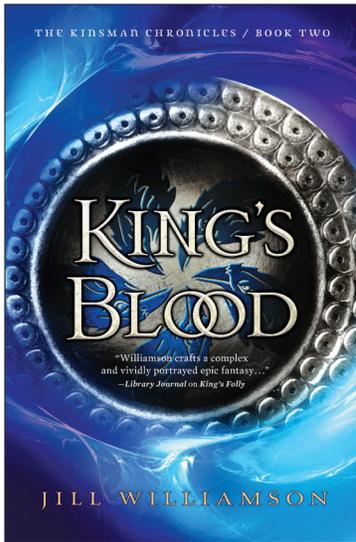
Not at all. While there are aspects of the two series that tie together, both series can be read separately. It also does not matter which order the series are read in.

2. There is a bit of controversy over some of the content in this series. Some Christian readers seem to either love it or hate it. Can you speak to that?

Sure. Every book is a challenge in some way. I was going to be writing a prequel series about a group of people who lived in a time that somewhat paralleled 1100–700 BC, so I knew from the start that THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES would be difficult to write because the Old Testament world was a dark place. I understand that some people might be uncomfortable reading about characters who are concubines, practice polygamy or human sacrifice, or worship demons, but I'm an honest writer. I always strive to create an authentic storyworld, though I am careful not to show or glorify sinful behavior. Like it or not, such behaviors, lifestyles, and professions were commonplace in the Old Testament world. They were sinful behaviors, yes, but Bible heroes like Abraham, Jacob, Caleb, Gideon, and King David did have multiple wives and/or concubines. If I was to write characters living in a similar environment where kings did evil in the eyes of the Lord, to honestly show how such people might return to a society that honors and serves God, I had to show those characters honestly. Not all Christian readers are interested in this type of story, and that's okay. I suggest that people read a sample by looking inside the free chapter on Amazon.com or by downloading the *Darkness Reigns* ebook to give the story a try and decide for themselves whether or not they want to read about such flawed characters on a journey from Darkness to Light.

3. King's Blood is the second book in THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES. What, if anything, has changed about the series from book one?

My heroes are in ships, looking for a new homeland, but several of them have come to know Arman as the One God, leaving behind their former polytheistic beliefs. A Holy Book has been discovered, and some of the characters are reading it to learn more about their Creator. So while there is still much Darkness in this world, some of the characters are starting to grab hold of the Light with the intention of steering their people back on the right track, similar to how kings Hezekiah and Josiah did in the Old Testament.



King's Blood

THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES #2
by Jill Williamson

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4. Did writing *King's Blood* pose any particular challenges?

Since the majority of *King's Blood* takes place on ships, I had to learn a lot about medieval seafaring. I found that challenging enough, but what was even more difficult for me was to figure out what my navigators knew and didn't know, how the stars would have moved (since they were sailing from the southern hemisphere to the northern hemisphere), and how those navigators might have advised the king based on what they saw. That was really hard for me to wrap my brain around. I also found it challenging to work this series toward an ending that is already set in print, funneling everything toward the BLOOD OF KINGS trilogy, which I wrote years before. It was a little tricky to devise backstory for how everything came to be in the future.

5. Will the point of view characters in *King's Blood* be the same as in *King's Folly*?

For the most part, yes. There are a few exceptions. I don't have any Mielle point of view chapters in *King's Blood*. Instead I have scenes from her little sister Amala's point of view. I also have many points of view from Grayson in *King's Blood*.

6. How much time did you spend on worldbuilding for this series? Did you have a good sense of the world before you starting writing, or did you adapt and evolve the world as you wrote?

This trilogy is unique for me because each book has a different storyworld. In *King's Folly* I had to create the Five Realms and all the various cultures of that land. In *King's Blood* I had to put those various cultures on ships, and a medieval sailing ship was a new storyworld in itself. And in *King's War* I will have a third new storyworld as my characters explore a new land, settle there, and meet the natives. All that to say, I spent a great deal of time worldbuilding THE KINSMAN CHRONICLES. In each case I had to do much of the worldbuilding ahead of time, as it's difficult for me to write in a world I don't know. There is always some adaptation as I go, of course. And there are also times when I will get stuck and realize I need a little more worldbuilding or research—as was the case with the ships and astronomy in *King's Blood*.