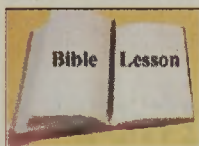


## 5B

## RELIGION

Life 1B



## Job's reflections of life

### STUDYING JOB

This lesson sets two passages of Scripture in counterpoint: one from Job and the other from Mark. The passage in the book of Job offers a personal encounter between God and Job. The section from Mark deals with a personal encounter between the risen Christ and His disciples.

How do these two passages fit together? They both deal with difficult issues. They both deal with the need to trust. Both passages provide tangible reasons to trust. In the first passage God appears to Job and honors his request for a personal meeting. Many of Job's questions go unanswered. But Job is content in fellowship with God. Job is content to trust in the God who gives life.

Some of Job's unanswered questions are dealt with in the passage from Mark and elsewhere in the New Testament. Job wondered about life after death. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection settle the issue. Job wondered why the good suffer. Jesus was perfect, yet He faced horrific suffering. The disciples had something in common with Job: personal encounter with God caused them to trust God for what was not clear.

God's Power Revealed to Job

1. What does the "whirlwind" (Job 38:1) signify?

A whirlwind is defined by Webster's Dictionary as a mass of air, as a tornado, rotating rapidly and advancing over land or sea. It is also defined as a destructive force like the great wind that came out of the wilderness and caused the house where Job's children were feasting to collapse (Job 1:19). Referencing Job 13:3, Job asked for an audience with God - he wanted to question God (see also 9:14-19, 31:35). Job's desire is that God answers him. In Chapter 38, Job gets just what he asks for. God makes his presence known by the onset of a "whirlwind" by which He clearly speaks through in response to Job. This whirlwind not only signifies the power and strength of God but it also moves by the command. By having such a storm accompany His response, God was giving Job a striking object lesson of the point He would make with His probing questions.

2. How did God demonstrate the foolishness of Job's questioning of His ways? (vs. 4-17)

In verses 4 thru 17, God silenced Job's presumption in constantly wanting to ask the questions of God, by becoming Job's questioner. Specifically, in vs. 4, God asked Job

Please see JOB/7B

## An Easter argument

Did Jesus really rise bodily from the grave?



PHOTO/ADAMCARMICHAEL.COM

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"I do not think anyone, anywhere, at any time brings dead people back to life," says John Dominic Crossan, an energetic liberal now retired from the Roman Catholic DePaul University in Chicago.

"The proposal that Jesus was bodily raised from the dead possesses unrivaled power to explain the historical data at the heart of early Christianity," says articulate conservative N.T. Wright, a Church of England bishop who has taught at Cambridge, McGill and Oxford universities.

There you have it, the old yet ever-new Easter debate as represented by two current New Testament experts. Both use resurrection language but mean totally different things.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary decided a Crossan-Wright faceoff on Jesus' resurrection was the perfect starter for a series of annual "point-counterpoint" debates. The resulting confrontation last year is recorded in "The Resurrection of Jesus: John Dominic Crossan and N.T. Wright in Dialogue" (Fortress), including

papers from other participants.

Wright, first up, crisply defends the traditional Christian belief, using material from his Fortress book, "The Resurrection of the Son of God," this generation's most important orthodox treatment.

Some of his reasoning:

- We must explain why the earliest Christians believed in Jesus Christ's bodily resurrection and risked hostility and danger to rapidly spread the message.
- Pagan Roman culture didn't anticipate such a miracle. Neither

Please see DEBATE/6B

## Prayers, answers offered at War Cry

By Victoria Elmore  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Christians will send up a War Cry this Good Friday as Briar Creek Baptist Church hosts a city-wide prayer event.

"War Cry 2006," the church's event, begins at 7 p.m. and is for people who are in need of answers and to voice their concerns to God.

"Our doors are open to the community for prayer. Many are fighting battles and dealing with issues that they feel are a losing battle," said Sharon Jackson, the visionary at Briar Creek. "The battle is not over."

Jackson said this event will allow people to acknowledge that they can go directly to their knees and reach out to God.

"War Cry 2006" is a vision

Jackson received during prayer. She said that God told her to open the doors for everyone who needs prayer and desires to seek God's direction. "It's time for people to realize they need a God, comforter, and counselor, and He is all those things," Jackson said.

Eight prayer warriors will direct prayer. Minister Carol Bates, the youth employment programs coordinator, will pray over schools, parents and children, Bob Lowan, the executive director of Metrolina Network will pray for the unity of churches. Sharon Hall, wife of Briar Creek Baptist pastor Dennis Hall, will pray for the passion of the church. The other five leaders will pray over other areas. Jackson said individuals will be able to

pray one on one with one of the eight prayer leaders. "People will be there to pray with you about your situation," Jackson said.

"We want people to come and receive healing and transformation," said Dennis Hall. "We're praying for the presence of God. When you are in his presence deliverance happens."

Jackson believes that people would be better off if they realized that their pain is needless if they would just give it to God. "We're not alone in our trials. We have direct contact," Jackson said. "We just need to cry out."

Along with prayer, there will be three performances of dance at the event.

Prayer Dance, featuring artist Michael Stanley will be accompanied by Dance &

Disciples, will be among some of these artists who will perform at the Briar Creek event.

Pastor Hall is making personal preparations for the event. He has been spending more time in prayer because he feels that it's whole purpose and message of War Cry.

"Prayer is our communication with God. It is the vehicle God has given us to move his heart," said Hall, whose preparation includes reading his Bible more often and fasting. "I want to make sure my personal life is in line so that I can be an open vessel. This event is always in my conscious."

For more information on this event contact Paula Emrich at (704) 537-0660.

"Prayer is our communication with God."

Rev. Dennis Hall, pastor at Briar Creek Baptist Church

## CHURCH NEWS

Against All Odds" at 7 a.m. at 4110 Triangle Drive

**April 16**  
RABO Records will host an Easter Sunday celebration at the Robert L. Bowers Fellowship Auditorium, 407 Rocky River Road, Mooresville. Doors open at 2 p.m., event starts at 4 p.m. Some of the performers include, Lil Willie and The Gospel Keynotes, Ronica and The Mighty Blazing Stars and The Singing Angels. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (704) 333-7729.

**April 21**  
Chappell Memorial Baptist Church will present an evening to uplift and celebrate women through song and ministry during "Soulful Sisters in the Spirit" at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary at

Chappell Memorial.

Hosted by the Chappell Memorial EAGLES Women's Ministry, vocalists including Arnetta Murrill-Crooms and Deborah Clyburn will minister through song and testimony.

Emceed by Praise 100.9 FM radio personalities Tonya Rivers and A.C. Stowe, the program will provide an interview and question-and-answer session after each performance that will allow the guest artists to share their experiences and testimony.

The church is located at 110 Bradford Drive.

**April 22**  
Preserve Pro Inc. is offering a workshop on "Optimizing Your Church's Records: A Preservation Workshop." This workshop will be held on April 22 from 9-11:20 a.m. on the campus of

Central Piedmont Community College, Room 215, Professional Development Building.

The purpose of the workshop is to bring together individuals who have an interest in preserving the history of churches. The workshop is open to the public. The registration fee for the workshop is \$50.

For more information contact Preserve Pro Inc. at 704-995-0731 or email preservepro@earthlink.net.

**April 23**  
Melva Costen Ph.D., an authority on music and worship within African American churches, will speak at Charlotte First United Presbyterian Church, 406 N. College St., from 4-5 p.m. The title of her presentation, "In Spirit

Please see HOLY/6B



## Petties mixes R&B, gospel



Darrel Petties & Strength In Praise  
Count It All Joy  
Smoke Norfol & Myron Butler, producers  
EMI Gospel



Combining traditional gospel with contemporary gospel and R&B is a slippery slope. Generally one set of fans gets the short end of the stick. It's either too much of one and not enough of the other.

Darrel Petties and his choir Strength & Praise are new, but they've got the formula down. There's enough here for everyone and all of what's here is done well.

Petties can even blend these styles effortlessly within a song. "Glory Hallelujah" is of school church but he flips it, twists it and nearly rewrites it into something modern without losing the song's simple message.

The CD's title track is certainly contemporary gospel with a dash of R&B. It's the kind thing that young folk will like a lot.

For those looking for the more traditional, "Surely He Knows" is the ticket. Nikki Rose-Turney sings the life out of the verses and the choir rips the backing vocals. There are bridges and vamps galore on which leader and choir sang.

"Mighty God" is pure energy. Yeah, it's repetitive, but Angela Holmes' bombastic vocal styling lifts the song into a different level.

Smoke Norfol co-produces the CD and takes lead vocal duties on "It Is Well." It's typical Smoke - i.e. he interprets the song with unbridled passion. Norfol discovered the group at a conference and quickly signed it to his production company, which lead to this CD. Smart move on his and his company's part. Petties and SIP should be around for a while.

### Ratings

Classic	☆☆☆☆☆
Excellent	☆☆☆☆☆
Good	☆☆☆☆
Fair	☆☆☆
Why?	☆☆
No stars - A mess	☆

The deadline for calendar announcements is noon on Fridays. Fax announcements to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com.

### Ongoing

Inspiration Networks is holding a gospel talent search for its nationally televised series Christian Artist Talent Search. The winner will receive a national recording contract with Point Of Grace Entertainment. All entrants must be at least 15 years old by April 21. Entries are due by April 21. For rules and entry forms, log on to www.insp.com or call the CATS hotline at (704) 561-7955.

### April 15

Signs and Wonders Life Center, its congregation and pastor Lola Saxton will host a prayer breakfast feast with the theme of "Women