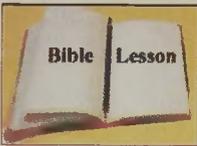


5B

RELIGION



When tragedy occurs STUDYING JOB

In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong. What is human tragedy? Does it only occur when one finds himself undeservedly on the receiving end of it, or is it possible to bring tragedy upon oneself? According to the Bible, Job did nothing to deserve the predicament we find him in today's lesson (see Job 1-8, and 2-3). Nonetheless, we are reminded not of the fact that Job suffered great loss, but of how he responded to the same.

In the midst of unexpected calamity (lay-offs, bankruptcy, loss of property, loss of the activity of one's bodily functions, divorce, eviction, rape, the ravages of a drug-addicted spouse or other family member, etc.) Christians should respond differently than those who don't have a relationship with Jesus Christ would respond. Why? Because just as God "hedged in" Job-protecting him from death at the hand of Satan, God also hedges in His children and protects us from certain disaster. While it is true that bad things happen to proverbial "good" people-because none is righteous, we must remember that God gives and He takes away, and we must continually bless Him in all circumstances because of His glory. It's not about us!

JOB'S CALAMITY (Job 1:14-15, 18-19, 22)

1. In what time period is it believed that Job lived?

Job lived in the land of Uz, which was a territory to the east of Canaan. Scholars do not know for certain what time period Job lived in, but it seems likely that he lived at about the time of the patriarchs of Israel; that is, he lived during the time of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

2. What happened in the first round of disaster to strike Job? (Job 1:13-15)

These verses show where Job's children were gathered together for one of their times of feasting. However, the first round of disaster did not concern Job's sons and daughters, but rather his possessions. In the ancient world wealth was generally measured by land, domesticated animals, and the number of servants one possessed. The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, when the Sabaeans raided them and took them away-indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword" is what one of Job's surviving servant/messengers told him in verses 14 and 15.

3. Who were the perpetrators of the first attack on Job? (Job 1:15)

Please see WHEN/8B

The deadline to have announcements added to the calendar is noon on Fridays. Fax your announcements to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail your announcement to 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 8

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church will host its fourth annual Wedding Extravaganza

Was crucifixion political?

Scholars argue Jesus' death was part of colonial oppression



PHOTO/WORLDAGEARCHIVE.COM

By Richard N. Ostling AP RELIGION WRITER

Why was Jesus crucified? As the Apostle Paul explained, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself" and "made him to be sin who knew no sin" to impart the gift of righteousness to sinners (2 Corinthians 5:19, 21).

Salvation aside, this was history's most famous death and some writers in these modern, politically drenched times use it as emblem of oppressive colonial occupation.

S.G.F. Brandon of Britain imagined Jesus to be a violent revolu-

tionary, executed for threatening Rome's imperial power

Few experts go that far, though a "post-colonial" ideology persists in "Jesus and Empire" by Richard Horsley of the University of Massachusetts-Boston. His Jesus is a fellow traveler with insurrectionists and inspires Horsley to assail U.S. foreign policy.

Jews often favor political interpretations because they emphasize Rome's responsibility and downplay the New Testament's report that Jewish leaders and some in the populace wanted Jesus dead.

In a new treatment, "Render to Caesar: Jesus, the Early Church and the Roman Superpower" (Oxford University Press), Christopher Bryan of The University of the South in Swann, Tenn., sees politics at work but maintains that Jesus was no activist or revolutionary.

To Bryan, the crucifixion doesn't symbolize either Jesus' relationship to the Roman Empire or to fellow Jews. "It is a symbol of his relationship to the world. And that means, to us." If there's guilt

Please see DEBATE/6B

Jakes pays homage to moms in book

By Victoria Elmore THE CHARLOTTE POST

Without mothers there would be no life.

Mother's are our most influential role models. They mold and shape us into the people we become. Bishop T.D. Jakes, pastor of The Potter's House in Dallas, Texas publicizes this fact in his new book, "Mama Made the Difference."

Jakes has a long history of appealing to women's most intimate desires and needs. "The Lady, Her Lover, and her Lord," hit the bestseller list. He even tapped into manhood with "He-Motions."

In "Mama Made the Difference," Jakes gives an account of experiences he encountered with his mother and the values she instilled in him. "Mama Made the Difference" is a must read for folks who adore their mothers and for those whose mothers haven't been a posi-

tive influence. Jakes also gives advice to modern-day moms. He also informs readers about mothers' purposes and goals in their children's lives.

Jakes' book is broken up into three parts. The first section is called Home Room.

This part imparts into the reader the things that mothers teach. Jakes opens readers' eyes to see that through tough and good times, it is the mother who teaches them the little things that they carry along with them today.

Mothers are the models in children's lives that taught them to believe in God, according to Jakes. They instill identities into lives of their children by telling them who they are. Serita Ann Jakes, T.D. Jakes' wife, makes known the life lessons



Jakes

that her mother, Virginia Jamison taught her in Lesson Two, titled "Substitute Teacher." Jakes shows that even though the woman who gives birth takes on the name mother, she is also a teacher, provider, and comforter. Seven lessons highlight part one of Jakes' books.

In part two, titled "Biology Lab," the author takes a step back and allows political figures to reveal life lessons they learned from their mother. This section is the heart because it exemplifies how mothers instruct their children on ways to love. For people who enjoy hearing what the people in political positions have to say, this is for you. In Lesson Nine, former secretary of state Colin Powell tells of his mother's success and her influence on his life.

Jakes uses strong biblical themes in part two, showing readers that mothers in the Bible were just as important

role models back then as they are today. The author touches on the book of Ruth to display how Naomi's motherly instincts guide her daughter-in-laws Orpah and Ruth. Even though Orpah went her own way and Ruth tagged along behind her mother, Jakes' pivotal storytelling skills define lessons that readers can learn about their own mothers through reading biblical stories.

Graduation Day is the last part of the Jakes' book. Readers learn in this section how mothers instill into their children endurance. CeCe Winans recalls her mother Delores Winans' soulful voice and how even today, it still seeps into her soul. Winans speaks of her mother's struggles and how her faithfulness to God enabled her to overcome.

This book of lessons will hit stores April 25.

CHURCH NEWS

(704) 333-7483.

• Greater Gethsemane AME Zion Church, located at 531 Campus St., will host a Palm Sunday Vesper at 5 p.m.

April 15

Signs and Wonders Life Center's congregation and pastor Lola Saxton will host an early-morning prayer breakfast feast with the theme of "Women Against All Odds" at 7 a.m. at 4110 Triangle Drive

April 16

RABO Records will host an Easter Sunday Celebration at Robert L. Bowers Fellowship Auditorium, 407 Rocky River Road, Mooresville. The event begins at 4 p.m. The doors open at 2 p.m. Some of the performers include Lil' Willie and The Gospel Keynotes,

Ronica and The Mighty Blazing Stars and The Singing Angels. For information or to purchase tickets, call (704) 333-7729.

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. This workshop is also open to the public and highly recommended for all individuals interested in learning about preservation, and archival

Please see WOMEN'S/6B



Dotson gets her dream recording



Stephanie Dotson Miracles Shall Happen Leon C. Lewis, producer Full Gospel Entertainment



"American Idol" has spawned a number of new contests to find the latest star in almost every genre of music.

The "Gospel Dream" contest isn't related to "Idol" in any form and Id suspect Bishop Paul Morton would deny that tepid contest even remotely inspired "Dream" But "Idol's" evil influence is far reaching, even among the saints.

Gosh, I hate that program.

Any way, Stephanie Dotson won "Dream" in 2004. Part of the deal was this CD. Like her "Idol" counterparts, Dotson's debut sounds as if she just won a singing contest, which is not a bad thing, just not always inspiring. There are the ubiquitous big songs ("I Do Believe" "We Worship You O God"), the obligatory praise and worship ("Give Him Glory," "Jehovah God") and the trendy contemporary ("Dream Take II.") This is music almost strictly by the numbers. Even when Dotson goes of school, with some James Cleveland ("The Sun Will Shine After While" with Paul Morton), it's more sizzle than steak.

The main problem is that there's a bit too much polish. Every song is buffed to such a glossy shine that very little gospel shines through. The title song is close, very close to something special, but still falls short.

The CD's greatest asset is Dotson. She's got some pipes. It's a full voice with lots of color and power when pushed. There's a great deal of potential and I think she'll only get better.

Still, this is a pretty good recording - warts and all. The production is a bit too slick, but professional nonetheless. The songs for the most part are good, but at times lack a bit of punch.

Ratings

Table with 2 columns: Rating (Classic, Excellent, Good, Fair, Why?, No stars - A mess) and corresponding star icons.