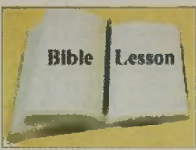


5B

RELIGION

Life 1B



Deborah the judge, minister, warrior

1. What two ministries did Deborah perform (Judges 4:4)?

Deborah was the wife of Lapidoth, a Hebrew name meaning "torches" or "lightning flashes." Her name means "bee." She may have been so named due to the custom in some cultures of naming children after some phenomenon occurring at the time of birth.

We are not told whether there was a direct connection between Deborah's role as a prophetess and her role as a judge in Israel. We assume that people came to her to settle disputes because they knew she had special help from the Lord to do that kind of work.

We usually think of a prophet as one who has divine insight into future events, but this is only part of a prophet's function. Old Testament prophets are God's mouthpieces. As such, they are inspired by God to keep Israel on track in religious and moral matters. Deborah, then, is presented as more than a wise judge. She is an inspired judge, used by God to guide the development of the young nation.

2. Why did people from all over Israel come to Deborah in the territory of Ephraim (v. 5)?

Deborah and Lapidoth live in a rural area less than a dozen miles north of Jerusalem. This is in the tribal territory of Ephraim. It is a semi-mountainous region. Deborah uses an outdoor courtroom under a famous palm tree also called Deborah.

In stating that the children of Israel came up to her for judgment, it is implied that her fair settlement of disputes through divinely imparted wisdom had spread her reputation far and wide.

People were willing to make journeys from all over the nation of Israel to come before her.

Deborah the Organizer (Judges 4:6-10)

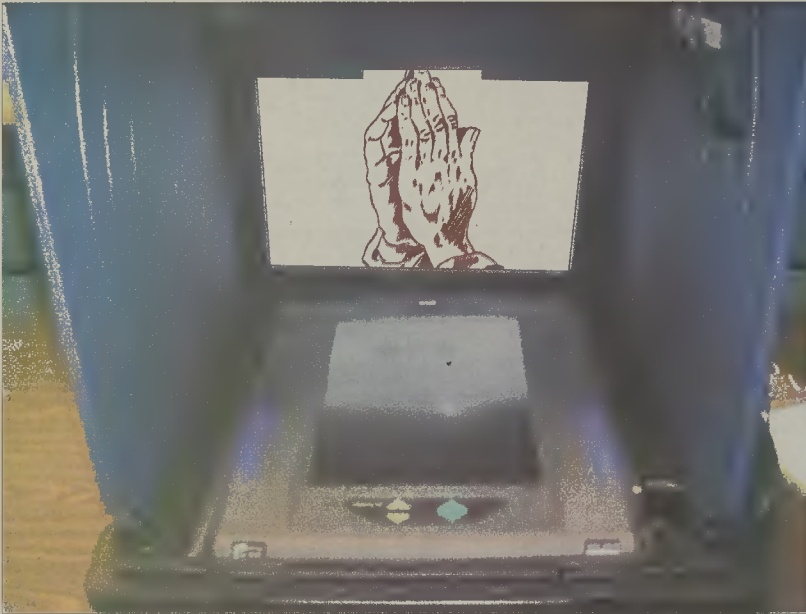
3. What message did Deborah send to Barak in Kedesh-naphthali (vs. 6, 7)?

We do not know how Deborah learned of God's command for Barak to take ten thousand men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun and go to Mount Tabor. Since she was a prophetess, it is likely that God spoke to her directly. Barak, whose Hebrew name, much like that of Lapidoth, means "lightning," was the son of Abinoam of Kedesh-naphthali. This community was about eighteen miles north of the Sea of Galilee.

Mount Tabor was the place where territories of the tribes of Issachar, Zebulun, and

Please see DEBORAH/6B

Politics and religion intersect frequently during campaign



FILE PHOTO

Politics and religion intersect as the elections draw nearer. Some people say liberalism has gone too far.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio—A pastor's politically tinged call one year ago to "lock and load" for "a Holy Ghost invasion" was only the beginning of a fight over candidates between the religious right and the religious left in battleground Ohio.

The stakes are high in Ohio, which gave President Bush the White House in 2004 thanks in part to support for a gay marriage ban by conservative Christians. And the winner of this year's governor's race will give his party an edge going into the 2008 presidential campaign.

Pastor Rod Parsley of World Harvest

Church underscored the role of religion in the governor's campaign last Oct. 14, when he held a rally attended by hundreds on the steps of the Statehouse.

"Sound an alarm. A Holy Ghost invasion is taking place. Man your battle stations, ready your weapons, lock and load," Parsley said to enthusiastic applause.

The four-year goal of what he called Reformation Ohio was to convert 1 million people to Christianity, help the poor and register 400,000 new voters.

"I am neither Republican nor Democrat, I'm a Christocrat," Parsley said at the time. "I love a Democratic republic and I want to be right in the middle of

that process."

Soon after Parsley set his goals, a spiritual spat broke out that quickly spilled into state politics.

In January, pastors on the left filed a complaint with the IRS accusing Parsley and a second conservative pastor, Russell Johnson, of violating federal election law. The complaint alleged that the pastors improperly used their pulpits for partisan politics by supporting Ken Blackwell, the Republican nominee for governor.

The complaint said the two have linked themselves and their churches so closely to Blackwell and his opposi-

Please see POLITICS/6B

Ministering to young adults and singles is her calling

SPECIAL TO THE POST

Nicole Massie has joined The Park Ministries as minister of young adults and singles.

In her new role at University Park Baptist and The Park South, Massie will lead efforts to cultivate the personal and spiritual growth of parishioners in their 20s and 30s as well as all singles.

"We realize that ministry to young adults is a vital piece of the work of our church," said the Rev. Joan Parrot, The Park Ministries' executive minister. "That's why we are so excited to have Nicole bring a fresh perspective and abiding passion to build a faith community that values the young

adult experience, with all its challenges and opportunities."

With a large number of young adults in its congregation, The Park Ministries will target two main groups with Massie's hire: Kingdom College, to develop strong leadership skills in college students and keep them connected to their faith, and young professionals, to build effective decision makers during a critical time in life.

"This is the Joshua generation," says Massie, 28. "Young adults are experiencing transition and are making major life decisions including graduate school,

Please see MASSIE/7B



Nicole Massie joins The Park.

Lonely nights mark change in neighborhood

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — The noises—the rumble of an engine, the skittering of a rat, a nagging dog bark—are startling, perhaps because there is so little to break the nighttime silence.

No air conditioners whir in the Lower 9th Ward, no children squeal at play. The most famous neighborhood you never heard of before Katrina

is quiet, save for water gurgling from broken pipes, and other odd noises that echo off abandoned houses skewed on their foundations.

By day, the Lower 9 is part demolition zone, part graveyard for lost dreams. But at night, as street lights glow yellow, it's an eerie reminder of just how much changed in the early hours of Aug. 29, 2005, and just how tough

those who want to rebuild will have to be.

"I'm a Christian person and I trust and lean on God, but it's getting depressing," says Eric Craft, one of the few living in the Lower 9 now. "I pray, but it's getting harder and harder."

Once, this was home to 19,500 of the city's 455,000 residents. Almost all were black and working class.

Now, Craft is alone on the street where he grew up and raised his own children. GCR & Associates, a local demographic consulting firm, estimates he is one of just 374 people living in the Lower 9, and one of only 88 living outside the historic Holy Cross section, which sits on higher ground closer to the Missis-

Please see LONELY/7B



Hurd reaches his 'Destiny'

Stephen Hurd My Destiny: I Know What I'm Here For Steven Ford, producer Integrity/Columbia Records



I've often thought Praise & Worship music is so popular because the art of singing is being lost. If you can carry a tune, you can chant along with the simple and sometimes monotonous tunes.

But the musical genre is spreading among all denominations and gains popularity daily. Stephen Hurd is becoming one of the biggest stars of the genre. Why? Listen to his fourth release "Destiny: I Know What I'm Here For" and you'll know.

Yes, the title isn't grammatically correct, but the songs are without fault. Hurd has gone beyond the simple and monotonous and gives a recording full of songs that stick.

It also helps that Hurd has a more than average voice. His tenor is soothing and expressive - full of quiet emotion. Hurd showcases his voice on "Morning Medley." It includes the hymn "Draw Me Nearer," which he handles with breathtaking clarity. Simple can be so expressive.

The original songs are good as well. "Tobah," "Great Praise" and "Healed By The Power Of His Word" are as good as this genre gets. On the reprise of "My Love Song," Hurd twists a lyric from Gladys Knight's "Landlord" into something a bit more spiritual.

My only quibble is "Why I Came." It's a bit more Day of Discovery Singers-sounding than I like, but not bad.

These songs could be used during any church service or during someone's daily meditation. If this is the future of praise & worship, I may be a new convert.



Ratings section with star ratings for Classic, Excellent, Good, Fair, Why?, No stars - A mess

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for announcements is noon on Fridays. Fax to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com. Please put "church news" in the subject line.

Ongoing

We Empower Women For Life At Women of The Harvest Bible Study Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at 6636 Suite L Hickory Grove Business Park.

• Steele Creek AME Zion Church, 1500 Shopton Park, will have noon day Bible study

from 12p.m. to 1 p.m.

October 20

Myers Park Baptist Church will host author Harvey Cox through Oct. 22. Cox is the author of "When Jesus Came to Harvard."

• Women of New Horizons Morning Star Baptist Church, 5623 Phillips St., will host its women's conference titled "Running Your Race." The opening service begins at 7:30 p.m. with guest speaker Pastor Regina Fairey. On Saturday, the general session begins at 8:30

a.m., with registration at 8 a.m. Workshop sessions begin at 9:15 a.m.

October 22

The Mighty Children's Choir of Steele Creek AME Zion Church, 1500 Shopton Road, will have their 31st anniversary. The theme is "Let the Children Sing." The program will begin at 3p.m.

• Parkwood Institutional Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, 802 10m Hunter Road, will host its fall revival. This year's

theme is "Celebrating New Life" - St. John 1:1-5. Guest evangelist will be Rev. Robert Diggs, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Petersburg, Va.

Services begin at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services; nightly October 23-26.

Fellowship dinner (free) 6 p.m., 6:45 p.m., Bible Study 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Transportation available, call (704) 921-4915.

Please see CHURCH/6B