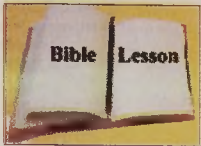


5B

RELIGION

Life 1B



Young king goes righteous

Have you ever wondered where the downhill trend of discarding God from our society will ultimately end? How will it change our society? What effect will it have on our children and their generation?

The fundamental question is: Will our children be able to worship the God of our fathers without being persecuted? It is time we gave some thought to these very serious issues in our time.

We also need to ask ourselves whether it is too late to turn things back to where they should be. This week's lesson shows us how a teenage king named Josiah with a heart for God brought the law of God back into the center of his nation's attention. We have an example to follow.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Manasseh was 12 years old when he became king in Jerusalem, and he reigned for fifty-five years (see 2 Kings 21:1). He was very evil and profaned the holy land with idolatry and bloodletting (vss. 2-18). His son, Amon, was no better (vss. 19-23). When he was assassinated, "the people of the land made his son Josiah king in his place" (v.24).

Things now took a turn for the better. Josiah was only eight years old when he began to reign. He "did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left" (22:2).

It is amazing that despite his wicked predecessors and the fact that the Law of Moses had been lost, this young king put himself on the road to righteousness.

After God's law was found in the temple, it was read to Josiah. He sent a delegation to Huldah the prophetess, and she sent God's message back to Josiah that he would live in peace (vss. 8-20). Josiah then brought about many reforms in the nation (23:1-24). Indeed, the Bible declares, "Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the Lord with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor after him did any arise like him" (vs. 25). What a legacy to speak of!

QUESTIONS

I. DISCOVERY-2 Kings 22:8-10

1. Who found the books of the law of God in the temple? (2 Kings 22:3-10) King Josiah, in his 18th year of reign over Jerusalem, sent Shaphan the scribe to the

Jesus is black, race is central in new film 'Color of the Cross'

By Sandy Cohen THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - It's a familiar image for millions of Christians: Jesus, with a crown of thorns, hanging from the cross.

What color is he? In a controversial new film opening Friday, he is black. "Color of the Cross" tells a traditional story, focusing on the last 48 hours of Christ's life as told in the Gospels. In

this version, though, race contributes to his persecution.

It is the first representation in the history of American cinema of Jesus as a black man.

"It's very important because (the film) is going to provide an image of Jesus for African-Americans that is no longer under the control of whites," says Stephenson Humphries-Brooks, an associate profes-

sor of religious studies at New York's Hamilton College and author of "Cinematic Savior: Hollywood's Making of the American Christ."

What Jesus looked like has long been debated by theologians around the world. Different cultures have imagined him in different ways, says Stephen Prothero, chairman of the religion department at Boston University. In

Japan, Jesus looks Japanese. In Africa, he is black. But in America he is almost always white, like the fair-haired savior painted by Leonardo Da Vinci in "The Last Supper" in 1495.

While some black churches have images of a black Jesus behind the altar and others have claimed Christ was black, Prothero says "none of those arguments or images have filtered much. Please see JESUS/6B



On Pace with super sisters

Anointed Pace Sisters The Return Daniel Moore II, producer Tyscoff Records



I've never been a fan of the Pace sisters. They've always indulged in too many vocal theatrics and tricks.

I'm a fan now. "The Return" is a solid effort with strong songs and strong singing.

The group has never been short on harmony. God voice-matched these sisters perfectly. Give a song to them and they'll sing the life out of the words. The group's harmony is spectacular throughout this recording.

There are times when they get a little showy. The "Reign Forever" reprise involves the audience and it goes on a bit long. I like "It's Already Done" but it seems more performance than praise.

Those songs aside, the rest borders on great. "Contentment" gets great response from the audience because it's the kind of song to which all Christians can relate. "Strategically Ordered" really allows them to display their harmony. "Rescue" combines contemporary gospel with near rock guitars and the group's signature harmony. It shouldn't work but it does - extremely well.

There are two songs that make this CD must-have. "He's Here" features a guest appearance by sister Lashun Pace. Her voice is still remains one of the most powerful in gospel. She gives the song a rousing workout and sets the room on fire. "Hold On" is ol' school church. It's almost three songs combined into a frantic piece of worshiping and praising. Jume Pace-Martin sings the wheels off.

"The Return" puts the Pace Sisters back at the forefront of the gospel profession. If taking breaks like this garners this kind of work, these sisters can take all the time they like between recordings.



Ratings

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

Heritage for sale?



Jonesville AME Zion Church up for rezoning and sale

By Cheris F. Hodges cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com

Some members of Jonesville AME Zion Church don't want the historic sanctuary sold, even if the pastor does.

The church, located at 5527 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, is the subject of potential rezoning. But if the descendants of the church and those buried in the adjacent cemetery have their way, the rezoning would be stopped.

Charlotte City Council is expected to make a decision on the zoning request on Nov. 20. Self Storage Development LLC wants to buy the property and build a storage facility that looks like an office building, according to attorney John Carmichael, a lawyer representing the company.

The church hasn't been rezoned or sold. But William Allison, who has his entire family, except for one uncle buried in the church cemetery, hopes it will be saved.

"We've had the church since 1864," he said in a phone interview from his Maryland home. Allison said though he's 400 miles away, he is still a member of the church.

"This is a part of our history. Over the years, so many things have been taken from black folks and this would be another example of that," Allison, 85,



Jonesville AME Zion Church and its adjacent cemetery, is located on Ballantyne Commons Parkway.

said. Calls to the Rev. Kirk Reid, Jonesville's pastor, were not returned. Allison said that many church members are in favor of selling. He said Reid

isn't "a part of us. It's hard to explain why he would want to do this. We shouldn't lose (our church) we should always have that," he said.

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline to have your church 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. 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, located at 1500 Shopton Road, will have noon day Bible study from 12p.m. to 1 p.m.

November 12 The Red Branch Baptist Church will celebrate the seventh pastoral anniversary of the Rev. Daimon Rawlinson Sr. at 9p.m. The afternoon service will be held at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, located at 1401 North Allen St.

The Greenville Memorial AME Zion

Church mass choir will hold a concert at 5 p.m. in the Hidden Valley Community at 6116 Monteth Drive. For directions, call (704) 596-4742.

November 14 Women's Initiative Network will hold its chapter meeting with speaker, Sherry Moore, host of Community in Touch Radio. The topic of the meeting is Ordinary Women Can Do Extraordinary Things.

The event will begin at 6 p.m. at the Doubletree Southpark. Register on-line at www.wom-

ensinet.com. Member's earlybird rate \$20 before 11/1 and earlybird rate for Guests \$30. \$10 increase after 11/1

November 17 Pastor Valari Logan and Women of the Harvest present a Women's Fall Retreat, "Listening to GOD with our Total Mind, Body, and Soul." The event runs through Saturday and registration is \$85. The deadline September 15 to register. Send cash or money order to King-

Please see RED BRANCH/6B