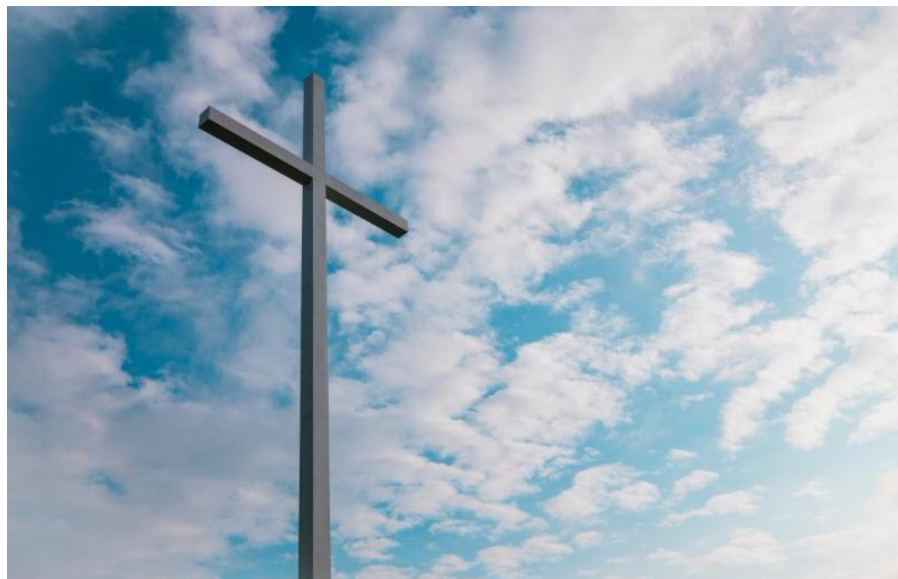




# CROSSWAYS<sup>®</sup> INTERNATIONAL



In This Issue:

*First Things Magazine / The Bible's Big Story / RCL Notes*

## EASTER BLESSINGS / APRIL 2018



*Wishing you a Blessed Easter*

*from the Founders, Board of Directors,  
Theological Council and Staff  
of Crossways International<sup>®</sup>*

## THE JESUS PLAN

Jesus did not have a business plan. He did not do test marketing. He did not offer sweepstakes to promote His product. He did not have an elaborate facility or an administrative assistant. He had Himself, a message and a mission. To perpetuate what He began, He called a rag-tag group to leave their sundry jobs and follow Him. He asked them to take Him dead seriously! He was (and is) the Truth!

He told stories--about sowing seed, laborers and landlords, fathers and wayward sons, and finding sheep. He taught, healed, prayed and wept. He gathered children to His knee. He touched lepers. He ate with outcasts. He preached from a boat--all without fanfare!

Jesus' ministry was not a campaign designed by present-day Madison Avenue experts or TV evangelists. His servant-life was radical. His crucifixion was an enthronement. His resurrection was an endorsement--an endorsement by His Father in heaven who through it said, "Yes!" to everything His son was, said and did. Yet those who looked into His eyes and stayed to listen could never be the same again.

Crossways International® courses will help you enable your people to look into Jesus' eyes!

The Rev. Dr. Harry Wendt / Co-Founder



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Check out our [Spring Specials!](#)

## SHARING GOD'S GOOD NEWS

### REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY NOTES

*"The figure of speech that Jesus draws upon is found in Ezekiel 34:1-10 and 34:11-31. Ezekiel referred to the kings of Judah as bad shepherds who endanger the flock, and God has to intervene and tend His sheep until they can be entrusted to the care of a true descendant of David. Although Jesus' words point to the Pharisees as those who endanger the flock, they do not see this. They think of themselves as shepherds, not as a thief or a stranger. Jesus is the gate who provides access to God for the flock and provides them with life. Those who come through this gate will have life. (In John, Jesus is the water of life, the bread of life, and the gate of life.)"*

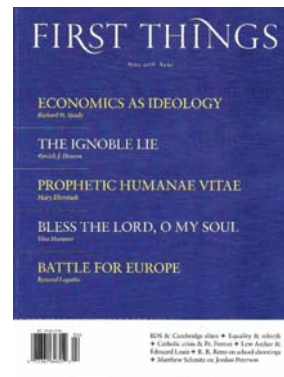


Read the Rev. Dr. Wendt's [April 2018 Revised Common Lectionary Notes](#).

## FIRST THINGS MAGAZINE

Like a wise old friend, *First Things* magazine arrives at my house almost every month\* for an extended visit. At this time in our national history, when our public discussions tend to

divide us, *First Things* is willing to lay on the table the many things we Christians (and Jews, and even Muslims) have in common. We live in a world that can be hostile to faith, and we meet that challenge best when we've done some homework, beginning with careful study of Scripture. In addition, we also need to sharpen our thinking with well-developed arguments. That's why I find sessions with *First Things* so useful. The long-form essay is the magazine's specialty, with plenty of space allocated to all sides of any discussion. Add in topical book reviews and memorable poetry--there's always something to think about.



I open every new issue to "The Public Square," a summary of current events served with a sizable pinch of religious common sense. It's written by the magazine's editor, R. R. Reno, a worthy successor to Richard John Neuhaus, the founder, himself a noted Lutheran Pastor and convert to Catholicism. Father Richard kept feet in both camps, a stance I highly recommend.

*First Things* calls itself, "America's most influential journal of religion." Want to see what they're talking about? Go to [firstthings.com](http://firstthings.com) and take a look. I think you'll enjoy the conversation.

\*The magazine does double issues in the summer and at the end of the year.

James Baird, DRE / Theological Council Member

## USB FLASH DRIVES NOW AVAILABLE!

All Crossways International PowerPoint® graphics are now on **USB Flash Drives**. Available flash drives include *Crossways®*, *The Divine Drama®*, *See Through the Scriptures®*, *The Biblical Tell-Tale Time Line*, and the Topical Short Courses Bundle. Look for them on our website today!



## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### SPRING TRAINING SEMINAR

May 29-31 / Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN / \$200

Early Bird registration for our Spring Training Seminar is now open! This Training Seminar will help you to feel confident and well-prepared for the task of teaching or facilitating discussion of *The Divine Drama®*. It also provides an intense overview of the grand sweep of the biblical narrative that is useful in all ministries.

Register today to receive Early Bird pricing! (Price increases to \$225 after April 18.) Or [Click Here](#) for more information.

### JOIN A CLASS OR WEBINAR

Looking for a Crossways International® class near you? Visit our [Class Map](#) for locations and details! Interested in starting your own class? We're happy to help you with planning and promotion. Just call [800-257-7308](tel:800-257-7308) or email [info@crossways.org](mailto:info@crossways.org).

You can also join us online! Our [webinars](#) provide an interactive way to promote discussion and answer questions. They're the perfect resource for leaders preparing to teach a class within their own congregation, and a great opportunity for learners who prefer to study on their own. Click on a webinar below to learn more!

*The Bible's Big Story/The Biblical Tell-Tale Time-Line* Webinar  
April 17: 10 a.m. - noon (CST)

*See Through the Scriptures®* Webinar  
May 17: 9 a.m. - noon and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. (CST)

*The Divine Drama®* Webinar  
June 18 and 19: TBD

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Sponsor a [CI Workshop](#) in your community. 2018 dates now available.

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## SEEKING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AND OUTREACH

The Executive Director of Training and Outreach functions as the Chief Executive Officer of Crossways International® (CI). He/She is responsible for creating a strategy to sustain and expand the worldwide mission of CI. He/she will work closely with the Director of Operations, the Board of Directors and the Theological Council in executing that strategy, overseeing the development of new/updated CI curriculum and resources, and defining new teaching model options for clients choosing to use CI's program materials.

The primary responsibilities of the Executive Director of Training and Outreach include acting as the key sales, marketing, fundraising, and public relations person of CI, and fostering positive relationships with prospective partners, current clients, and other friends of CI. He/She will be the face of CI, presenting and representing our program(s) at various conferences and gatherings in our global community. He/She will also serve as the primary biblical teacher and trainer and be responsible for overseeing the various training events, seminars and webinars conducted by CI.

Email inquiries to [info@crossways.org](mailto:info@crossways.org).

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## DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS® TO CROSSWAYS INTERNATIONAL



Visit [thrivent.com](http://thrivent.com) or call 800-847-4836 to check your eligibility and then help our important mission work by directing your Choice Dollars to Crossways International®.

Reminder:  
All 2017 Choice Dollars must be directed by March 31, 2018.

## DID YOU KNOW?

As a non-profit ministry, Crossways International® relies on your support. If you're looking for a mission project for Vacation Bible School, quarterly church mission donations, or your day/Sunday school offering collection, we would appreciate your partnership. Your funding could provide:

- \$5 -- The Biblical Tell-Tale Time-Line
- \$15 -- a topical short course manual
- \$50 -- *The Divine Drama*® course materials
- \$100 -- *Crossways*® course materials

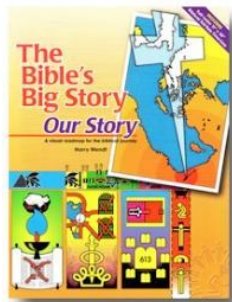
Through donations, we are able to provide biblical-based resources to international missions in places like Haiti, The Dominican Republic, and SE Asia; inner-city ministry organizations, and prison ministries. Thank you for helping Crossways International continue to change lives by fostering Christian discipleship and cultivating biblical literacy.

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Follow us on [Twitter](#) to keep up with all of our latest events!

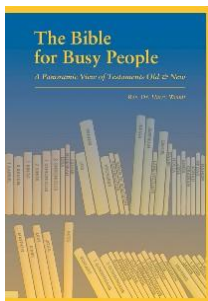
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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Get the most out of The Biblical Tell-Tale Time-Line with *The Bible's Big Story: Our Story*.

This course explains and expands upon the Time-Line in meticulous detail. It can be taught in three short (one-hour) sessions, or in one half-day session. Examines not only what happened in the world of the Bible, but where we fit into its ongoing story today.



Learn biblical insights on the front and the back of the Biblical Tell-Tale Time-Line from Dr. Harry Wendt himself with *The Bible for Busy People DVD*.

*"The DVD is valuable as a quick overview of the Bible's timeline before beginning a more in-depth study of Scripture. It also is a great review after any of the Crossways International classes."*

-Rev. Kenton Birtell  
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church Holdrege, Nebraska



Help share the message of God's Good News with our **Missions Package Deal**. Order one to prepare for your mission trip and then order more of the items you want to share with others.

Includes *The Bible for Busy People* DVD, *See Through the Scriptures*® Leader's Package and Flash Cards, *The Divine Plan*, Earth Marble and more!



Use **The Divine Plan** to show and explain God's plan of salvation for humanity.

This highly portable, self-contained, fold-out evangelism tool has been used in many settings to explain *The Divine Plan* to people in all walks of life, including those who cannot read. It's the perfect spiritual conversation starter, and can be shared over and over.

*The Divine Plan* witnessing tool is available for FREE as an app for iPads, iPhones, and Android devices. Click [here](#) for details.



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Click [here](#) to see an online version of our catalog!  
Request a free catalog in the mail [here](#).

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## A PRAYER TO SHARE

Dear gracious Father in heaven, we thank You for inviting us to speak with You and to seek Your wisdom. Grant us the wisdom to understand that some of the things we see as important are unimportant to You. Teach us that our concern must not be to have You bless us our way, but to praise You for blessing us Your way. When the ground yields in abundance, make us grateful and ready to share. When it yields little, teach us to trust You and share what little we might have with those in need. In Jesus' forgiving name we pray. Amen. (From **Crossways**® Student Workbook)

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To receive the discount, mention this coupon if ordering by phone or add to the comments section if ordering online.

Discount will be applied to invoice. Valid April 1-30, 2018.

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