



God, War, and Woes

- ❖ What does the Bible say about war?
- ❖ Can the Psalms put words to our woes?
- ❖ When trouble is so near, how does God embrace us?

**Friday & Saturday, February 2 – 3, 2007
at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church,
160 Hill Farm Road, Fairfield, CT 06825**

(Log onto www.oursaviours.net for directions.)

In two different seminars, one prepared for ministers and others interested in the first topic and a second one for the general public, The Rev. Dr. Richard W. Nysse, Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN will give presentations and lead discussions to help answer those questions and others you may have. Professor Nysee received the Th.D. degree from Harvard Divinity School in 1984. He is the author of "An Analysis of the Greek Witnesses to the Text of the Lament of David," in *The Hebrew and Greek Texts of Samuel*, edited by Emanuel Tov (1980). For more information, log onto http://www.luthersem.edu/faculty/fac_bio.asp?contact_id=rnysse

Friday, February 2, 2006, 1:30 – 3:00 pm “God and War in the Old Testament”

God's association with war in the Old Testament has been a problem for the Judeo-Christian heritage. It has figured in Anti-Semitism and in Christian movements that are decidedly other-worldly. The urge in much of the church simply to ignore the Yahweh-is-a-Warrior language is often expressed in terms of compassion for other nations, repulsion regarding violence, and concern for emphasizing God's gracious characteristics. All are positive motivations, but we should ask ourselves if they are potentially, if not actually, a mask. Perhaps we wish to avoid the hard questions that the reversal of the Yahweh-is-a-Warrior theme asks. Does God stand over against? Does God judge us? Does God war against us? The matter should not be glossed over. If for no other reason, it must be dealt with to remind Christians constantly that their use of the theme has in fact had disastrous effects.

Cost for Friday is \$10 and refreshments will be provided, \$15 for registrations after January 15th

Saturday, February 4, 2006 “Songs of Pain and Songs of Praise: The Psalms ”

The Psalms provide a diverse treasury of prayers for us to pray. Winter is a time to traverse the less familiar Psalms which speak from within about both the darkness of human life and the continued embrace of God. Refuge in God provides no escape from the darker realities of human life. Hope, not escape, characterizes the speech of the Psalms. At least half of the Psalms speak a lamenting note. They offer language for speaking with God when positive thinking fail us. There is room for people to express their own experiences of lament.

9:00- 12:00 pm, First Session 12:00-1:00 pm, Lunch 1:00-2:00 pm, Wrap-up

Cost for Saturday \$15 and an additional \$10 for catered lunch. Yes, you may bring your own lunch. \$20 for late registrations after January 15th. The catered lunch is not available for late registrations.

God, War and Woes Registration Form

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

\$10 Friday afternoon Seminar \$15 Saturday Seminar \$10 Saturday Lunch (a chicken dish)

Make out Check to “Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church” for the appropriated amount and mail to Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 160 Hill Farm Road, Fairfield, CT 06825 ???Questions: Call 203-255-0545