

## Mary Craig

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**From:** Mary Craig  
**Sent:** Monday, February 02, 2009 5:05 PM  
**Subject:** Mary Craig Ministries February 2009 email



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

February, 2009

The wilderness. Some are in it now. Some have been in it in the past, and you know exactly what wilderness wanderings are all about. Some sense they are headed that way. Wilderness wandering is that in-between place where a believer has been brought out of Egypt by the blood of the Lamb and by a great deliverance but does not enter Canaan and his/her inheritance in Christ because of failure to believe and take God at His Word. Now look at the redemption in Christ Jesus, the true servant/son of Israel.

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil (Matthew 4; Luke 4). He had just been baptized by John the Baptist and experienced the delight of the Father and commissioning before the whole spirit world. The Father's Voice rang out clearly that this Jesus is My chosen One, in whom My soul delights, or upon whom My good pleasure has settled.

With this announcement to the spirit world and those present at the time, the Holy Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness. Jesus is filled with the Holy Spirit, fulfills all righteousness, is pure, holy, and good; yet He must begin the time of trial and testing as God's servant son.

For 40 days Jesus ate nothing, fasting. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels ministered to Him. Afterward, He was hungry. And that's exactly when Satan shows up. Satan does not question the fact that Jesus is the beloved Son of God. The Greek is really, "Since you are the Son of God..." Israel had succumbed in the wilderness. Jesus must succeed.

At this exact point, the temptations occur in the super-sensual, supernatural realm. Satan devises His temptations according to Jesus' divine sonship. We might say it this way, today: Hey, you are all la-de-da and have this high position, privilege, prestige, power, as to be so favored, so you shouldn't have to endure hunger like regular folks or humble yourself like some servant. You shouldn't have to demonstrate that you were chosen to govern the kingdoms of the world by suffering the way of the cross. So come on, you're the Messiah. Why should you be humiliated? You're the most powerful and only God-man around. Exercise your power and get to your goals the easy way. Live the Dream.

Satan assumes Jesus' entitlement to divine care and to the kingdoms of the world. He assumes the powers, privileges, and prerogatives of Jesus as Messiah. He doesn't doubt who Jesus is; he affirms Him. Adam yielded to the lust of the flesh. Let's see what the Son of God will do. Command the stone to become bread. Even if others are suffering, why should you? The kingdoms are there for the taking. Look and see and give in to the lust of the eyes. Take some pride in your life. Go outside the box. The tree in the garden was seen as desirable to make one wise. Throw yourself down from this pinnacle. Work the Word, man.

In October of 1997, the Holy Spirit prepared me for a 40 day fast with this passage. Such fasts of only water are Spirit-led and Spirit-sustained. The 40 day fast is about Source...the Source of Life, the Source of Satisfaction, and the Source of Destiny. God is the Source and Sustainer of Life. We are subject to the Word of God and are not to misuse position and power for personal preservation. We are not to question God's goodness and love (*hesed*).

Who satisfies? A onetime worship of Satan would eliminate the necessity of the cross and disqualify Jesus as Messiah. Satan wants worship. He may be the prince of the power of the air with influence over the world and ruler of this age, but the kingdoms of this world belong to Christ (Psalm 2; Psalm 22, Psalm 24, Psalm 110, Mathew 6.13), only first the Son must suffer, die, and be resurrected (Luke 24.25-27). Worship and service go hand in hand. You worship what you serve. You serve what you worship. God is the Source of satisfaction, power, throne, authority, dominion. We are not to misuse position and power for personal promotion and profit. We are not to question God's promise, His hope, or His ways, which often run contrary to that of the world.

God is the Source of destiny. When tempted to throw Himself down because the promise in Scripture is that the angels have charge over you to keep you and they will bear you up, Jesus refused, calling it tempting God. This is a big one as our culture turns to living the dream, taking destiny into your own hands, getting in the face of God to get what you want. Neither Satan nor self determine our destiny. God does. To do otherwise is to tempt God, to put Him to the test. We must not question the Father's faithfulness by forcing the proving of a promise. We misuse power and position for personal protection and self-assertion when we fail to subject ourselves to the will of God and fail to live a life of self-denial (humility). Only through God's way of redemption do we have the covering of divine protection.

Word, worship, and will, true spiritual authority is at stake in the wilderness temptations. Israel failed, just as Adam had failed. We will face the same tests, and we will fail them apart from the grace that is in Jesus Christ. The anti-Christ will be offered the kingdoms of this world if he will bow down and worship Satan, and the anti-Christ will succumb out of personal ambition and pride of life. But those who see their sinfulness will recognize the Anointed One in their midst. That One is Jesus Christ and that's why Jesus came---to be our Messiah, not just the savior/messiah of one nation called Israel or one people group, but the Savior of all who come to Him in faith believing. (John 1, John 3)



How well do you know Jesus Christ? Your life may depend on it. And this month we are delving into His Person and Work at Craighouse. Join us as we grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

On Tuesdays, Rev. Jim Craig teaches English grammar via the gospel of John for those who want to improve their English and communication/writing skills. On Wednesdays, Dr. Mary Craig leads a devotional study of the Bible, Genesis to Revelation, taking a look at each Book's overall message and outline and then zooming in on the 3.16 passage as it occurs. On Fridays, Dr. Mary Craig begins an in depth study of Christ for those curious about who Jesus is, for those who are new believers, and for those who want to dig deeper into the riches of Christ. Sundays, we worship at 4:30 p.m. Our movie night this month will be the intriguing testimonies of five individuals who were saved by direct confrontation with Jesus. "More Than Dreams" inspires and builds faith as you see Jesus in action, saving,

healing, and delivering. Dinner and a Movie—be there February 15<sup>th</sup>. And then notice our Fellowship Dinner and presentation of the Israel, Jordan, and Egypt mission Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. We were there during Election Day here in the USA. Get in step with the Holy Spirit as He is about to roar with a roar that will be heard over the entire Middle East.



Regular schedule:



Sundays, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Celebrate Grace!

Rev. Jim Craig, Senior Pastor

Communion served first Sunday of the month



Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

English Course of NT Book of John

With Rev. Jim Craig



Wednesdays, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

“3.16: A Devotional Study of the Bible”

With Dr. Mary Craig



Fridays, 7:30 p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

“Who Is Jesus Christ?” The Truth that sets people free!

Worship & Ministry of Holy Spirit in activating gifts, anointing, healing, & deliverance follow Bible study with Dr. Mary Craig



114 E. McNab Road  
(in the Pompano Plaza)  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060  
954-491-7270

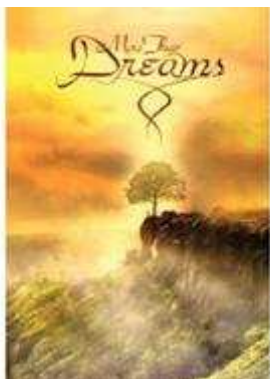
[www.craighouse.org](http://www.craighouse.org)

[www.marycraig.org](http://www.marycraig.org)

**Special Events:**



**Sunday, February 15th, join us for dinner and a movie after the 4:30 p.m. worship service. Get inspired!**



Come & be blessed!  
Grow in grace at Craighouse.

5 stories – chosen from hundreds of other stories  
– of Muslims receiving dreams and/or visions of Jesus coming to them to offer a real relationship with God.

Each testimony provides a reenactment interspersed with interviews of the actual person,



done in the original languages with English sub-titles. Reviewers describe this docudrama as awe-inspiring, with ethnic/geographic diversity (Indonesia, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, and Nigeria), realistic portrayals, and as a must see.

\*\*\*\*\* rating



**Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1:30 p.m.**

**Mary Craig Ministries, Inc. Board Meeting**



**Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.**

**Fellowship Dinner and Members' Meeting followed by a Presentation of the recent mission to Israel, Jordan, and Egypt**

**Pastors:**

Rev. Jim Craig  
Dr. Mary Craig



**Craighouse®: Where Christ is exalted and His people grow in grace.**