

## Lost: A Search for Meaning

By Christian Piatt | Chalice Press

**T**hough analyzing a secular television show with a Christian slant might seem tricky, Christian Piatt does it well in his study of the theology and meaning in ABC's hit show "Lost."

Readers don't have to be avid fans of the show, but having watched the relevant episodes helps bring the book's content to life.

Chapters start with relevant examples from the show, then go on to explain and give historical and real-life examples relating to the same struggles the characters are facing.

Fans of "Lost" know that numbers figure heavily in the

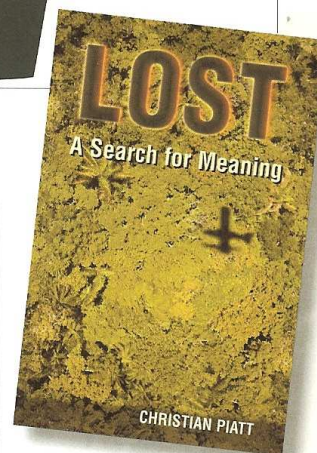
show. In his opening chapter, Piatt explores the roles numbers and symbols play in the show and in religions. He then relates the most common set of numbers in the show to various religions.

In subsequent chapters, Piatt deals with themes of light and dark, salvation, the concept of "Others," faith and reason, and faith and destiny.

The final two chapters look at the end days and the theory that the "Lost" castaways are in purgatory. Piatt acknowledges that the purgatory theory has been dispelled by the show's producers... but the topic continues to pop up.

For example, the castaways find a manuscript written by deceased passenger Gary Troup. Piatt points out that "Gary Troup" is an anagram for purgatory. He lists a variety of references to purgatory that reveal the writers' fascination with the topic. Then he explores why some believe purgatory exists and some don't.

Though the book is connected to a TV show, it is by no means light reading. Piatt has spent time and research on this project. He doesn't shy away from hard-hitting religious topics. Instead, he brings them out into the open and explores their history in an intelligent and



well-written manner.

Each chapter ends with recommended scripture readings, questions to ponder, additional reading, and suggested episodes to watch. With these resources, the book could easily be used in a book club or Bible study.

— Reviewed by  
Stacey Shannon.