

50+ Sunday School Class

All Saints Presbyterian Church
Austin, TX

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Christ in the Minor Prophets

All Saints Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX
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Winter-Spring 2020

Taught by Rev. Craig Chapman

Christ in the Minor Prophets

Class Schedule – Winter/Spring 2020

New Series – Christ in the Minor Prophets

- Jan 12 – 1: *Hosea* (14)
- Jan 19 – 2: *Joel* (3)
- Jan 26* – Guest speaker: Rev. John Trapp. (9:15: Baptism Class)
- Feb 2 – 3: *Amos* (9)
- Feb 9* – Guest speaker: Rev. Jordan Griesbeck
- Feb 16* – Guest speaker: Daniel Wang
- Feb 23 – 4: *Obadiah* (1)
- Mar 1 – 5: *Jonah* (4)
- Mar 8 – 6: *Micah* (7). (9:15: Eucharist Class)
- Mar 15 – No Class (Coronavirus Crisis begins)
- Mar 22 – No Class (Spring Break)

Christ in the Minor Prophets

Class Schedule – Winter/Spring 2020

New Series – Christ in the Minor Prophets

- Mar 29 – 7: *Nahum* (3)
- Apr 5* – 8: *Habakkuk* (3) or Guest Speaker: Isaac Banegas
- Apr 12 – No Class (Easter)
- Apr 19 – 9: *Zephaniah* (3)
- Apr 26 – 10: *Haggai* (2)
- May 3* – Guest speaker: Kim Hall
- May 10 – 11: *Zechariah* (14)
- May 17 – 12: *Malachi* (4)
- May 24 – Class Resumes in September

* - Craig away/preaching

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Questions

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- World of Nahum
 - Mid to late 7th C. BC
 - World's leading empire was Assyria (capital was Ninevah)
 - After 8th C. BC
 - Matthew 12:41
The men of Nineveh ... repented at the preaching of Jonah
 - The descendants of Ninevah/Assyria fell back to their old ways and proved unfaithful. They later conquered Israel's northern 10 tribes and deported the people.
 - Judah remained under constant threat

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- World of Nahum
 - The wickedness of Assyria/Ninevah had returned/grown
 - Nahum 3:1
Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder—no end to the prey!

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- World of Nahum
 - The wickedness of Assyria/Ninevah had returned/grown
 - Nahum 3:1
Woe to the bloody city, all full of lies and plunder—no end to the prey!
 - James Montgomery Boice
[describing Ninevah's bloody violence:]
The utter fiendishness of impaling defeated soldiers on stakes, skinning commanders alive, cutting off limbs, noses, and ears, putting out eyes, heaping up skulls in the city squares, and burning vast numbers alive was without parallel in the ancient world.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Message of Nahum
 - Speaks into the twilight of the Assyrian Empire
 - A sequel to Jonah's prophecy:
Repent! Turn to the God of Grace!
 - God's grace has its limits
 - God's judgment against Assyria/Ninevah is coming
 - God is Coming As Judge & Warrior
 - God is Coming As Deliverer

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- God is Coming As a Judge & Warrior

- Nahum 1:2-6

The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies. ³ The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. ⁴ He rebukes the sea and makes it dry; he dries up all the rivers; Bashan and Carmel wither; the bloom of Lebanon withers. ⁵ The mountains quake before him; the hills melt; the earth heaves before him, the world and all who dwell in it. ⁶ Who can stand before his indignation? Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- God is Coming As Deliverer

- Nahum 1:7

The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- God is Coming As Deliverer
 - Nahum 1:7
The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.
 - Willem VanGemeren
“Every judgment on the wicked confirms his promise of protection given to all who suffer, trusting and waiting the justice of God.”
 - God promises to be a refuge in the coming storm for those who trust in him.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- God is a Promise-Keeper
 - 612 BC
 - Babylonians surrounded Ninevah for over 2 months
 - Breached the walls and destroyed Ninevah/Assyria
 - The imagery of God the Warrior coming against Ninevah as a Storm may have also been literal ...
- Questions

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a Judge
- Jesus is a Warrior
- Jesus is a Deliverer

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a **Judge**
 - John 5:22
The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a Judge
 - Nahum 1:3

The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.
 - Consider how Nahum selectively quotes from Exodus 34
 - Exodus 34:6-7

The LORD passed before [Moses] and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, ***a God merciful and gracious***, slow to anger, and ***abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,*** ⁷ ***keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin,*** but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a Judge
 - Paul made Nahum's point at Mars Hill
 - Acts 17:30-31
The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a Judge
 - Paul warned the Romans

- Romans 2:3-5

Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God? ⁴ Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? ⁵ But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a Judge
 - RC Sproul

“God’s grace is not infinite. God is infinite and God is gracious. We experience the grace of an infinite God, but grace is not infinite. God sets limits to His patience and forbearance. He warns us over and over again that someday the ax will fall and his judgment will be poured out.”

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a **Warrior**
 - We've seen how Nahum describes God as a “cloud rider” who comes like a storm to utterly vanquish his enemies.
 - Look at how Jesus is depicted at his Second Coming.
 - Matthew 24:30
Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a Warrior
 - We've seen how Nahum describes God's war-making power as impacting the whole earth
 - Look at how Jesus is depicted at his Second Coming.
 - 2 Peter 3:10
The day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.
 - Revelation 6:16-17
...calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷ for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a Warrior
 - Revelation 19:11
I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.
 - At both His Second Coming, and also in this Present Age
 - 1 Corinthians 15:25
He must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
 - Westminster Shorter Catechism Q/A 26
Q: How does Christ execute the office of a king?
A: ... in subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a Warrior-King
 - The Bible presents only 2 categories of people
 - Subjects of Christ
 - Enemies of Christ
 - We're all born Enemies of Christ ...
 - Ephesians 2:3
We all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a Warrior-King
 - We need to be reconciled to Christ by faith (Romans 5:10); otherwise, we're destined to destruction
 - Philippians 3:18-19
Many ... walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.
 - Hebrews 10:26-27
For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, ²⁷ but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a Deliverer
 - Nahum tells Judah to rejoice: God's work of judgment on Ninevah will bring them peace and deliverance
 - Nahum 1:15
Behold, on the mountains the feet of him who brings good news, who announces peace! Celebrate your feasts, O Judah; pay your vows. For never again will the wicked one pass through you; he is cut off completely. [NASB]

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is a Deliverer
 - Similarly, the work of Jesus on the enemies of God's people bring us Deliverance
 - Ephesians 6:12
We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places
 - Jesus delivers us from our enemies:
Sin, Satan & Death

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is Our Deliverer from Sin
 - John 1:29
Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!
 - Romans 6:18
Thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart ... ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is Our Deliverer from Satan
 - 1 Peter 5:8
Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
 - Revelation 20:10
The devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is Our Deliverer from Death
 - Romans 6:23
The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 - John 3:16
...whoever believes in [Christ] should not perish but have eternal life
 - 1 Corinthians 15:21
As by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Jesus is Our Deliverer from Death
 - 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

“Death is swallowed up in victory.” ⁵⁵ “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Luke 23:43

Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise
 - 1 Corinthians 15:25-26

[Christ] must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Christ in the Minor Prophets – Mar 29 - Nahum

- Question:
What difference should this make on Monday?

Prayer Requests



Next Week

- April 5 – 8: *Habakkuk* (3) or Guest Speaker