

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

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Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofchrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—31
Wednesday—
Contribution—\$1448

For meditation:
Proverbs 30.1–3
Chapters 30 & 31
are often considered
a supplement to
Solomon's proverbs.
What does Agur say
about himself?
What virtue lies
behind Agur's
statement?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

Three prophets warn the rulers

In **Jonah**, God tells the rulers of this world that He loves them and is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

In **Micah**, God warns the rulers of this world, "I know what you're doing; I know the evil you're planning and doing; *don't make me come down there!*" (Mic. 1.2–3). Further, Micah gives the quintessential instruction to those who bear the weight of tyrannical oppression: **look to God** to make things right, **wait for God** to make things right, **know that God** will make things right (7.7).

In **Nahum** God unleashes His wrath on the nations of the world who refused His love and ignored His warnings. "The Lord avenges and is furious. The Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries. And He reserves His wrath for His enemies" (1.2).

In a time like this, when the institutions of government are increasingly turned against believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, it's good to remember these lessons from the prophets:

God will not allow sin to go unpunished.

Jonah didn't want the Ninevites to get away with the evil for which they were known. Although God is slow to anger (Jon. 4.2, Nah. 1.3), it's not true that He never gets angry. And when He does, woe to him who is the object of His anger.

God is aware of the entrenched wrong in a nation. He knows what the deep state is up to.

Wicked governments/nations will ultimately suffer what wickedness must suffer. Let the Jonahs among us rest assured: the Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

When He Comes

There's a King and Captain high,
Who'll be coming by and by;
And He'll find me hoein' cotton when He comes.
You will hear His legions charging
In the thunders of the sky,
And He'll find me hoein' cotton when He comes.

When He comes, when He comes,
All the dead will rise in answer to His drums.
While the fires of His encampment
Stir the firmament on high
And the heavens are rolled asunder when he comes.

He was hated and rejected,
He was scourged and crucified,
But He'll find me hoein' cotton when He comes.

When He comes, when He comes,
He'll be ringed with saints and angels when He comes.
They'll be shoutin' out hosannas
To the Man that men denied,
And I'll kneel among my cotton when He comes.
Unknown

Sermon: 2 Peter 3.14–18

Four Final Imperatives

5 May 2024

Crucified

Christ died at a place called *Golgotha*, a Hebrew/Syriac word meaning “skull.” Whether it was called this because its shape resembled a skull (Google “Gordon’s Calvary,” and you will see a picture of the “skull”) or because the skulls of other crucifixion victims were scattered around the site is a question that has not been settled in 2,000 years. The exact *spot* of *Calvary* (from the Latin word for skull) has a strong historical tradition behind it and places it in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. (The Crimean War—the Charge of the Light Brigade, Florence Nightingale, etc.—between England/France and Russia broke out over a dispute involving the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.)

Four forms of capital punishment—the *Four Executions of the Court*—were recognized by the Jews: stoning, burning, beheading, and strangling. It was the Romans who crucified. It’s believed Rome adopted the practice from the Carthaginians, who were among the cruelest of the ancient peoples. The cross of Christian artists has traditionally been the *crux immissa*. Halfway up the upright wood of the cross was a slight projection known as the *sedile*, or seat. This took part of the victim’s weight, which would otherwise have been too great for the outstretched hands to bear. Cords might be used instead of nails to affix the victim to the cross.



Death was always a lingering doom. Sometimes the executioner’s, tiring of the victim’s agony, would dispatch him with the *crurifragium*, or the breaking of the legs.

Crucifixions were always executed outside city gates and in prominent places near roads in order that publicity might be given to the agony of the condemned and to the crime for which he had been sentenced. It was customary to leave the main upright of a cross in position at a recognized place of execution and the only other portion necessary, the cross-beam, was carried by the victim on his shoulders to the place of death. Artists who picture the Lord bowed beneath the weight of an entire cross are probably wrong.

Modern artists also err in giving too great a height to the cross. It was considered sufficient if the victim’s feet just cleared the ground.

Isn’t it marvelous thing how a torture meant to impose the maximum agony and humiliation became a symbol of life?

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Arkeology

In a chapter titled “Arkeology 1971,” the eminent apologist J. W. Montgomery asked, “Is there enough evidence for the thinking person to believe that Noah’s ship or a substantial vestige of it remains on Greater Ararat in Turkey?”

Every once in a while, you’ll come across a headline like this one from 2023: “Archaeologists Think They Might Have Found the Real Noah’s Ark.” Most articles with a title like this end up talking about a “boat-shaped formation” of some sort, or evidence of human activity at an altitude above the normal range of human habitation. The boat-shaped formations always turn out to be oddly shaped rock formations; and the human activity doesn’t get close to proving the active humans were Noah and his family.

What is found atop mountains are sediments laid down by water, which you would expect if there was a world-wide flood, and in these sediments are found billions of dead things, including sea creatures. Without a world-wide flood, it’s hard to understand how all these sea creatures ended up atop a mountain. Those who give no credence to the evidence for a world-wide flood have to do what Peter said of the scoffers in 2 Peter 3—willingly forget the evidence that is staring them in the face.

In *The Quest for Noah’s Ark*, Montgomery writes that based on a year-long study of the literary sources of those who claimed to have actually seen Noah’s Ark on Mt. Ararat, “the continued existence of the Ark on Ararat is one of the strongest traditions relating to biblical history—a tradition far stronger than those which have been successfully employed by modern Palestinian archeologists as keys to their discoveries attesting the accuracy of biblical accounts” (293).

The search will continue by those who can afford it and get Turkish permission to search the restricted north face of Ararat. It would be nice to find the Ark, but our Christian faith stands firm whether it is ever found or not.

kenny

News about us

- Gavin Johnson had a serious dirt bike accident this past Wednesday. He is in Carle Hospital awaiting surgery to repair his right hip.
- Pray for Dave, Donna, Jerry, Tom, Kellee, and all of us.