

The Sign of Jonah (2)

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(continued from last week)

Now, let us make some observations in application. (1) The scribes and Pharisees believed and used the Old Testament Scriptures to support their lives and livelihoods. We know this because they appealed to Scripture all the time, but when it would come to the “*sign of Jonah*,” “*as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be...*”, they would reject this. (2) Note again, in this immediate context, Jesus implies they are a wicked and adulterous (idolatrous) generation because they sought a sign, but they had no real faith or belief in the evidence of Jesus’ life. (3) Jesus makes tremendous application when He reminds them of the reception of Jonah’s preaching by (Assyrians) Gentiles. The Ninevites repented at his preaching, but they would not repent at Jesus’s preaching who was far greater and was in their very presence. He also refers to and reminds them through scriptural history of what they claimed to believe, relative to the queen of the South (Sheba) rising in Judgment, as a witness against them for she came to hear Solomon’s wisdom, but they would not hear Jesus’.

Consider then the proof and evidence of the Scriptures they believed and adhered to, but the “signs” right in front of them they rejected. The sign of Jonah was to be fulfilled at the resurrection of Christ which is the most powerful sign man will ever experience before the Last Day. That sign is rejected by the masses. As a result of rejecting the resurrection of Jesus, the Jewish nation was destroyed quite literally! Consider the hypocrisy of the world then, as with the elites, scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and others of that day, all who claimed scriptural heritage, the basis for their economy, culture, faith, and religion, but rejected openly the many miracles and signs that were performed by Jesus in their very presence. John recorded: “*And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*” (John 20:30-31).

Sadly, today, the sign of Jonah is very much able to save one’s soul, but one must hear it, believe it, know it, repent of their sins, and be baptized, raised to life as Jesus was by the faith of the operation of God (cf., Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12). Therefore, it is ironic that the same scriptural evidence that was rejected then, is the basis for judging one’s life faithful or hypocritical today! (Cf., John 12:48). The word of God is the only “sign” we will receive this side of eternity before the Lord returns! Don’t miss the Sign of Jonah!