

**Mt.12.41-42 - SERMON NOTES**  
**“The Last Sentence” #174 July 3, 2022**

**Prove It! ...**

- + The demand for a sign was hypocritical since the people had just rejected such a sign (12.22–37).
- + The hypocritical demand for a sign exposed the wickedness of these people (12.39).
- + Jesus offered the supreme sign of his identity by his resurrection from the dead (12.40).
- + Scribes & Pharisees were more **wicked** than notorious **Gentiles who ultimately repented** (12.41-42).

**JESUS' REPLY vv.39–40**

The request for a sign reflected the **wicked** expectations of *“an evil and adulterous generation.”* During the Babylonian captivity Jews had forsaken **formal** idolatry. In its place they erected idols of man-made **tradition** in which they trusted & put their hope.

A faithful Jew **accepted** the Father's Son when He came - because anyone rightly related to the Father would **recognize** the Son. (Lk.2.25–38; Mt.3.14; Mt.4.20–22; Mk.3.13; Lk.5.27–28; Jn.1.41, 49).

Because faithful Jews knew the Father, they knew the Son &  
did not need a sign to verify His identity.

Giving a sign, as requested would be utterly **contrary** to God's nature & plan.

The O.T. contains 2 kinds of prophecy regarding Christ:

- + One is what may be called the verbally **predictive**,
  - ❖ in which specific & sometimes **detailed** predictions are given.

Such prophecies include those:

- That the Christ would be born of a **virgin** (Is.7.14),
- That He would be a descendant of **David**
  - ✓ ... who would rule the entire earth with justice & righteousness (Je.23.5), &
- That He would be born in **Bethlehem** (Mi.5.2).
- + The 2<sup>nd</sup> type of messianic prophecy is **typical**,
  - ❖ in which an O.T. person or event **foreshadowed** the person or work of Christ.

Jesus obviously believed in the full **literalness** of the biblical account of Jonah.

Jesus also verified the **authenticity** of Jonah's account of Himself.

- + It was the final sign Jesus directly gave to the world of His **messianic** credentials & **saving** power.

The resurrection was the last sign given *to the world* that involved Jesus directly.

His own **resurrection**, would be the only **sign** from heaven the religious leaders would receive.

When a person is confronted with the **living** Christ & with His **atonement** death & resurrection,  
... the matter of that person's eternal **destiny** is determined.

**II. THE LAST SENTENCE vv.41–42**

Because of the Assyrians sincere **repentance** & **belief**, *“God relented concerning the calamity which He had declared He would bring upon them. And He did not do it”* (Jonah 3.10).

They had no previous knowledge of God yet their **repentance** of sin & their **belief** in God:

- ✓ brought them spiritual salvation &
- ✓ spared them physical destruction.

Jonah did not preach a message of **hope** but of judgment:

*“Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown”* (Jonah 3:4).

✚ The prophet **despised** the Ninevites & preached to them only under the Lord’s compulsion.

Israel was the **chosen** covenant people of God - privileged to have been given His special blessings.

Yet her people would not **repent** & turn from their sin even when God’s own Son was there.

The Sabeans (people from the South) were an extremely **prosperous** people.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

✚ Jesus is greater than **Jonah** - He is the God of the prophets not just a mere prophet of God.

✚ Jesus is greater than Solomon because he is a perfect & **eternal king**.