

CONDEMNATION FOR REJECTING CHRIST  
(Matthew 12:38-42)

- I. The Ultimate SIGN (Matt. 12:38-40)
  - A. The CHALLENGE (12:38)
    1. Presented by the SCRIBES and PHARISEES
      - a. Known as supreme INTERPRETERS and TEACHERS of the Law
      - b. Known for RIGID FORMALISM
    2. Demanded a SIGN to PROVE Jesus' AUTHORITY
      - a. May have wanted a PROPHETIC PREDICTION
      - b. May have wanted a SPECTACULAR MIRACLE
  - B. The REPLY (12:39-40)
    1. Denounced as “an EVIL and ADULTEROUS generation”
      - a. Knew their HYPOCRISY
      - b. Knew their IDOLATRY
    2. Declared they would have NO SIGN but the “sign of JONAH”
      - a. His RETURN from three days and nights in the “BELLY of the SEA MONSTER”

- b. Depicts Jesus' RESURRECTION after three days and nights in the "HEART of the EARTH"

## II. The Ultimate SENTENCE (Matt. 12:41-42)

- A. Contrast with the MEN of NINEVEH (12:41; cf. Jonah 3:5-6)
  - 1. They "REPENTED at the PREACHING of JONAH"
    - a. Who performed NO MIRACLES
    - b. Who preached a message of JUDGMENT
  - 2. You REJECTED one GREATER than JONAH
    - a. Who performed THOUSANDS OF MIRACLES
    - b. Who preached a message of FORGIVING GRACE
  - 3. They will RISE to testify AGAINST YOU in the JUDGMENT
- B. Contrast with the "QUEEN of the SOUTH" (12:42; cf. 1 Kings 10:1-13)
  - 1. She PURSUED the WISDOM of SOLOMON
  - 2. You REJECTED one GREATER than SOLOMON
  - 3. She will RISE to testify AGAINST YOU in the JUDGMENT
- C. There is no GREATER SIN than REJECTION of CHRIST
  - 1. The problem is NEVER a SHORTAGE of EVIDENCE
  - 2. The problem is ALWAYS a HARDNESS of HEART