

## The Sign of Jonah is Given to Us.

**Matthew 12:38-45** (Page 972 in the pew Bible) Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, "Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you." 39 But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. 42 The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

43 "When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, but finds none. 44 Then it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds the house empty, swept, and put in order. 45 Then it goes and brings with it seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there, and the last state of that person is worse than the first. So also will it be with this evil generation."

### 1. For our generation there is only one sign. V. 39

**1 Corinthians 1:22-24** For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

**Matthew 27:42** "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.

### 2. Jesus says: "Take your cue from the sign of Jonah and the Queen of Sheba." V. 39;

**Jonah 1:17, 2:10** And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights... And the Lord spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

**1 Kings 10:1-3** Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions... And when she came to Solomon, she told him all that was on her mind. 3 And Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her.

### 3. Do you acknowledge that One greater than Jonah and Solomon has come? Vs. 41-42

**Acts 2:23-24** this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

**Romans 1:4** and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Colossians 2:2-3** ...to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

**Acts 2:38** And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

### 4. The jury will rise and bring their verdict against those who refuse the Lordship of Christ. Vs. 41-45

**Revelation 20:12-13** And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done.

**Jonah 2:9** "Salvation belongs to the Lord!"

### 5. Live out your hope in the sign of Jonah!

**2 Corinthians 4:14-16** knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. 15 For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. 16 So we do not lose heart.

**Philippians 3:20-21** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

*In preparation for this message Pastor John is grateful for the insights of Daniel Ragusa, Tim Keller and Scott Harris.*

*Would you like a digital version of today's sermon? It is available at [bit.ly/nsc sermonnotes](http://bit.ly/nsc sermonnotes). This website enhancement is the result of a recommendation from our church family. Thank you! Have ideas, we'd appreciate your input at NSCCOysterBay@gmail.com*



209 South Street, Oyster Bay, NY 11771  
northshorecommunitychurch.com