

**HOW CAN ONE ESCAPE ETERNAL JUDGMENT?
THE TRUE NATURE AND DESTINY OF THOSE WHO REJECT CHRIST
Matthew 12:38-45**

- I. REALIZE REJECTION OF CHRIST WILL EVENTUALLY BE MANIFEST IN YOUR WORDS: The unbelieving scribes and Pharisees seek to discredit Christ by requesting for a sign (38 & ch.12)**

- II. REALIZE IT IS THE EVIL AND ADULTEROUS WHO REJECT CHRIST: Jesus unveils their true evil and adulterous nature, refusing to give them their request, yet pointing to the ultimate sign, His prophesied resurrection from the dead (39-40)**
 - A. Jesus reveals their true nature and state before Him: They are evil and adulterous (39a)

 - B. Jesus makes it clear there will be no more signs but the last one, the sign of Jonah (39b-40)

- III. BE WARNED, REJECTION OF CHRIST BRINGS ETERNAL CONDEMNATION: Jesus, infinitely greater than Jonah and Solomon, declares impending judgment of this evil and adulterous generation, because of their rejection of Him (41-42)**
 - A. Since the Men of Nineveh repented at Jonah's preaching, how much more should have this generation repented at Christ's preaching, who is infinitely greater...therefore they stand condemned (41)

 - B. Since the Queen of Sheba went so far out of her way to seek wisdom through Solomon concerning the Lord, how much more should have this generation sought Christ, who is infinitely greater...therefore they stand condemned (42)

- IV. A SOBERING ILLUSTRATION FOR THOSE WHO REJECT CHRIST: Jesus warns of the last dreadfully wicked state of those who clean up their act religiously apart from Him (43-45)**