

**HOW CAN ONE ESCAPE ETERNAL JUDGMENT?  
THE TRUE NATURE AND DESTINY OF THOSE WHO REJECT CHRIST**  
An Addendum to the Book of Jonah  
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 asking 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)
  
  - C. **The sign of Jonah Explained: The Son of Man will put to death, buried and then resurrected after three days** (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 and, in their midst...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)