

THE SIGN OF THE PROPHET JONAH

30/5/21

... Is only one of approximately 350 prophecies fulfilled by Jesus Christ that were recorded up to 4000 years before he was born. Prophecies act as signs and proof of the credibility of God and of his ability to save people from certain death. The salvation message Jesus made possible, is also built upon prophetic signs, miracles and wonders. The sign of speaking in tongues is the conformation of being anointed by the Spirit. The sign of the prophet Jonah is a precursor to the salvation message that Jesus provided and described.

Despite miracles and wonders, many were completely confused by the type of sign that would reveal the proof of the saviour and the proof of salvation.

The Prophecy. MAT 12:38 Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, Master, we would see a sign from thee (There were already thousands of signs from the miracles he had done, but they wanted a specific sign that he was who he said he was... the Son of God, the saviour of the people). **39** But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign (singular) be given to it, but the sign (singular) of the prophet Jonas: **40** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (man's control as opposed to God's). From his betrayal, to his death and resurrection: 3 days and 3 nights passed... he was not in the tomb for three days, but under the control of hearts of evil people (biblical days went from sunset to sunset). The timeline in the bible can clear up these differences if we choose to apply them. **The sign of the prophet Jonah may not be what you think it is.**

Things are not as clear cut as some imagine... there are some conflicting views about what all this means, but the weight of scripture is always the best solution.

The chronology (timing of the 3 days)... starting at the betrayal and ending at the resurrection. MAT 26:1 And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, **2** Ye know that after two days is the feast of the Passover (this enables the timing of his betrayal to be established), and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified. **3** Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, **4** And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill him. Keep in mind that they also wanted to kill Lazarus at this time because he also threatened them with the truth. **JOH 12:10** But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; This was considered acceptable by God's priests?

MAT 26:14 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, **15** And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. **16** And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him. Judas make a contract to betray Jesus... is the beginning of the three days.

Jesus is already betrayed from this time... the contract is agreed and paid, the deal is done and in effect.

JOH 12:30 Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me (Jesus to be glorified again), but for your sakes. **31** Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out (Satan will be defeated... the heart attitude of the earth is going to be defeated). **32** And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. **33** This he said, signifying what death he should die. And the benefits that would flow from his sacrifice.

A new era of Gospel power is about to send signs and wonders flowing upon the earth... to everyone that truly believes.

Working the time line backwards, from his resurrection. LUK 24:17 And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad? **18** And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas (only time mentioned by name in the bible, for a very good reason), answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? **19** And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: **20** And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him. **21** But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day (the first day of the week... Sunday) is the third day since these things were done (Cleopas reveals the precise timeline). **22** Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; **23** And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

Jonah's 3 days in the fish and Jesus's 3 days in the hands of evil men, were part of an essential process that enabled the true purpose of God to be revealed.

The fulfilment and sign of Jonah as prophesied and explained. LUK 11:29 And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. **30** For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation. The book of Jonah makes no mention of the great fish in Jonah's conversation with the people of Nineveh... that was not part of his sign to them. Rather, Jonah preached repentance for 40 days before their deliverance was assured... Likewise, Jesus was 40 days on the earth before he went back to heaven and prepared the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. 120,000 people were saved in Nineveh and 120 people were saved at the first outpouring on the day of Pentecost. It is interesting that Peter (Simon 'Barjona', means 'son of Jonah'), first described the salvation message in Acts 2): the word 'dunamis' the power of God, appears 120 times in the New Testament. After his resurrection Jesus revealed the signs that would identify true believers ... **MAR 16:17** And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; & **20** And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.

Just like Jesus, we are now empowered to preach the Gospel with sign and miracles... those who receive the Holy Spirit will speak in tongues (the sign of the anointing).

6 days before the Passover: *John gave a time marker, telling us that this was the last week before the death and burial of Jesus. Almost 50% of John's Gospel is given to this last week. Matthew used more than 33% of his Gospel to cover that week, Mark nearly 40% and Luke over 25% – to seven days of Jesus' entire life.*