

Sermon Outline

“Judgment on Israel”

Matthew 12:38-45

I. Structure of the passage

A The wicked generation seeks a sign vv. 38-39

B The sign of Jonah vv. 40-41

B¹ The testimony of the Queen of the South v. 42

A¹ The wicked generation receives judgment vv. 43-45

Notice the balance in the “sign” and the “testimony”

Jonah goes afar to Ninevah and pronounces judgment.

The Queen comes from afar to hear wisdom.

II. The request for a sign (v. 38) and Jesus’ response (v. 39)

Reaction to Jesus’ claims in vv. 6, 8

Background in Deuteronomy 13:1-3

Moses – Ex 4:1-9, 29-31; 7:8-22

Elijah – I Kg 18:36-39

Jesus cast out demons against the interest of false gods v. 28

III. Jesus’ reply: no new sign for a wicked generation vv. 40-42

The sign of Jonah condemns Israel (Pharisees believed in resurrection)

Israel’s wicked generation receives the judgment of Ninevah

The testimony of the Queen of the South

Gentiles drawn to the wisdom of God, Israel rejects it

IV. Reason for the coming judgment (the house has been cleansed) vv. 43-45

Jesus has entered the strong man’s house v. 29

Those who do not fill the void stand against Jesus v. 30

The testimony of Christ in his three offices:

The greater temple (priest) v. 6

The greater Jonah (prophet) v. 41

The greater Solomon (king/wisdom) v. 42

Summary: The Lord of the Sabbath (Son of Man – God himself)

The wicked generation is adulterous: it rejects all three witnesses and will be filled to perfection with evil and become a habitation of demons.