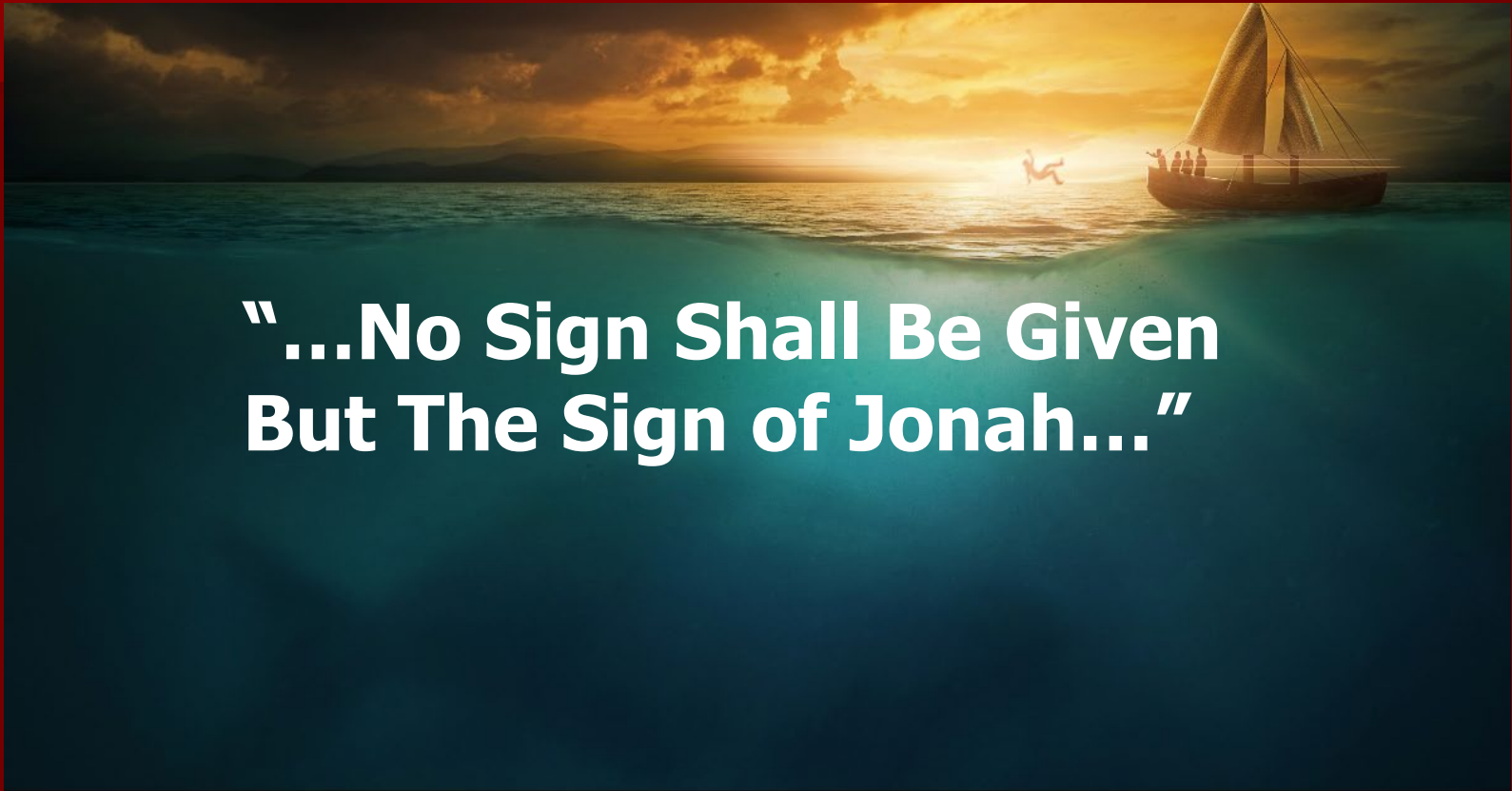


# Message



**“...No Sign Shall Be Given  
But The Sign of Jonah...”**

***Neal Parker***

**“... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”**

■ **Matthew 12:38-42**

- **Pharisees showed their hypocrisy when they asked Jesus for a sign proving that He was the Messiah.**
- **Another miraculous work will not change their minds because they had decided already not to believe Him.**

# **“... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”**

## **■ Matthew 12:1-37**

- **Context shows the hardness of the hearts of the Pharisees.**
- **Context shows the lack of regard for the miracles shown in the form of healings.**



# “... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”

## ■ Sign – “*semeion*”

- When the Pharisees asked for a sign, they wanted a miraculous sign, some miracle that would prove that Jesus is the Savior sent of God.
- *Semeion*, is often translated by the word ‘miracle’ in the NT. A sign can be a miracle. Sometimes it is used of things not supernatural at all.
- This word *semeion*, the sign that the Pharisees asked for, is also used in the expression ‘sign of Jonah.’



# “... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”

## ■ Sign – “*semeion*”

- Often, signs are something that you can see.
- For example in Luke 2:8-16

“In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night...This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger...So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as he lay in the manger.”



# “... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”

## ■ Sign – “*semeion*”

- The word ‘sign’ can have a negative connotation.
- For example in Matthew 26:45-50

“Then He came to the disciples and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.’...While He was speaking, behold, Judas one of the twelve came...he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, ‘Whomever I kiss, He is the one; seize Him’...”



# “... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”

## ■ Generation – “genea”

- In English, generations can refer to a particular group of people in the same period of time. Often, a generation is determined to be 30 years.
- In the Bible, generations can also refer to classes or characterized by quality and condition, for groups of people.
- For example in **Psalm 14**, “...For God is with the righteous generation...”



**“... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”**

**■ Matthew 12:39-40**

- **The point of comparison is between Jonah and the Son of man, as well as between the Ninevites and this generation. Jonah was the sign to the people of Nineveh in the same way that the Son of man is the sign to us in this present age.**
- **‘Three days and three nights.’ This is a clear reference to the resurrection. Jesus will be buried for three days and three nights, and then He will rise again from the dead.**



# **“... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”**

## **■ Matthew 12:39-40**

- **How can the resurrection be a sign to us since we do not see the resurrection? If a miracle is performed in front of you, then that miracle can serve as a sign. But who has seen the resurrection? Then how can the resurrection of Jesus be a sign?**
- **Jesus has already given the sign of the power of resurrections**
  - **John 11 – Resurrection of Lazarus**
  - **Mark 5:21-43 – Resurrection of Jairus’ Daughter**
  - **Luke 7:11-17 – Resurrection of Widow’s Son at Nain**

# **“... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”**

## **■ Luke 11:29-32**

- Jonah became a sign when he spend three days and three nights in the fish. Notice that Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites only after he was three days and three nights in the belly of the fish.**
- In the same way, Jesus would become a sign to this generation, to you and me, in virtue of His death and resurrection. And just as Jonah became a sign after the event, so Jesus becomes a sign to us after the resurrection.**

# “... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”

## ■ Daniel 7:13-14

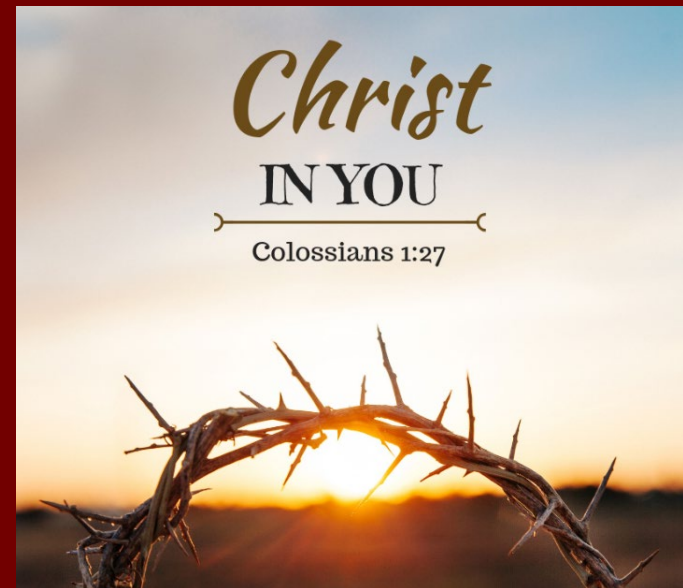
- Son of Man can refer to a specific person (Jesus Christ) or sometimes it refers to many people.
- For example, John 15:1-11, “...I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit...”
- The vine is both one person, Jesus, and all the churches together. Jesus is the vine, but we are also the vine in the sense that we are the branches of that vine.



**“... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”**

## ■ Christ In You

- **Romans 8:9-11**
- **Galatians 2:19-21**
- **Colossians 1:25-29**
- **Ephesians 2:19-22**



**“... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”**

**■ Philippians 3:7-15**

- **The power of the resurrection did not just raise Jesus from the dead over 2000 years ago. The power of the resurrection is here and now operating in the world.**
- ❖ **When we become Christians, we begin to experience the divine power that raised Christ from the dead in our own resurrection from spiritual death to a new life, through baptism (Romans 6:1-9). As we walk in newness of life, the power of the resurrected Christ is now operating in our lives. Our change should be dramatic with repentance.**

# **“... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”**

## **■ Luke 11:29-32**

- The sign of Jonah is the sign of the resurrection. It is the sign of changed lives. This is what the power of the resurrection is about.**
- When the Father and Jesus Christ transforms a person, They take him out of the power of sin where death is, to the power of life, where righteousness is. We become a completely new person.**

# **“... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”**

## **■ Luke 11:29-32**

- The sign is to be seen in His church. Jonah had some of his old character, even though he had been transformed by his experience.**
- Similarly, as disciple of Jesus Christ, we are far from being perfect, even after experiencing God’s transforming power.**
- The sign of Jonah is the sign of the Son of man which is the sign of the church.**

# **“... No Sign Shall Be Given But The Sign of Jonah...”**

## **■ Luke 11:29-32**

- In a sense, Jonah was literally baptized in the water and rose up to a new life.**
- While inside the fish, he offered prayers of thanksgiving for his deliverance from drowning and finally accepted to be used by God. He became a sign to the Ninevites.**
- When we are baptized, like Jonah, we go through the depth of the water and we rise up to a new life.**
- We become a sign to this generation. We are the sign that the world can see.**