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THE SIGN OF JONAH

The word of the Lord came to the Prophet Jonah. He was told “**arise, go to Nineveh....**” (Jonah 1:1-2 KJV). Jonah fled from the call. In a stormy sea, he was cast from the boat. God provided a “great fish” to swallow him. He spent 3 days and 3 nights in the deep of the sea in the dark belly of the fish. Afterward, he went to Nineveh, preached repentance, and Nineveh was saved.

When the skeptical Jews questioned Jesus, they asked Him for a sign. Jesus answered (John 2:19), “**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**” Verse 21, “But he spoke of the temple of His body.” He told the people (Luke 11:29-30 NKJV), “**... (this generation) seeks a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of Jonah the Prophet. For as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so also the Son of Man (a designation of Messiah) will be to this generation.**” Jesus was telling them that just as Jonah was in the “deep dark” for 3 days and three nights, so would He also be in the “deep dark” for 3 days and 3 nights. As He was in the grave for that period of time, he also was in Hades (Sheol) for that time where He preached to the souls there, and at His resurrection, He led them out to ascend with Him to heaven.

As we move along in our study this week of the Passover, His death, and His resurrection, it will be vitally important to remember that He had to be in that tomb for three full days and three full nights. This will expose the Church’s false teaching of “Good Friday.”

Stay with me as we fully examine God’s word, the Holy Bible, in the timeline of Jesus’ death and resurrection, of the day of preparation (Nisan 13). Where church tradition and scripture conflicts, choose to believe scripture over tradition. Scripture is God’s word. Tradition is man’s word.