

“A Generation Judged and Condemned”

Luke 11:29-36

March 19, 2023

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John 1:11-12

11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

John 3:19

19 "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

20 "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

21 "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Matt 23:37-39

37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling.

38 "Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

39 "For I say to you, from now on you will not see Me until you say, 'BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!'"

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- This is the sad reality . . .

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“wicked generation” – How so??

- What do you think of when you think of a wicked generation? Immorality, crime, pornography, adultery, fornication, stealing, murder, etc.
- But, in the context, this is not what Jesus is talking about here.
- Here He is talking about moralism, self-righteousness, self-made religion, legalism – this is what it means to be a wicked generation. This is the nation of Israel – they are: the Moral Majority, the Conservatives, the Right-Wing, the Religious Right.
- The proof of being a wicked generation was that they wanted another sign.
- “We’re not convinced. Give us another sign that will blow us away.”
- It was their way of taunting Jesus.
- They were addicted to signs.
- Thousands and thousands had been performed.
- Jesus says, “You will get 1 more.”
- But it will not be the one they want.
- It will be the sign of Jonah. It will be the final sign that will prove His deity.
- A sign was a confirming miracle that pointed to the reality that what was spoken was genuine and truthful.
- “**sign of Jonah**” was used by Jesus as a typological metaphor for His future crucifixion, burial, and resurrection

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Adam Clarke gives 4 comparisons between Jesus and Jonah -

1. Christ, who preached to the Jews, was infinitely greater than Jonah, in his nature, person, and mission.

2. Jonah preached repentance in Nineveh only forty days, and Christ preached among the Jews for several years.

3. Jonah wrought no miracles to authorize his preaching; but Christ wrought miracles every day, in every place where he went, and of every kind.

4. Notwithstanding all this, the people of Judea did not repent, though the people of Nineveh did.

30 "For just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation."

- Just as Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days, so Jesus is going to be in the belly of the earth for three days. And just as Jonah came out alive, Jesus will come out of death and the grave alive.
- Jonah goes to the Gentle, pagan, Ninevites, preaches judgment for 40 days and the whole city repents.
- **Note:** Jonah performs no signs.
- They know very little about God and had never read the Bible. But they repent.
- The contrast is striking . . .

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- What a story this is. Let's look at it . . .

1 Kings 10:1-13

1 Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with difficult questions.

2 So she came to Jerusalem with a very large retinue, with camels carrying spices and very much gold and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.

3 Solomon answered all her questions; nothing was hidden from the king which he did not explain to her.

4 When the queen of Sheba perceived all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built,

5 the food of his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his waiters and their attire, his cupbearers, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.

6 Then she said to the king, "It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom."

7 "Nevertheless I did not believe the reports, until I came and my eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. You exceed in wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard."

8 "How blessed are your men, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually and hear your wisdom.

9 "Blessed be the Lord your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."

10 She gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and a very great amount of spices and precious stones. Never again did such abundance of spices come in as that which the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon.

11 Also the ships of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir a very great number of almug trees and precious stones.

12 The king made of the almug trees supports for the house of the Lord and for the king's house, also lyres and harps for the singers; such almug trees have not come in again nor have they been seen to this day.

13 King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire which she requested, besides what he gave her according to his royal bounty. Then she turned and went to her own land together with her servants.

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Witness #1: The Queen of Sheba.

- The Queen, a Gentile, a pagan, and a woman (the Jews hated all 3), hears of Solomon's wisdom.
- She travels 1,500 miles (months maybe up to 3 years).
- She is blown away by Solomon's wisdom.
- **Note:** Solomon performed no signs.
- She didn't say, "Show me another sign and I'll believe."
- She became a believer (her declaration and her condemnation) –

1 Kings 10:9

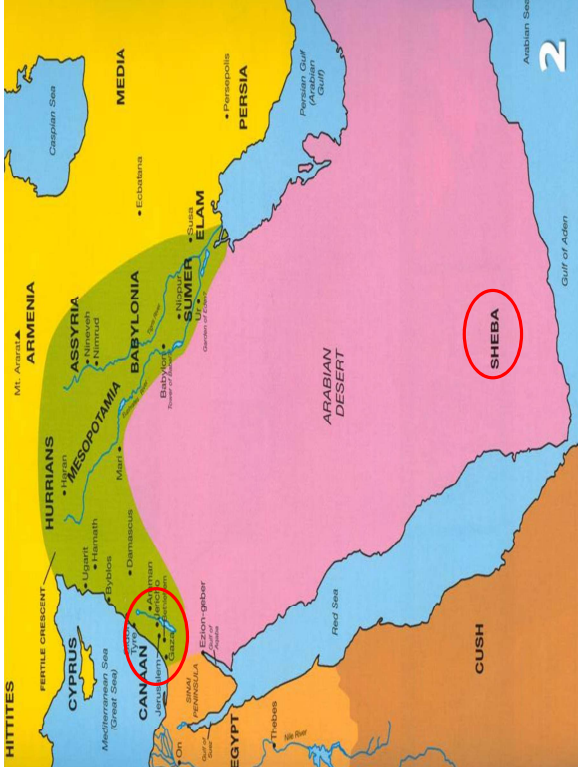
9 "Blessed be the Lord your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness."

- Jesus says to Israel that they have someone greater than Solomon, and you reject Him. How pathetic!
- Like a court trial, the Queen's testimony will be called on to condemn this generation.
- **"condemn"** - "κατακρινω" - to give judgment against, pass sentence upon, pass judgment against, and hence to condemn.
- Her story will be an indictment at the judgment (GWTJ).

32 "The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here."

Witness #2 – The men of Nineveh.

- These men will also give testimony condemning this generation.
- **"condemn"** - "κατακρινω" - to give judgment against, pass sentence upon, pass judgment against and hence to condemn.
- These Gentile men repented. Only had 40 days of preaching by a reluctant preacher. No signs.
- Israel has something greater – Jesus and His gospel message.



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- The reason you light a lamp is so that people can see.
- The reason these people can't see the light, is because they are blind.

Matt 15:14

14 "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

Matt 23:16, 19, 24

16 "Woe to you, blind guide, . . ."

19 "You blind men, . . ."

24 "You blind guides, . . ."

- When blind Jews ask for a sign, they are asking for more light.
- The light was everywhere, they just couldn't see it.
- Another sign will not do any good, regardless of its magnitude.

Luke 16:28

31 "But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

- Every sign, every time the light shines brilliantly, they can't see it.
- They were suffocating in darkness. Overwhelmed by the darkness.

"If you do not see Jesus, it is not because he has hidden himself in darkness, but because your eyes are blinded."

- Charles Spurgeon

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- Those asking for a sign do not need more light; they need their eyes opened to see the light.
- The eye is the part of the body that allows light into the body.
- An open clear eye let's the light in.
- "bad" = evil
- If your eye is clouded with sin or closed because of evil, your whole body is dark with wickedness.
- Again the problem is not with the light. Its abundant. Its there. You just have to be able to see it. They couldn't.

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- Here is the warning.
- You think you have the light, you had better think again.
If you are a Jehovah's Witness and think you have the light, think again - its darkness.
If you are a Roman Catholic and think you have the light, think again - its darkness.
If you are a Mormon and think you have the light, think again - its darkness.
If you are a Moonie and think you have the light, think again- its darkness.
If you are a Hare Krishna, a Rosie Crucian, a Buddhist, Hinduist, New Age, Hasidic Jew, Christian Science, Scientology, Baha'i, Muslim, and think you have the light, think again- its darkness.
- This is where Satan wants people to be.

2 Cor 11:14

14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

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Application

1. Don't be deceived by moralism. It blinds people to the truth.
2. Don't get caught up in being a "sign follower".
3. Moralists who reject Jesus Christ and the gospel will have some 'splaining to do at the Great White Throne Judgment.
4. It is impossible to pass from darkness to light without knowing it.
5. If you are an unbeliever and constantly reject the light of the gospel, some day God is going to turn off the light and you will not have opportunity to receive it.

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- When you become a believer, your eyes are opened and you are flooded with the light of Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:5

5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Ps 119:18

8 Open my eyes, that I may behold
Wonderful things from Your law.

Ps 119:105

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.

2 Cor 5:17

17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

John 8:12

12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

1 Peter 2:9

9 He who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

1 John 1:7

7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

- **Letting in the light at salvation, brings illumination to every area of your life.**