

## “THE SIGN OF THE PROPHET JONAS”

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Lately, there has been a lot of emphasis on explaining what JESUS meant when He told certain Scribes and Pharisees who had asked Him for a “sign” to establish that He was Whom He claimed to be; “The SON of MAN”, “The SON of GOD”, “The MESSIAH”. Sadly, over the years most of us have concentrated too much on what seems to be obvious about “the sign”; that most of us equate the “sign” with it being the time that Jonah spent “in the whale’s belly”; and the time that JESUS spent “in the heart of the earth”. One would have thought that after doing one lesson on this subject that would have been enough.

When I follow my usual program of study to learn what I need to know before I write a lesson; I study first from The BIBLE, and then from the writings of The SPIRIT of PROPHECY, to see what my favourite writer, [that is, other than The BIBLE WRITERS], Sis E G White, has to say on the subject.

Well, I must say that I had a terrific time learning just how little I knew about the subject; even though I had spent so much time in studying this point. That made me realise that I would need to write another lesson in this series. “Three Days and Three Nights”, “The Sign of the Prophet Jonas”, “An Examination of Matt 12:39,40, in Harmony with The Sanctuary Services”. And finally, “Christ the Wavesheaf”.

It has taken me quite a long time to learn that when we read BIBLE texts, we should not just go for the obvious, [as I stated in the first paragraph], but we should pray for GOD to lead us into ALL TRUTH, not just the things that are easy to see, and understand.

I first turned to volume 1 of “The Index to the Writings of E G WHITE”, Scripture Index. The “Scripture Index”, is the most important and helpful aid to understanding The BIBLE that I have ever found, but only if it is used correctly. Sadly, many people do not have access to, or do not check this “Index” and instead, they trust their own feelings, and knowledge on the matter.

First, I turned to Jonah 1:17, and wrote down the references, the name of the book she wrote that mentions the “subject”, and then the page number. Then I went to Matt 12: 38-41 ; 16:4. And I did the same for these references; then I checked my “Concordance” to find out if any other BIBLE writer mentioned the texts that I am studying. Because The OLD TESTAMENT writers spell his name “Jonah”; I must also look at The NEW TESTAMENT name spelt “Jonas”, or “Jona”; otherwise I would not get all the information that I may need. I then found that Luke also wrote about this “Sign”, in Lk 11:29-32.

Most of Sister White’s comments were found in “The Story of Prophets and Kings”, with a few points from “Desire of Ages”, and “Selected Messages” book 11 (2). After writing the titles and page numbers etc, I read everything I can on the matter being studied, to assess the information on the subject.

Now that I have my own photocopying machine, I copy the pages recommended, and then I can underline to my heart’s content; and not spoil the book. And I can read it several times, and I find that each time I read it; I underline more than I had done before. I find this practice helps me to understand a lot more of the finer points than I had over the years, before I changed to this better method of studying.

Jonah 1:17

“Now The LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS”.

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Matt 12:38-42

“Then certain of the scribes and of the Pharisees answered, saying, MASTER, we would see a “SIGN” from Thee. But He answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a “SIGN”; and there shall no “SIGN” be given to it, but the “SIGN” of the prophet Jonas: 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. The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall CONDEMN it: because they REPENTED at the PREACHING of JONAS; and, behold a GREATER than JONAS is HERE. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here”. [JESUS].

Matt 16:1-4

“The Pharisees also with the Saducees came, and tempting desired Him that He would shew them a “SIGN” from HEAVEN. He answered and said unto them. When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the SIGNS of the TIMES? A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a “SIGN”; and there shall NO “SIGN” be given unto it, but the “SIGN” of the prophet Jonas. And He left them, and departed”.

Matthew was the writer of this report of the conversation that JESUS was having with these religious leaders, and it is JESUS speaking in both instances. However, Matthew’s record varies in each instance; as does Luke’s when we read these next verses. We must understand that when we find differences in accounts, this is very necessary in many cases, as we get more detail, this way.

Lk 11:29-32

“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. For as Jonas was a “SIGN” unto the Ninevites, so shall also The SON of MAN be to this generation. The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the utmost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here. The men of Nineve[h] shall rise up in the judgment with this generation and shall condemn it: for they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and behold, a greater than Jonas is here”.

As you can see, I have underlined segments of each quote; notice that Luke did not mention the “time factor” of “THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS”. Now I am inclined to think, as I read both of these quotes, that maybe that “TIME FACTOR” is not perhaps as important as the majority of people think. In Matthew’s first account of the “event” the “THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS” seem to be the “SIGN”. Read it again to reinforce what you are reading.

Both writers mention the fact, “but the “SIGN” of the prophet Jonas”[Matt]; and “but the “SIGN” of Jonas the prophet” [Lk]. Luke, on the other hand mentions something that requires our attention, and that is, “For as JONAS was a “SIGN” unto the Ninevites”.

I think that you will agree, this needs some looking into. Firstly, we are in agreement that the writers of The BIBLE were INSPIRED to write the SCRIPTURES. 2 Pet 1:21, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of MAN: but HOLY MEN of GOD spake as they were moved by The HOLY GHOST”. It was the HOLY MEN of GOD who were inspired; not the words. (If you are reading a modern version; many of them leave out “holy” and just mention “men of GOD”. That’s sad isn’t it?)

“Selected Messages Vol 1 page 21. “The Bible is written by inspired men, but it is not GOD’S mode of thought and expression. It is that of humanity. GOD, as a writer, is not represented. Men will

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often say such an expression is not like GOD. But GOD has not put Himself in words, in logic, in rhetoric, on trial in The Bible. The writers of The Bible were GOD'S penmen, not His pen. Look at the different writers. It is not the words of The Bible that are inspired, but the men that were inspired. Inspiration acts not on the man's words or his expressions but on the man himself, who, under the influence of The HOLY GHOST, is imbued with thoughts. But the words receive the impress of the individual mind. The Divine mind is diffused. The Divine mind and will is combined with the human mind and will; thus the utterances of the man are The WORD of GOD". (emphasis mine).

I do not know how reading that statement has effected you, but, it certainly makes a lot of sense to me; and it had a very good impression on my Sabbath School class when I shared it with them.

Secondly, we must take into consideration that Matthew was an "eyewitness" of the events being recorded and discussed here about Jonas; but Luke was writing what others, including Matthew no doubt, had told this Christian Historian, who was also a Physician. Now don't think for a moment that I think that he was not inspired, he was. And I do think that he saw the need to include at least one detail that Matthew had not. Jonas the Holy man was the "SIGN". Not the "time period" of "three days and three nights".

Now that is quite a statement, isn't it? And I can honestly understand anyone questioning my stating that, but as we develop the reason for the statement, it will become quite clear. We will now quote from that wonderful book "The Desire of Ages" to get an idea of what my favourite author on the life of CHRIST [that is, apart from the authors of The Bible] has to say on this matter of "The sign" that the Jews required of JESUS.

"The Desire of Ages", by Sis E G White, 1940, page 406-409, (all emphasis mine, throughout).  
"Now the Pharisees and the Saducees came to CHRIST, asking for a SIGN from HEAVEN. When in the days of Joshua Israel went out to battle with the Canaanites at Bethoron, the SUN had STOOD STILL at the leader's command until the victory was gained; and many similar wonders had been manifest in their history. Some such SIGN was demanded of JESUS. But these SIGNS were NOT what the Jews needed. No mere external evidence could benefit them. What they needed was not intellectual enlightenment, but SPIRITUAL RENOVATION".

"O ye hypocrites, said JESUS, "ye can discern the face of the sky", - by studying the sky they could foretell the weather,- "but can ye not discern the SIGNS of the TIMES"? CHRIST'S own WORDS, spoken with the POWER of The HOLY SPIRIT that convicted them of sin, were the "SIGN" that GOD had given for their SALVATION. And the "SIGNS" direct from HEAVEN had been given to attest the MISSION of CHRIST. The song of the angels to the shepherds, the star that guided the wise men, the dove and the voice from HEAVEN at His baptism were witnesses [signs] for HIM".  
"And He sighed deeply in His SPIRIT, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a SIGN"? There shall no "SIGN" be given unto it, but the "SIGN" of the prophet Jonas". As Jonah was THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS in the belly of the whale, CHRIST was to be the same time in "the HEART of the EARTH". And as the PREACHING of JONAH was a "SIGN" to the Ninevites, so CHRIST'S PREACHING was a "SIGN" to his GENERATION. But what a contrast in the reception of The WORD"!

"The people of the great heathen city trembled as they heard the warning from GOD. Kings and nobles humbled themselves; the high and the lowly together cried to The GOD of HEAVEN, and His MERCY was granted to them. "The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation. CHRIST had said, "and shall condemn it: because they REPENTED at the PREACHING of Jonas; and, behold, a GREATER than Jonas is here". (Matt 12:41)

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“Every miracle that CHRIST had performed was a “SIGN” of His DIVINITY. He was doing the very work that had been foretold of The MESSIAH; but to the Pharisees these works of MERCY were a positive offence. The Jewish leaders looked with heartless indifference on human suffering. In many cases their selfishness and oppression had caused the affliction that CHRIST revealed. Thus His MIRACLES were to them a reproach. That which led the Jews to reject The SAVIOUR’S WORK was the highest evidence of His DIVINE CHARACTER. The greatest significance of His MIRACLES is seen in the fact that they were for the blessing of humanity. The highest evidence that He came from GOD is that His LIFE REVEALED the CHARACTER of GOD; He did the works and spoke the WORDS of GOD. Such a life is the GREATEST of all MIRACLES”. [Jn 17:1-5]

“When THE MESSAGE of TRUTH is presented in our day, there are many who, like the Jews, cry, SHOW us a “SIGN”. WORK us a “MIRACLE”. CHRIST wrought no MIRACLE at the demand of the Pharisees. He wrought no MIRACLE in the wilderness in answer to satan’s insinuations. He does not impart to us power to vindicate ourselves or to satisfy the demands of unbelief and pride. But the GOSPEL is not WITHOUT a “SIGN” of its DIVINE ORIGIN. Is it not a MIRACLE that we can break from the bondage of satan? Enmity against satan is not natural to the human heart; it is implanted by The GRACE of GOD. When one who has been controlled by a stubborn, wayward will is set FREE, and yields himself wholeheartedly to the drawing of GOD’S HEAVENLY AGENCIES, a MIRACLE is wrought; so also when a man who has been under the strong delusion comes to understand MORAL TRUTH. Every time a SOUL is CONVERTED, and learns to LOVE GOD and KEEP His COMMANDMENTS, the promise of GOD is fulfilled, “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you”. (See Ezek. 36:26).

“The change in human hearts, the transformation of human characters, is a MIRACLE [a SIGN] that reveals an EVER-LIVING SAVIOUR, working to rescue souls. A consistent LIFE in CHRIST is a great MIRACLE. In the PREACHING of The WORD of GOD, the SIGN that should be manifest now and always is the PRESENCE of The HOLY SPIRIT, to make The WORD a regenerating power to those that hear. This is GOD’S WITNESS [SIGN] before the world to the DIVINE COMMISSION of His SON”.

“Those who desired a “SIGN” from JESUS had so hardened their hearts in unbelief that they did not discern in His character the likeness of GOD. They would not see that His MISSION was a fulfilment of The SCRIPTURES. ....”. “The disciples were inclined to think that their MASTER should have granted the demand for a “SIGN” in the HEAVENS”.

“They believed that He was able to do this, and that such a “SIGN” would put His enemies to silence. They did not discern the hypocrisy of these cavillers [one who raises unfounded objection. n. frivolous objection. “Oxford School Dict.” page 48]”. ....”.

“The hypocrisy of the Pharisees was the product of self-seeking. The glorification of themselves was the object of their lives. It was this that led them to pervert and misapply The SCRIPTURES, and blinded them to the PURPOSE of CHRIST’S MISSION. This SUBTLE EVIL even the Disciples of CHRIST were in danger of cherishing. Those who classed themselves with the followers of JESUS, but who had not left ALL in order to become His disciples, were influenced in a great degree by the reasoning of the Pharisees. They were often vacillating between FAITH and unbelief, and they did not discern the TREASURES of WISDOM HIDDEN in CHRIST”.

“Even the disciples, though outwardly they had left all for JESUS’ sake, had not in HEART ceased to seek great things for themselves. It was this spirit that prompted the strife [amongst them] as to who should be the greatest. It was this that came between them and CHRIST, making them so little in sympathy with His MISSION of self-sacrifice, so slow to comprehend The MYSTERY of REDEMPTION. As leaven if it is left to complete its work will cause corruption and decay, so does the self-seeking spirit, cherished, work the defilement and ruin of the soul”. [ the mind].

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“Among the followers of our LORD today, as of old, how widespread is this subtle, deceptive sin! How often our service to CHRIST, our communion with one another, is marred by the secret desire to exalt self! How ready the thoughts of self-congratulation, and the longing for human approval! It is the LOVE of SELF, the desire for an easier way than GOD has appointed that leads to the substitution of human TRADITIONS for the DIVINE PRECEPTS. [read Mk 7:7] To His own disciples the warning words of CHRIST are spoken. “Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees”.

“The religion of CHRIST is sincerity itself. Zeal for GOD’S GLORY is the motive implanted by The HOLY SPIRIT; and only the EFFECTUAL working of The SPIRIT can implant this motive. Only the POWER of GOD can banish self-seeking and hypocrisy. This change is the “SIGN” of His WORKING. When the FAITH we accept destroys selfishness and pretence, when it leads us to SEEK GOD’S GLORY and not our own, we may know that it is of the right order. “FATHER, glorify THY NAME” (Jn 12:28), was the KEYNOTE of CHRIST’S LIFE, and if we follow Him, this will be the KEYNOTE of our life. He COMMANDS us to “WALK, even as He WALKED”; and “HEREBY we do KNOW that we KNOW Him, IF we KEEP His COMMANDMENTS”. (1 Jn 2:6,3).

Having read all these verses from “The Desire of Ages”, we now need to examine them again, and this time, we need to pick out the most accurate descriptions of “The SIGN of JONAS The PROPHET” that are mentioned therein. In other words, what do you think that The SPIRIT of PROPHECY has mentioned about The “SIGN” of Jonas? And what was it that we are intended to understand about this subject? Are we on the right track when we look for more evidence that the TIME FACTOR of “THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS” is important.

Page 3 of this lesson ½ way down the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph; “CHRIST’S Own WORDS, spoken with The POWER of The HOLY SPIRIT that convicted them of sin, were the “SIGN” that GOD had given for their SALVATION”. I see no mention of the “THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS”, as being the “SIGN”, only the “PREACHING” [“WORDS”] of JESUS.

Page 3 again, ½ way down paragraph 6, “And as the “PREACHING of JONAH” was a “SIGN” to the Ninevites, so “CHRIST’S PREACHING” was a “SIGN” to His GENERATION”. This is the only mention of the “THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS” in this quotation. But notice this is the second time that the “SIGN” is connected to “PREACHING”, or The “WORD”. What a difference there was to the PREACHING of Jonah; the people responded by repenting of their sins; but in the days of “CHRIST’S PREACHING” the people responded by crucifying Him.

Page 3 still, paragraph 8, “Every MIRACLE that CHRIST had performed was a “SIGN” of His DIVINITY”. The religious leaders were too blind to see The “SIGNS” of CHRIST’S DIVINITY, the MIRACLES that He PERFORMED were all around them.

Page 4, paragraph 2, ½ way down; “The greatest significance of His MIRACLES is seen in the fact that they were for the blessing of humanity. The highest evidence that He came from GOD is that His LIFE REVEALED The CHARACTER of GOD; He did the works and spoke The WORDS of GOD. Such a life is the GREATEST of all “MIRACLES” [“SIGN”]. [Jn 17:1-5]. Again we see that CHRIST’S “WORDS” and His “MIRACLES” was a “SIGN” to the people of His day.

Page 4, paragraph 3, “CHRIST did not perform “MIRACLES” [“SIGNS”] on the demands of the Pharisees, or of satan. Page 4, paragraph 3, ½ way down, “But THE GOSPEL is not WITHOUT a “SIGN” of its DIVINE ORIGIN. Is it not a MIRACLE that we can break from the bondage of satan”? Every time this happens, another MIRACLE of GOD is performed. Surely, we need to broaden our perspectives, and dig deeper for truth.

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Page 4, paragraph 4, “A consistent LIFE in CHRIST is a great “MIRACLE”. In the PREACHING of The WORD of GOD, the “SIGN” that should be manifest now, and always, is the PRESENCE of The HOLY SPIRIT, to make The “WORD” a regenerating power to those who hear. This is GOD’S “WITNESS” [“SIGN”] before the world to The DIVINE COMMISSION of His SON”.

Page 4, paragraph 5, “Those who were seeking a “SIGN” were so hardened in unbelief, they could not see that the “SIGN” was the MISSION of CHRIST”. Page 4, paragraph 6, “The disciples were inclined to think that their MASTER should have granted the demand for a “SIGN” in the HEAVENS. Astrologers, spiritualists, sun-worshippers, and the heathen, depend on “signs” from the heavens. We have The HOLY SPIRIT of GOD to lead us; NOT “SIGNS”.

Page 4, paragraph 7, “The hypocrisy of the Pharisees was the product of self-seeking. The glorification of themselves was the object of their lives”. and it is very clear that we; His disciples of today, can fall into that trap of satan. It was this that led them to pervert and misapply The SCRIPTURES and blinded them to the purpose of CHRIST’S MISSION”. Have we really a deep and full understanding of CHRIST’S MISSION? Are we INVOLVED, are we SHARING in the work of SPREADING The WORD”?

Page 5, Paragraph 1, “Among the followers of our LORD today, as of old, how widespread is this subtle, deceptive sin? How often our SERVICE to CHRIST, our communion with one another, is marred by the secret desire to EXALT self!” Page 5, paragraph 1, “How ready the thoughts of self-congratulation, and the longing for human approval! It is the LOVE of SELF, the desire for an EASIER WAY than GOD has APPOINTED that leads to the substitution of human TRADITIONS for The DIVINE PRECEPTS. We each need to be GUIDED by GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT as we are preparing to be in The KINGDOM of CHRIST.

Page 5, paragraph 2, the last two lines, “.... He COMMANDS us to “WALK, even as He WALKED”: and hereby we do know that we KNOW Him, If we KEEP His COMMANDMENTS”. COMMANDMENT KEEPING is a “SIGN” to GOD, that we LOVE Him. (Jn 14:15,16)

As I have read, and re-read these thoughts from “The Desire of Ages”, I have come to believe that all too often we read our BIBLES and don’t take time to really understand what we read. For instance, we have just read two full pages about Jonah, and only once was there any indication that “THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS” might be the “SIGN” that JESUS said that He would give. Instead, we have seen that (1) CHRIST’S own WORDS spoken with the POWER of The HOLY SPIRIT, that convicted men of SIN, were the “SIGN” that GOD had given them for their SALVATION”. (2) As the PREACHING of JONAH was a SIGN to the Ninevites so CHRIST’S PREACHING was a SIGN to His GENERATION”.

(3) Every MIRACLE that CHRIST performed was a “SIGN” of His DIVINITY, and that He was The MESSIAH. (4) The highest significance [SIGN] that CHRIST was WHO He claimed to be were the MIRACLES [“SIGNS”] that were for the benefit of humanity; and to demonstrate that He was WHOM He CLAIMED to be. (5) CHRIST did not perform MIRACLES [“SIGNS”] at the request of the Pharisees or satan. (6) The GOSPEL gives its own “SIGN” as we see people who were once in the grasp of satan; surrender their hearts to JESUS. (7) The PREACHING of The GOSPEL is a “SIGN” to GOD’S people. (See Matt 24:14).

As we learn of what the sailors feared and what Jonah had told them, Jon 1:9, “And he said unto them, I am an Hebrew; and I fear The LORD, The GOD of HEAVEN, which hath made the sea and the dry land. These men asked Jonah what they were to do, he told them in verse 12, but they decided instead, to try to save themselves, doing it their own way. See verses 13,14, and verse 15 shows that they finally did as they were told to do. It was not until they did so, that they were saved. Is it not amazing how people prefer to do it their way?

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At this stage I think it best that we read more of The SPIRIT of PROPHECY; from “The Story of Prophets and Kings” page 268-275, This informs us how they tried to do it their way, take note, quoting Jon 1:13. “Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them. Wherefore they [these heathen sailors] cried unto The LORD, and said, We beseech Thee O LORD, we beseech Thee let us not perish for this man’s life, and lay not upon us innocent blood; for Thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased Thee”.

Just a short comment on “lay not upon us innocent blood”. It is the BLOOD of the INNOCENT JESUS that heals, cures, and restores the repentant sinner, Praise GOD! I believe that we can readily see The PLAN of SALVATION being worked out in these experiences.

Still on the same page, but a little further on “Then Jonah prayed unto The LORD out of the fish’s belly, And said: I cried by reason of mine affliction unto The LORD, and He heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and Thou heardest my voice”. Now we read how that Jonah had been cast into the “deep” sea. He thought that he was out of sight of GOD, both now in the sea, and when he was at the lowest part of the ship; but GOD knew where he was in both instances. He is described as being amongst “the weeds of the sea, and the bottom of the mountains”.

But GOD still knew where he was. When he had reached the lowest, he thought about THE LORD and he prayed to THE LORD. (See Jon 2:7, 9).

Now I wish to comment on the last part of verse 9, “..... SALVATION is of The LORD”. That is what the book of Jonah is all about. That is the (8<sup>th</sup>) “SIGN” of JONAS. “SALVATION is of The LORD”.

Sis White has this to say, “At last Jonah had learned that “SALVATION BELONGETH unto The LORD”. (See Psa 3:8). “With penitence and recognition of “The SAVING GRACE of GOD”, came deliverance. Jonah was released from the perils of the mighty deep and was cast upon the dry land. Once more the servant of GOD [Jonah] was commissioned to warn Nineveh. .... this time he did not stop to question or doubt, but OBEYED unhesitatingly. He “arose, and went into Nineveh according to The WORD of The LORD”. (Jonah 3:1-4). “As Jonah entered the city, he began at once to “cry against” it the message, that GOD had given him to preach; “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown”. ... “The message was not in vain”.

“The SPIRIT of GOD pressed the message home to every heart and caused the multitudes to tremble because of their sins and to REPENT in deep HUMILIATION. The people of Nineveh believed GOD and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. .... Even the king gave orders to do so. “ ... let them turn everyone from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands. Who can tell if GOD will turn and REPENT [notice again it is the heathen who REPENT] and turn away from His fierce anger, that we PERISH NOT”? (See verses 5-9). As king and nobles, with the common people, the high and the low, “REPENTED at the preaching of Jonas” (Matt 12:41) and UNITED in crying to The GOD of HEAVEN, His mercy was granted them. He “saw their works, that they TURNED from their evil way; and GOD REPENTED of the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not”. (Jonah 3:10) Their doom was averted, The GOD of Israel was exalted and honoured throughout the heathen world, and His LAW was REVERED”.

No wonder that JESUS said, “that He was greater than Jonah”. Jonah was one of the many true SERVANTS of GOD, his job was to warn the heathen people of Nineveh, and the rest was left to The HOLY SPIRIT to convert the people, and change their hearts to OBEDIENCE to The GOD of HEAVEN and EARTH.

“The Story of Prophets and Kings” by EG White, page 273, “CHRIST during His earthly ministry referred to the GOOD wrought by the PREACHING of JONAH in Nineveh, and compared the

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inhabitants of that heathen center [centre] with the professed people of GOD in His day. ... “and behold, a GREATER than Jonas is here”.... CHRIST had come; and above the confusion His voice, like the trump of GOD, was heard: “what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mk 8:36,37) As the PREACHING of Jonah was a “SIGN” to the Ninevites, so CHRIST’S PREACHING was a “SIGN” to His generation”.

“The lesson is for GOD’S messengers today, when the cities of the nations are as verily in need of a knowledge of the attributes and purposes of the TRUE GOD as were the Ninevites of old. CHRIST’S ambassadors are to point men to the nobler world, which has largely been lost sight of.

According to the teaching of The HOLY SCRIPTURES, the only city that will ENDURE is “The CITY whose BUILDER and maker is GOD”. .... Through His ministering servants The LORD JESUS is calling upon men to strive with SANCTIFIED AMBITION to secure the IMMORTAL INHERITANCE. He urges them to lay up TREASURE in HEAVEN beside The THRONE of GOD”.

“From age to age satan has sought to keep men in ignorance of the beneficent designs of JEHOVAH. He has endeavoured to remove from their sight the great things of GOD’S LAW – the principles of JUSTICE, MERCY, and LOVE therein set forth.

“Men boast of the wonderful progress and enlightenment of the age in which we are now living; but GOD sees the earth filled with iniquity and violence. Men declare that The LAW of GOD has been abrogated, that The BIBLE is not authentic; and as a result, a tide of evil, such as has not been since the days of Noah and of apostate Israel, is sweeping over the world. Nobility of soul, gentleness, piety, are bartered away to gratify the lust for forbidden things. The black record of crime that is committed for the sake of gain is enough to chill the blood and fill the soul with horror”

“But the rulers of Assyria, instead of using their unusual blessings for the benefit of mankind, became the scourge of many lands. Merciless, with no thought of GOD or their fellow men, they pursued the fixed policy of causing all nations to acknowledge the supremacy of the gods of Nineveh, whom they exalted above The MOST HIGH.- GOD had sent Jonah to them with a message of warning, and for a season they humbled themselves before The LORD of HOSTS and sought forgiveness. “But soon they turned again to idol worship and to conquest of the world”.

In “Selected Messages” book 2, page 95, just over half way down the page, Sis White had this advice to give to Anna Phillips, [a would be prophet] “Let GOD work, and let the human agent walk softly before him, watching, waiting, praying, looking unto JESUS every moment, led and controlled by the precious SPIRIT which is LIGHT and LIFE. The people want a “SIGN”, as in the DAYS of CHRIST. Then The LORD told them that no “SIGN” should be given them. The “SIGN” that should be manifest now and always is “The working of The HOLY SPIRIT” upon the mind of the teacher, to make the WORD as impressive as possible. The WORD of GOD is not a dead, dry theory, but SPIRIT and LIFE. Satan would like nothing better than to call minds away from The WORD, to look for and expect something outside of The WORD to make them “FEEL”. [that is, be led by their “FEELINGS”]. They should not have their attention called to DREAMS and VISIONS. If they would have eternal life, they must eat the flesh and drink the BLOOD of The SON of GOD”. – Letter 68, 1894.

The (9<sup>th</sup>) “SIGN” is “the WORKING of The HOLY SPIRIT upon the mind”.

The 10<sup>th</sup> “SIGN”, I believe, is that we need to see the majority of our SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH, full of “SPIRIT and LIFE”. When the greater part of our congregations are on fire for The LORD: when we as Church members are using every talent that GOD has given us so that we can SHARE our FAITH, then we will see “The SIGN of the PROPHET JONAS”, not just in the sky; but in our HEARTS as WELL. Amen!

## THE SIGN OF THE PROPHET JONAS

I must say that as I was studying for this lesson, I found the greatest joy in learning about the real “Sign of Jonas The Prophet”. That I have enjoyed this experience is an understatement of the facts. I believe that there is still a lot for us to learn about this subject. I believe this to be what is needed so much that I have entered into the presenting of two more lessons on this subject. The reason being that as I studied all that I could on the matter, I kept on thinking about “The Sanctuary” and “The Plan of Salvation”.

At first you may not connect the three subjects, but I’m sure that as we proceed, you too will see the connection and its importance. GOD bless and keep thee, ‘Bye for now.

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