

## (25) Jesus' Answer to a Demand for a Sign (Mt. 12:38-45; Lk. 11:24-26,29-36)

1. The Scribes and Pharisees set the table for Jesus' next message when they asked Him to manifest a sign for their viewing (Matt. 12:38; Lk. 11:29 cf. v.16).
  - a. σημεῖον sēmeion <sup>#4592</sup><sub>77x</sub>; *sign, token, indication*.
  - b. ἰδεῖν idein aor.act.inf. εἶδον eidon used as the 2aor. of ὁράω horaō <sup>#3708</sup><sub>113x</sub>; *to see, experience, behold*.
  - c. The signs of Jesus were not for their own sake, but were evidence of His paternal mission (Jn. 3:2) and were instructive of His gift (Jn. 20:30-31).
2. Observing a sign is not wrong, but craving additional signs after previous signs have been given indicates an evil-adulterous culture (Matt. 12:39a; Lk. 11:29).
  - a. πονηρός ponēros <sup>#4190</sup><sub>78x</sub>; *morally or socially worthless; wicked, evil, bad*. Opp. of "good" (Matt. 12:35).
  - b. μοιχαλῖς moichalis <sup>#3428</sup><sub>7x</sub>; *adulteress*. Used as adj. Matt. 12:39; 16:4; Mk. 8:38. Fem. from μοιχός moichos <sup>#3432</sup><sub>3x</sub>. Verb μοιχεύω moicheuō <sup>#3431</sup><sub>15x</sub>.
3. For the unbeliever there is only one sign that matters. Their one need is for salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ (Matt. 12:39b-40; Lk. 11:29b-30).
  - a. The sign of Jonah indicates that the story of Jonah is typology for Jesus Christ.
  - b. Three days and three nights = on the third day (Mark 8:31 = Matt. 16:21 & Lk. 9:22).
  - c. Great article by [Harold Hoehner](#) examines the apparent discrepancy.
4. Believers will have a speaking role at the Great White Throne judgment of unbelievers (Matt. 12:41-42; Lk. 11:31-32).
5. Jesus observes this evil generation and He is struck by their worsening state (Matt. 12:43-45; Lk. 11:24-26).