

Bereans Bible Institute
Module IV – The Life of Christ
Lesson 19 – 3 Days & 3 Nights in “The Heart of the Land”

1. The sign of Jonah recorded in Matt. 12:39-41 & Luke 11:29-32
2. Incorrectly understood as a reference to Jesus’ time in the tomb.
 - A. Jesus was raised “on the third day” counting from His crucifixion (Luke 24:21 & 46). He was crucified on Friday and resurrected Sunday morning – totaling 36 hours.
 - B. The “sign of Jonah” was to that “wicked generation” (Matt. 12:39 & Luke 11:30). Yet the wicked did not see Him again after He was taken down from the cross. Only His followers saw Him again (Jn. 14:19-20; Acts 1:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:3-8).
 - C. A sign TO that “wicked generation” must be witnessed by them.
3. Matthew’s account says that Jesus would be ‘in the heart of the land’ JUST AS Jonah was in the fish’s belly. This equates not only the length of time, but also the condition – in a state of grief. Jonah was not dead (Jonah. 2:1-7).
4. Luke’s account says that Jesus would be a sign to that wicked generation in the same way that Jonah was a sign to the Ninevites.
 - A. The Ninevites did not see Jonah in the whale’s belly, nor had any knowledge of it.
 - B. Jonah’s “sign” to the Ninevites was his preaching for **3 days** (Jonah 3:3-4) that Nineveh will be destroyed in 40 days.
5. The parallel between Jonah’s “sign” to the Ninevites and Jesus’ “sign” to Jerusalem was the preaching of its destruction in 40 days/40 years. When that wicked generation saw Jerusalem destroyed in AD 70 (40 years later), they saw the “sign of Jonah” fulfilled upon their city.
6. Jesus’ preaching the destruction of Jerusalem for 3 days and 3 nights
 - A. Day 1 – Luke 19:41-44; Matt. 21:10-16
 - B. Day 2 – Matt. 21:17-19, 33-45
 - C. Day 3 – Matt. 23:33-39; Luke 21:20-24