

Matthew 16:1-4 **Signs of the Times – Sign of Jonah**

¹ Then the Pharisees and Sadducees came, and testing Him asked that He would show them a sign from heaven.

² He answered and said to them, "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; ³ and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times. ⁴ A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign shall be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah." And He left them and departed. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

No sign but sign of Jonah [Matthew 12:38-40, 16:1-4, Mark 8:11-12, Luke 11:29-32]

- ✚ Pharisees and Sadducees asked for a sign from Heaven. [Matthew 16:1, Mark 8:11]
 - ✧ It is simply amazing that anyone could ask for a sign after all the miracles Jesus has performed to this point in His ministry.
 - ✧ His authoritative teachings, cleansing the leper, the many healings, calming the sea, casting out of the many demons, forgiving sins and healing the paralytic to demonstrate He has the power and authority to forgive sins, raising the daughter of the Ruler of the Synagogue from the dead, walking on the water and enabling Peter to do the same, feeding the 5,000 and the 4,000.
 - ✧ What greater signs do they need? The signs He has already shown are sufficient to prove that Jesus is Jehovah of the Old Testament, and the Messiah Who was and is to come.
- ✚ The answer Jesus gave indicates that He also felt that there had already been enough evidence to clearly identify Who He really is, for anyone who will weigh the evidence honestly.
 - ✧ Their request for a sign indicates that this is an evil and adulterous generation.
 - ✧ No greater sign will be given than the Sign of Jonah, (the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus). [Matthew 16:4]
- ✚ They can identify the weather for the day by the appearance of the sky which is obvious to all. [Matthew 16:1-4]
- ✚ Since these people have set themselves up as authorities on Scripture, it is surprising that they can not look at the prophecies that deal with their own time and make a similar correlation. [Matthew 16:3]
 - ✧ Moses and the prophets as well as the Psalm and the writings of Scripture clearly gave the evidences needed to identify the time of their day.
- ✚ The Scriptures pertaining to the **time of the end** are as clearly visible today.
 - ✧ Will we today be as blind as the religious leaders of His time?
 - ✧ Or will we be able to recognize the fulfillment of the signs of the end as they take place all around us?
 - ✧ If we know the times in which we live, we should be motivated to be living our lives as He commanded and be ready and watching when He comes for His Saints, so the hour may not catch us by surprise as a thief in the night. [1 Thessalonians 5:1-10]
 - ✧ For it is coming as a thief in the night for all who are not watching. [Matthew 24:42-51, 25:1-13, Mark 13:32-37, Luke 12:35-48, 21:34-36, Revelation 3:3, 16:15]
- ✚ No wonder, Jesus left them and departed. [Matthew 16:4, Mark 8:13]