

Matthew 16:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

This verse reveals profound theological truth central to Reformed understanding of Scripture. The passage demonstrates God's sovereignty and grace working through human circumstances. Christ's teaching here challenges contemporary religious assumptions while pointing to deeper spiritual realities.

Historical Context

The historical setting involved complex religious and political dynamics. Jewish leaders maintained authority through Roman tolerance while common people sought deliverance. Jesus' teaching addressed both immediate concerns and eternal truths.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does this text reveal about human nature and God's grace?
2. How can you apply this teaching to current struggles or questions?

3. What changes in thinking or behavior does this passage require?

Interlinear Text

Γενεὰ	πονηρὰ	καὶ	μοιχαλὶς	σημεῖον	ἐπιζητεῖ	καὶ
generation	A wicked	And	adulterous	a sign	seeketh after	And
G1074	G4190	G2532	G3428	G4592	G1934	G2532

σημεῖον	οὐ	δοθήσεται	αὐτοῖς	εἰ	μὴ	τὸ
a sign	there shall no	be given	them	G1487	G3361	G3588
G4592	G3756	G1325	G846			

σημεῖον	Ἰωνᾶ	τοῦ	προφήτου	καὶ	καταλιπὼν	αὐτοῖς
a sign	Jonas	G3588	of the prophet	And	he left	them
G4592	G2495		G4396	G2532	G2641	G846

ἀπῆλθεν
and departed
G565

Additional Cross-References

Jonah 1:17 (Parallel theme): 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.

Mark 8:38 (Parallel theme): Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Mark 8:12 (Parallel theme): And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.

Matthew 15:14 (Parallel theme): Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

Genesis 6:3 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

