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THE SIGN OF JONAH

The word says that Jews always required a sign, else they would not believe. In Matthew 12:38 they asked for a sign and Jesus gave them one to look for. He told them in Matthew 39a-40 (NKJV), ***“...no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three (full) days and three (full) nights in the belly of the great fish (not a whale), so will the Son of Man (Messiah) be three (full) days and three (full) nights in the heart of the earth.”***

This sign would prove to them that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. Yet, although He rose from the dead, they still did not believe the sign except for a few of them.

Many passages of the New Testament say that Jesus arose on the third day. This could be confusing to some people as to whether the third day and night were completed in their entirety, but they were. In my understanding of the scriptures, He rose at the very end of the third day, the sundown between the third day and the start before the fourth night, about 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. making it very early morning.

That is why the tomb guards went that evening to report his body was missing to the Jewish leadership. The details do not really matter. The prophecy was fulfilled. The important thing is that He was resurrected. He is alive and on the throne of heaven with Father God. His life is within every believer, and our life is in him.