

THE SIGN OF THE DOVE



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Seeing the Sign

The Sign of the Dove

What does the dove represent?



When the dove returned to [Noah] in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Gen 8:11

Commonly held; but not Biblically defensible



The Sign of the Dove

What does the dove represent?

The Holy Spirit?

At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on [Jesus]. Mt 3:16



Scripturally Spirit generally is 'fire'

[The disciples] saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. Acts 2:3

***also: Ex 3:2; 13:21; 24:17;
1 Kgs 18:38; Isa 4:4; Dan 3:25***



The Sign of the Dove

But we can also find
negative connotations

*Ephraim is like a dove [Jonah],
easily deceived and senseless -
now calling to Egypt, now turning
to Assyria. Hos 7:11*



*The word of the LORD came
to Jonah [Dove] son of
Amittai... But Jonah ran away
from the LORD and headed
for Tarshish. Jon 1:1-3*

The only prophet who disobeyed
God's direct command

The Sign of the Dove [Jonah]

Renewal

1 Jonah [Dove] was the only man who lived a literal baptism

2 The dove appears at the baptism of the whole physical creation

When the [Jonah] returned to [Noah] in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Gen 8:11

(implying the Flood was global, not local)

3 ... and the baptism of the whole spiritual creation

At that moment [baptism] heaven was opened, and [John] saw the Spirit of God descending like [Jonah] and lighting on [Jesus]. Mt 3:16

The Sign of the Dove in Jesus' Baptism



As soon as Jesus was baptized... he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [Jonah] and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Mt 3:13-17

Yes, but why?

Sign of the Dove is Renewal

Christ opens a New Covenant: salvation to the Gentiles **John 10:1-17, Rom 11:13-25**

Hence God's pleasure, with the One who realizes His plan to bring salvation to ALL

The Sign of the Dove in Jesus' Teaching

“Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you.” [Jesus] answered, “A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah [the dove]. For as Jonah [the dove] was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

Mt 12:39-40

Yes, but why?

- Context is Pharisees persecution
- Jesus DOES give them a sign: his baptism! (where people saw the dove)
- Salvation through baptism - Christ's resurrection - not heritage
- It's the only thing that can save them – a type of death; renewal

The Sign of the Dove: New Start not Death

Death that destroys



Earthquake & Darkness

- 1 At Sinai
Covenant of death
Ex 19:16-19
- 2 At Jesus' crucifixion
Jesus physically died
Mt 27:45,51
- 3 At Jesus' return
Many physically die
Zech 14:4,6; Joel 3:15

Death that renews life



The Sign of the Dove

- 1 At Jesus' baptism
Jesus didn't physically die
Mt 3:16
(=> Jonah didn't die)
- 2 Teaching: Be baptized to live
Matt 12:39
- 3 We must participate
Rom 6:1-4

The Temple: A View to Mercy

Mercy seen when
looking towards
the Temple

“I have been cast out of Your sight; yet I will look again toward Your holy temple... When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer went up to You, into Your holy temple. Those who regard worthless idols forsake their own mercy.” **Jonah 2:4-8**

The Crucifixion View

*Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. **Jn 19:30***

How does one see a merciful God in the crucifixion?

*At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom... The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. **Mt 27:51-52***

The Torn Veil: Communion with God

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body... let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith... for he who promised is faithful.

Heb 10:19-23

Enter: “Son of Jonah”

Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah”

Mt 16:17

Aside: Son of Jonah or Son of John?

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” *Jn 21:15*

Jonah



Heb: ‘Yonah’: ‘Dove’

Not the
same
name!

John



<= Ger: Johann; <= Gk: Johanan
Constructed from Heb: ‘Jah Hanan’
‘God makes room’; ‘is gracious’

Suggest Jesus said “Son of Jonah” for a specific reason...

Enter:
“Son of Jonah”

Jonah
‘Dove’

Simon Peter:
Son of ‘Dove’

Man of God who
refused to accept
Gentile salvation

Jonah 1:3;10

Acts 10:14

Selected by God to be
precedental saviour to
Gentiles

Jonah 1:1; 3:1

Mt 16

Acts 10:5

Arrives in Joppa
desiring to not preach
to Gentiles

Jonah 1:3

Acts 9:43



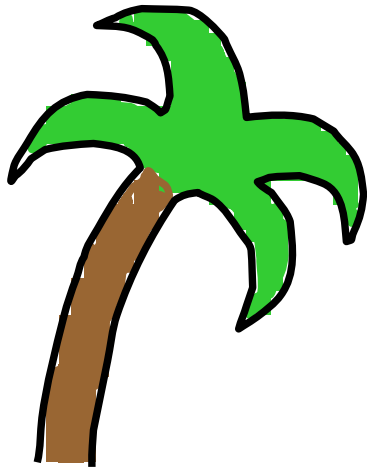
Joppa: City of Beauty

Joppa

Nineveh

- Hiram (Gentile) builds Temple thru Joppa **2 Chron 2**
- Cyrus (Gentile) rebuilds Temple thru Joppa **Ezra 3:7**
- Jonah goes to Joppa to avoid preaching to Gentiles
Jonah spoils God's Beauty of Gentile Inclusion

“Son of Jonah”: A Vine or a Worm?



In Joppa (City of Beauty) A Vine

“I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right.”

Acts 10:34-35

Thus God repairs the ‘City Beautiful’

But later in Antioch, A Worm



When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong... he used to eat with the Gentiles. But [then] began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles... The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, and by this hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray. Gal 2:11-13

After the Third Day: **Mercy**

*The angel answered [Cornelius], “Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.”... About noon **the following day** as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the roof to pray... [The sheet lowered] **three times**... While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, **three men** are looking for you... Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.”... **The next day** Peter started out with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa went along. **The following day** he arrived in Caesarea... “God raised him from the dead on **the third day** and caused him to be seen”... Then Peter said, “Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. **Acts 10:4-48***

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Convergence of Patterns in Acts 10

1 Dove, Son of Dove

Jonah was reluctant Prophet to Gentiles
Peter now reluctant Prophet to Gentiles **v14**

2 Joppa: The City Beautiful

Gentiles (re)build Temple through Joppa
Peter learns Gentile inclusion in Joppa **v9-16**
God's historic trend is repaired

3 Mercy evidenced after 3 days

Day 1: Peter receives instruction **v9-16**

Day 2: Peter goes to Caesarea **v23**

Day 3: Peter is Cornelius' Temple **v24-48**



A View to Mercy



***You also, like living stones,
are being built into a spiritual
house to be a holy priesthood.
1 “Son of Dove” 2:5***

Duty of the Priest



Represent God to the people

For the lips of a priest are to preserve knowledge... because he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty
Mal 2:7

Carry the people's burdens

[The Israelite] must present [his sacrifice] at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting... Then Aaron's sons the priests shall arrange the pieces, including the head and the fat, on the burning wood that is on the altar.
Lev 1:3,7-8

The priest carries the burden of the commoner

THE SIGN OF THE DOVE



...*End*