were gathering… perhaps in expectation,  
as He paused in His discourse,  
that the sign was now about to be shewn:  
—see notes on Matthew for the main subject.

Here we have one part of the  
sign of Jonas brought out, which is not  
touched on in Matthew, viz. his *preaching*  
*after his resurrection* to the Ninevites,  
announcing—for that would necessarily be  
involved in that preaching—the wonderful  
judgment of God in bringing him there,

—and thus *making his own deliverance*, that  
he might *preach to them*, *a sign* to that  
people ; which sign (ver. 32) they received,  
and repented ;—but more than Jonas, a  
greater sign by far, this generation shall  
reject.

**32.]** Not ‘*a greater than  
Jonas*,’ or ‘*than Solomon*:’ but Jonah  
here is used as equivalent to *the sign of*Jonah,—so that more applies to Him who  
*is the sign* to this generation:—a sign,  
greater, both in its *actuality*, its *significance*,

and its *consequences*. The *order*,  
here, seems to be for the sake of climax ;—  
for the undervaluing and not appreciating

His *wisdom*, will not lie so heavy on them  
in the judgment, as the *rejection* of His  
*preaching of repentance*.

**33—36.]** Our Lord goes on to speak of His teaching  
and miracles, which this generation despised,

and demanded a sign from heaven in  
preference; He tells them that they will  
not see the significance of them, because  
they shut the eyes of their understanding,  
which should be the light of the soul;—  
this is set before them in a parable concerning

the light of the body, which is the  
outward eye. The sentences are repeated  
from the Sermon on the Mount, see Matt.

v. 15; vi. 22 f. (where see notes on all that  
is common), and ch. viii. 16; but, as has  
been shewn, the truth shines from a different

side of them here.

**33.]** a secret place—more properly, a crypt, or  
covered passage.

**36.]** It has been  
said of this verse by a very able expositor  
(De Wette) that it is “*tautological*: *the  
second member contains the same assertion*