

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and **THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY SEA**" (Revelation 21:1).



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The focus of this study is on the meaning of the word "sea" used by God to image the haven of wickedness. God uses imagery to paint a clear and detailed picture of concepts that humans have difficulty understanding. Learn God's coded language and enrich your Bible study.

When Christ has restored all things, the last enemy to be overthrown will be death (I Corinthians 15:26–28) for then, there will be no sin—no wickedness. At that time, God will create a new heaven and a new earth and there will be **NO SEA—no haven for wickedness**.

God likens WICKED ENTITIES and WICKED PEOPLE to the waves of the sea that push and pull people away from truth kicking up falsehood and deceit, hidden reefs that cause trouble, impersonators of righteousness for their own evil goals, evil practitioners that froth up in shame, undisciplined emotions that rage in anger, shouting voices, intimating presence, and unethical users of fearful, bullying tactics.

"The wicked are like the TROUBLED SEA, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt" (Isaiah 57:20).

"These men are the HIDDEN REEFS in your love feasts, shamelessly feasting with you but shepherding only themselves" (Jude 1:12).

This scripture specifically identifies wicked heavenly entities. "They are **WILD WAVES OF THE SEA**, **foaming up their own shame**; **wandering stars**, for whom **blackest darkness has been reserved forever**" (Jude 1:13).

The Psalmist describes them using God's imagery. "The seas have lifted up, LORD, **THE SEAS HAVE LIFTED UP THEIR VOICE**; **the seas have lifted up their pounding waves**. Above the roar of many waters—the mighty breakers of the sea—the LORD on high is majestic" (Psalm 93:3-4).

THE DEEP WATERS, THE HEART OF THE SEA IMAGES THE HEADQUARTERS OF WICKEDNESS.

King David praised God and thanked Him for rescuing him from wicked, powerful enemies. "I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies. For the waves of death engulfed me; the torrents of chaos overwhelmed me... He reached down from on high and took hold of me; HE DREW ME OUT OF DEEP WATERS. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my disaster, but the LORD was my support" (II Samuel 22:4-5, 17-19).

King David prayed many times for saving, "Rescue me from the mire and do not let me sink; **deliver me from my foes and OUT OF THE DEEP WATERS.** Do not let the floods engulf me or the depths swallow me up; let not **the Pit** close its mouth over me" (Psalm 69:14-15).

"Reach down from heaven and rescue me; **rescue me from deep waters**, from the power of **my enemies**, whose mouths speak falsehood, whose right hands are deceitful" (Psalm 144:7-8).

Jonah prayed, when found himself in the very headquarters of wickedness. He experienced the hellish realm of the wicked; it terrified him. "In my distress I called to the LORD and He answered me. From the belly of Sheol I called for help, and You heard my voice. You hurled me into the depths, **into THE VERY HEART OF THE SEAS**, and **the currents swirled about me**; **all your waves and breakers swept over me. I said, 'I have been banished from your sight**; yet I will look again toward your holy temple. **The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head...** but you brought my life up from **the pit**, O Lord my God" (Jonah 2:2-6).

WHO ARE THE WICKED?

The Apostle Paul identified the enemies of mankind. They are **NOT flesh and blood**. The non-God-fearing people on earth are primarily deceived puppets of the greater evil—the wicked, rogue spiritual rulers who hide in the shadows on earth and in heaven.

"For our struggle is **not against flesh and blood**, but **against the rulers**, **against the authorities**, **against the powers of this dark world** and **against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms**" (Ephesians 6:12).

The enemies of mankind are **NOT human, but spiritual** and they reside both on earth and in heaven. **The Apostle Paul, the leader of the Gentiles commands Christians to arm themselves with spiritual weaponry against spiritual enemies.**

"Therefore, TAKE UP THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:13-18).

- Speak truthfully and honestly
- Live righteously
- Run to peace
- Stand strong in your faith in God
- Humbly accept the gift of salvation from your Savior
- Hold tightly onto the word of God
- Communicate daily with God
- Always stay alert, persevering through the long periods of silence
- Boldly submit your requests to God and He will give it to you.

GOD HAS SUPREME AUTHORITY AND HE MAINTAINS CONTROL OVER THE WICKED: ON EARTH AND IN HEAVEN. God's plan cannot be thwarted, every move of the wicked has been and continues to be anticipated and worked into the tactics and strategies of God; He is ALL POWERFUL.

"But **MIGHTIER THAN THE VIOLENT RAGING OF THE SEAS**, **mightier than the breakers on the shore**—**THE LORD ABOVE IS MIGHTIER THAN THESE!** Your testimonies are fully confirmed; holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, for all the days to come" (Psalm 93:4-5).

"YOU RULE OVER THE SURGING SEA; when its waves mount up, YOU STILL THEM" (Psalm 89:9).

"YOU QUIETED THE **RAGING OCEANS** with their pounding waves and **SILENCED THE SHOUTING** of the nations" (Psalm 65:7).

JESUS CHRIST, TOO, HAS AUTHORITY OVER THE WICKED.

Mankind does not have power or authority to quiet spiritual wickedness on earth, but Jesus does. "Then Jesus got up and rebuked **THE WIND AND THE SEA**. 'Silence!' He commanded. 'Be still!' And the wind died down, and **it was perfectly calm**" (Mark 4:39).

This event goes beyond the physical.

TWO SIGNIFICANT CENTERS OF WICKEDNESS ARE TYRE AND BABYLON.

TYRE: The king of Tyre.

God said, "You were once the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God... you were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till **wickedness was found in you**" (Ezekiel 27:12b, 15). His "**DOMAIN WAS ON THE HIGH SEAS**. His builders brought his beauty to perfection" (Ezekiel 27:3-4). They built a maritime city. "**ALL THE SHIPS OF THE SEA AND THEIR SAILORS CAME ALONGSIDE TO TRADE FOR YOUR WARES**" (Ezekiel 27:9).

This maritime city also established and maintained an army of mercenary troops. "Men of Persia, Lydia and Put served as soldiers in **your army**. They **hung their shields and helmets on your walls**, bringing you splendor. Men of Arvad and Helech **manned your walls on every side**, men of Gammad were **in your towers**. **They hung their shields around your walls**; they brought your beauty to perfection" (Ezekiel 27:10-11).

It was a well-fortified, world trading center—a complete package: **self-defending**, self-reliant, self-determined coalition.

However, in God's grand plan, this maritime city is doomed.

"The east wind [God Almighty] will break you to pieces in **THE HEART OF THE SEA**. Your wealth, merchandise and wares, your mariners, seamen and shipwrights, your merchants and all your soldiers, and everyone else on board will sink into the heart of the sea on the day of your shipwreck" (Ezekiel 27:26b-27).

BABYLON: the Great Prostitute.

When the great dragon is thrown down to earth, he will summon up **the beast FROM OUT OF THE SEA** (Revelation 13:1).

He will stand on the shore and orchestrate the meeting of the beast from the sea with the beast from out of the earth. A union of the high seas—the heavenly domain of wickedness with land on earth is a powerful body comprised of the spiritual and physical: a rogue puppet government and a false church serving dark heavenly forces that will fight this one last time—together. Like iron and clay, this mix will not endure.

The beast from out the sea [wickedness] is an ancient enemy that **it will rise again in the latter days** and appear on the international scene in its true form—a grotesque and malformed body beyond any natural recognition. Seven heads [seven governments] one of which, suffered a fatal wound but healed, with a blasphemous name on each of its ten horns [ten rulers], moving like raging wild animals—it is desperate to devour the living. "The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and **will come up out of the Abyss** and go to his destruction" (Revelation 17:8). The nations of the world will be taken captive and they will say, "Who can make war against him?" (Revelation 13:4) The weaponry of the nations combined will not be able to over-power the sophisticated, superior science, spiritual weaponry controlled by the heavenly forces, so

they will submit and worship Satan, the commander and chief and they will worship this heavenly coalition under duress. "**Men worshiped the dragon** because he had given authority to the beast, and **they also worshiped the beast**" (Revelation 13:4).

The prostitute dressed in purple will ride this beast. She will hold the golden cup filled with the blood of the saints. She is the teacher—as Christ is the only teacher of his church, she is the only teacher of her church called: Mystery Babylon the Great. This church is the centre of mankind's theology, producing a congregation who thrive on physical knowledge and human achievements, while discrediting God's word—His spiritual knowledge, His commandments.

"And the angel said to me, '**The waters** that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are **peoples and multitudes and nations and languages**'" (Revelation 17:15). These people are **not** righteous God-fearing, God-serving people; they are sold into mankind's theology. They are masters at engineering and building vessels that travel into the sea.

SHE SENDS HER MERCHANTS OUT TO SEA—that place where wickedness resides to bring back ideas and knowledge in every area of new science, revolutionary medicine, devious business dealings, alluring arts and mysteries—their desired riches. God will bring this city down. "Every sea captain, and all who travel by ship, the sailors, and all who earn their living from the sea, will stand far off. When they see the smoke of her burning, they will exclaim. 'Was there ever a city like this great city?' They will throw dust on their heads, and with weeping and mourning cry out: 'Woe, Woe, O great city, where all who had ships on the sea became rich through her wealth! In one hour, she has been brought to ruin!" (Revelation 18:17-18)

The details of the army of this city are unclear, regardless, they prove to be powerless against Almighty God.

"In that day THE LORD WILL PUNISH THE POWERS IN THE HEAVENS ABOVE and THE KINGS ON THE EARTH BELOW. They will be gathered together like prisoners in a pit. They will be confined to a dungeon and punished after many days" (Isaiah 24:21-22).

Her victims, however, are those who opposed her merchandise and wares—the saints. "I saw that the woman was drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of those who bore testimony of Jesus" (Revelation 17:6).

Wicked mankind loves self-reliance, self-determination, and self-glory. Relying and trusting in Almighty God has never been their first choice since day one. It is a difficult lesson to learn for the created to rely on their Creator. What seems so right and good in the eyes of the created can be so wrong and destructive. **"Trust in the LORD with all your heart**, and **lean not on your own understanding**; in **all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight**" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

"In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). Between the creation of heaven and earth, **iniquity was found IN HEAVEN**. God's plan for the creation of mankind

was then activated. So, God completed the creation of the earth in Genesis 1:2-25. His plan is to remove the wicked and rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities in heaven who on their Judgment Day, will be destroyed and replaced with righteous, redeemed mankind—fully.

Then, He will create a new heaven and new earth. The two realms will remain separate but neither one will have a SEA—for there will not be any opposition or wickedness. Both realms will live in peace under one monarchy: a King [Jesus Christ] from the heavenly realm and a Queen [the Saints] from the earthly realm. God Almighty will reign supreme over His creation and all things will be restored as they were, before wickedness was found in that place known as the SEA.

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