

CASTING INTO THE SEA

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By Martha Lucia

As we think about what Jesus told us to do, preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out devils, have you ever wondered what to do with the demons that are cast out? As I began to search the scriptures and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to me about demons and where they need to be sent when we cast them out, I felt He began to show me some things through the Word that will begin to weaken Satan's hold on the people, the earth, and the wealth of the earth.

In this chapter we will explore a thread that runs throughout the scriptures which communicates that many times God used the water, seas and rivers, as places where demonic forces, which were controlling humanity, were held or destroyed. We will also see how demons in the waters were unleashed as the destroyer. God created the destroyer and uses him for His purposes.¹

In the following pages, we are dealing in a realm of faith that reflects the words in Hebrews 11:1: *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* We are dealing in an unseen realm in which we have to rely on the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth, show us things to come, and assist us in warring against the powers, principalities and demonic forces that rule in this world. It is my prayer that you will be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit as He reveals the intangibility of the spiritual realm with which we are dealing. This is by no means the last word on a subject such as this, but hopefully it will provoke us to desire truth and to understand Satan's desires.

The Deep Abyss

In the beginning the earth existed as formless, a state of confusion, emptiness and desolation. It was void and **darkness** was upon the face of the deep.² The Hebrew word for "darkness" has various meanings including the misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, or wickedness.³ The Hebrew word for "deep" used in this verse is *tehowm* which means an abyss (as a surging mass of water), especially the deep (the main sea or the subterranean water-supply).⁴ It comes from a Hebrew word that means to make an uproar or agitate greatly.⁵ Could it be that the darkness or wickedness that was upon the face of the deep, this surging agitated mass of water was actually Satan's kingdom?

In the very first sign of rebellion God exercised His authority as the almighty creator God by casting Satan into the deep. Then HE showed up demonstrate His power which will to totally destroy Satan's kingdom by dividing it. Jesus

¹ Isaiah 54:16

² Genesis 1:2

³ H2822 (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

⁴ H8415, Ibid

⁵ H1949, Ibid

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echoed the principle of weakening or destroying a kingdom by dividing it when He said to the Pharisees:

²⁵Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: ²⁶And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? ²⁷And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. ²⁸But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.” (Matt. 12:25-28, KJV)

Creation was filled with “dividing.” Light was divided from darkness. This appears to be God’s first step in separating His kingdom from Satan’s kingdom. Satan’s kingdom, which is called the kingdom of darkness, was over the face of the deep. Can’t you imagine Satan’s surprise when God said let there be light? Light always dispels darkness. Throughout the scriptures, darkness is generally associated with death, failure, suffering and sin, while light is associated with life, salvation, prosperity, wisdom, and justice.⁶

On the second day of creation God created a firmament in the midst of the waters that provided another division in this surging mass of waters. The Hebrew meaning for the word “firmament” provides some interesting insight into this day of creation. Firmament is what is known as “space.” The Hebrew word comes from a primitive root that means to pound upon, to spread out by beating, to stamp the ground with the feet, and in a figurative sense was used to describe crushed enemies, those who were downtrodden.⁷ God called the firmament heaven,⁸ a place from which the enemy would be crushed. He separated the water from the land and created lights in the heavens, placing boundaries there as is reflected in Job 26:10 (Amplified), *“He has placed an enclosing limit [the horizon] upon the waters at the boundary between light and darkness.”*

On day five, all the moving creatures and the fowl of the air were created from the waters, the abyss where Satan resided. At this time space was given in the open firmament of heaven. God controlled all that He had created until He made man at which time He gave man dominion over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that crept on the earth. This new creation of God and the authority to maintain it was given to Adam and Eve in the garden until they willingly, yet unknowingly, invited Satan out of the deep into the dominion of man. At this time man gave the authority God had given him to the serpent, who now became the ruler of the air, the waters, and all the

⁶ H216, Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible, © 1984, 1991 by AMG International, Inc. Revised Edition 1991, Lexical Aids to the Old Testament, p. 1597

⁷ H7554, Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible, © 1984, 1991 by AMG International, Inc. Revised Edition 1991, Lexical Aids to the Old Testament, p. 1662

⁸ Genesis 1:8

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creatures on the earth. That was not God's plan as was made apparent during the days of the great flood, when the floodwaters rose about 15 cubits above the highest mountains prevailing over all flesh, the fowls of the air and everything that crept on the earth. God once again brought destruction and division to Satan's dominion.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil that Adam and Eve ate of is still what Satan's kingdom eats of rather than the tree of life. We are called to make known the knowledge of the glory of the Lord that will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. This will result in there being an over-turning of this kingdom of darkness as prophesied in the Word of God.

We are in a spiritual war with the prince of the power of the "air."⁹ Who gave him the "power" or dominion over the air after he had been cast out of heaven eons ago? As we just described, man did. How can we win this war in space and take back the dominion of the air? We can execute the very words that God spoke to Satan in Genesis 3:14: "*You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.*" God has given the earth to men.¹⁰ We can hold Satan under our feet.

Through the redemptive blood of Jesus we have once again been given authority over all of God's creation. If we carry out the task that God created us for, to have dominion over all of creation, then as we aggressively proclaim, decree, declare, and pray prayers that partner with the Holy Spirit we will carry out divine strategies that will result in further division of Satan's kingdom. In Ephesians 2:6 the Apostle Paul reminds us that we are raised up together with Christ and have been made to sit with Him in heavenly places. Just as God ruled from the firmament – a place from which He crushed the enemy – we too have that authority as we take our place in the heavenly realm. Romans 16:20 says that the God of peace will soon crush Satan underneath OUR feet. We have to position ourselves in the heavenly realm and represent the kingdom of God on earth for Satan to be crushed under our feet!

What was the sea created for? Why is there a distinction between the land and the sea? What is heaven? Heaven is the "holding place" for the departed saints, even as the bosom of Abraham was a holding place for the saints¹¹ until Jesus came and led captivity captive.¹² When Jesus returns, the saints will return with Him to the earth. So what is the holding place for the demons and the spirits of the un-redeemed men who have died? As we examine this, be open for the suggestion that there is a place, where we can cast them and bind them with

⁹ Ephesians 2:2

¹⁰ Psalm 115:16

¹¹ Luke 16:23

¹² Psalm 68:18

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chains and fetters of iron¹³ until they are forever cast into the lake of fire. If we are to cause the kingdom of this world to become the kingdom of our Lord and Christ, there must be a way to weaken Satan's kingdom by weakening his force. When the disciples returned to Jesus reporting that the demons were subject to them in His name, Jesus said He saw Satan fall like lightning from the heaven.¹⁴ Jesus witnessed Satan's fall from the heavenly realm in the beginning, but was addressing the fact that we can cause this kingdom of darkness to fall by representing the kingdom of light and taking back all that Jesus paid the price to redeem. Satan's kingdom was definitely being weakened, divided and falling, as the disciples preached the gospel of the kingdom, cast out demons, healed the sick, and raised the dead.

In the days of Jesus the devils were "very uncomfortable" when they thought they might be cast into the abyss as is reflected in Luke 8:31. The word "abyss" is *abussos*, which means depthless¹⁵. It is a variation of the Greek word *buthos*, which means deep and by implication the sea¹⁶.

Barnes' Notes says the following about "the abyss:"

This word is applied to anything the depth or bottom of which is not known. It is applied to the ocean (in the Septuagint), Job 41:31, "He maketh the deep to boil as a pot." Isa 44:27, "That saith to the deep, Be dry, etc." Gen 7:11; 8:2; to a broad place (Job 36:16); and to the abyss before the world was formed, Gen 1:2. In the New Testament it is not applied to the ocean, unless in the passage Luke 8:31 (see the note on that place), but to **the abode of departed spirits; and particularly to the dark, deep, and bottomless pit, where the wicked are to dwell forever.**¹⁷

Is the abyss also a place where the unredeemed souls are kept until judgment day?

Jesus said in Matthew 6:19:

"¹⁹And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (KJV)

¹³ Psalm 149:8

¹⁴ Luke 10:17-18

¹⁵ G12, (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

¹⁶ G1037, Ibid.

¹⁷ Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by Biblesoft

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Psalm 149:8-9 says that we have the privilege of executing vengeance on the heathen by binding their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron. Just as Jesus said and did, we too can divide Satan's kingdom by identifying the spiritual forces that are at work and binding and casting them into the sea. Could it be they are bound there until either God permits them to come out to carry out his purposes or man willingly invites them to possess him? We need to glean some understanding in the words written in Jude 6 (Amplified):

"And angels that did not keep (care for, guard and hold to) their own first place of power but abandoned their proper dwelling place, He has reserved in custody in eternal chains (bonds) under the thick gloom of utter darkness until the judgment and doom of the great day."

The flood of the enemy, Isaiah 59:19b *"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him."* Barnes' Notes supply the following about this verse:

Jerome (the Vulgate) renders it, 'When he shall come as a violent river which the Spirit of the Lord (spiritus Domini, or the wind of the Lord, that is, a strong wind) drives along. The Septuagint, 'For the wrath of the Lord will come like an impetuous stream; it will come with fury.' The Chaldee, 'When they shall come who oppress, like an overflowing of the river Euphrates.' The Syriac, 'Because when the oppressor shall come as a river, the Spirit of the Lord shall humble him.' The reason of this variety of interpretation is the ambiguity of the Hebrew words which occur in the verse. The word which in our common version is rendered 'the enemy' *tsaar* (OT:6862), from *tsaarar* (OT:6887), to press, compress, bind up together; intrans. to be straitened, or compressed), may mean either:

1. "An adversary, enemy, persecutor," synonymous with 'owyeeb' (OT:341), as in Num 10:9; Deut 32:27; Job 16:9; or,
2. "Straits, affliction" (Ps 4:2; 18:7; 44:11); or,
3. "Strait, narrow" (Num 22:26; Job 41:7).

'It may be, therefore, here either a noun meaning an enemy; or it may be an adjective qualifying the word river, and then will denote a river that is closely confined within its banks, and that is urged forward by a mass of accumulating waters, or by a mighty wind. According to this, it will mean that Yahweh will come to take vengeance with the impetuosity of a river that swells and foams and is borne forward with violence in its course.¹⁸

With this foundation we will look at various ways that the powers of the waters are mentioned and have been used.

¹⁸ Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by BibleSoft

The Enemy Resides in the Waters

Behemoth

Job 40:15-24 describes the demonic beast called behemoth. Some commentaries call this creature the “river horse” of the Nile that comes out to feed on the earth.¹⁹ The behemoth represents a proud tyrant and oppressor who thinks of himself as well fortified against God’s judgments.

Leviathan

Leviathan was a sea monster that represented forces of chaos in opposition to God. The Hebrew meaning of “leviathan” includes: a wreathed animal, a serpent, to twine and figuratively represents Babylon.²⁰ Job 41 paints a hopeless picture that leviathan, the king over all the children of pride, will never be overcome. However, we know who wins as is exemplified in the following verses:

- *“¹⁴You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces, And gave him as food to the people inhabiting the wilderness.”* Psalm 74:14 (NKJV)
- *“¹In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.”* (Is. 27:1, KJV)

Even the constellations, which God gave to us as signs, show us the dragon in the sea.

“¹⁴Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for SIGNS and seasons, and for days and years. ¹⁵And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. ¹⁶And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.’²¹

The Hebrew word for “signs” means: a signal (literally or figuratively), as a flag, beacon, monument, omen, prodigy, and evidence.²² The lights in the firmament

¹⁹ Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.

²⁰ H 3882 and H3867

²¹ Genesis 1:14-16

²² H226, from Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.

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provide us with signals about coming events. Jesus said, concerning the timing of His return:

²⁵And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;²³

We find that the stars are aligned to show that the Messiah is rescuing His bride from the beast from the sea. The constellations named Perseus (Messiah), Andromeda (bride), and Cetus (the sea monster or Leviathan) represent these.

It is said that Cetus is the largest of all the constellations. The noteworthy stars within it have names that mean “the bound” or “chained” enemy as well as “the rebel.” Some of the stars in the constellation are considered variable, in that their brightness fluctuates which make them appear unsteady or unstable!²⁴ A true picture of Satan!

Our hope and our trust must be in God. The days of evil, fueled by the demonic forces like these recorded for us in the scriptures that are found in the water, are only going to become darker. We have the same hope that was written by the psalmist:

- *“Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.”* (Psalm 89:8)
- *“I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers”* (Psalm 89:25) This was a promise to King David.

In the following pages we will look at various scriptures about the demonic activity that is associated with waters, from the rivers to the seas. We will also look at demonic activity over cities and their relationship to the waters. We need to remind ourselves that we co-labor with the God who rules over all of this. Let us not grow weary in serving the omnipotent God of righteousness and truth.

The Euphrates River

The Euphrates River valley, land of Babylon, is where evil began on earth (see Genesis 3) and where the confederation of evil will meet its end (Revelation 16:12-13). The Euphrates river is first mentioned in Genesis 2:14 as one of the four rivers that was divided from the river that flowed out of Eden. It later provided a landmark boundary for the landmass that God gave to Abraham’s descendants (Genesis 15:18). God used the boundary of the river in many instances. In Jeremiah 46:6-10 we find one example of this.

²³ Luke 21:25

²⁴ www.triumphpro.com

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⁶Let not the swift flee away, nor the mighty man escape; they shall stumble, and fall toward the north by the river Euphrates. ⁷Who is this that cometh up as a flood, whose waters are moved as the rivers? ⁸Egypt riseth up like a flood, and his waters are moved like the rivers; and he saith, I will go up, and will cover the earth; I will destroy the city and the inhabitants thereof. ⁹Come up, ye horses; and rage, ye chariots; and let the mighty men come forth; the Ethiopians and the Libyans, that handle the shield; and the Lydians, that handle and bend the bow. ¹⁰For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.

In this passage God compares the enemy to a flood and water and rivers that come to destroy.

In Isaiah 8:6-7, we find that God used the Euphrates as an enemy against His own people when they rejected the government He had put over them. Their desire was to have a “stronger” government like that of the nation of the Assyrians.

⁶“Since the people of Jerusalem are planning to refuse my gentle care and are enthusiastic about asking King Rezin and King Pekah to come and aid them, ⁷therefore I will overwhelm my people with Euphrates’ mighty flood; the king of Assyria and all his mighty armies will rage against them. This flood will overflow all its channels and sweep into your land of Judah, O Immanuel, submerging it from end to end.” (The Living Bible)

It is unfortunate that many times we press on in our own effort without considering that God’s power and authority are far greater than any earthly power or “opportunity” that we might encounter. God in His mercy will not let us remain detached from Him. As in the above passage, He will loose the enemy in such a way as to draw us to Him once again! God is always ready to restore the remnant of His people. He will lift up a standard and will assemble those who have been banished. Isaiah prophesied about this in Isaiah 11:15-16:

¹⁵And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. ¹⁶And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.”

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God is faithful! When the Prince of Peace rules over all the formerly hostile regions, the natural barriers of the Euphrates and the spiritual barriers will be removed and communication will be unimpeded.

The Euphrates River is located in a geographical area from which Assyria and Babylon, powerful enemies of Israel, invaded Israel. In Jeremiah 51:60-64 we find a very interesting passage in which Jeremiah is describing the calamity that would come upon Babylon. He wrote the words the Lord had given him on a scroll and then charged Seraiah with the responsibility of reading the scroll, of tying the scroll to a stone and then casting it into the Euphrates. This was symbolic of what was planned for Babylon. It would sink down and not rise again. In Revelation 18:24 we find a similar occurrence,

²¹And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.

The wickedness and violence that was associated with Babylon and the spiritual forces behind it will forever be cast into the sea and destroyed.

The Euphrates will be used once again at the exact hour, day, month, and year determined only by God, at which time He will command the release of the four demonic angels.

¹⁴saying to the sixth angel, "Release the four mighty demons held bound at the great River Euphrates." ¹⁵They had been kept in readiness for that year and month and day and hour, and now they were turned loose to kill a third of all mankind. ¹⁶They led an army of 200,000,000 warriors --I heard an announcement of how many there were. ¹⁷I saw their horses spread out before me in my vision; their riders wore fiery-red breastplates, though some were sky-blue and others yellow. The horses' heads looked much like lions', and smoke and fire and flaming sulphur billowed from their mouths, killing one-third of all mankind. ¹⁹Their power of death was not only in their mouths, but in their tails as well, for their tails were similar to serpents' heads that struck and bit with fatal wounds." (Rev. 9:14-19, The Living Bible)²⁵

The Wycliffe Bible Commentary provides the following explanation of this passage:

²⁵ The Living Bible, in order to help accommodate its paraphrase translation, and for ease of readability, displays fewer verse numbers in the text and instead indicating numerous verse spans (separated by a comma or dash). It may appear that verses in these spans are "missing"; however, it is only the number that is not present in the text.

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"We are now taken to a known geographical area on this earth, to the river Euphrates (v. 14), which here probably should be taken literally. Four angels bound somewhere along this river are now loosed, that they should kill the third part of men (v. 15). This fearful destruction will be brought about by armies of horsemen. Surely we here have come to the days of the beginning of Antichrist. Todd has said, and Weidner and others agree, that "we are probably to look to this region as the scene of this great judgment, which is in exact conformity with the inferences to which we are led by the prophecies of Daniel, where those countries in the region of the Euphrates, once the stage of such mighty empires, are destined to become the scene of the last great struggle between the princes of the world and the people of God."

The result of all this is not a turning to God, or repentance, but a stubborn continuation in the sins that have brought about this judgment, the worship of demons, idolatry, murder, sorceries, fornication, and thefts. In fact, I cannot find any evidence in the Revelation that there will be any great turning to God during the time that these fearful judgments are falling upon men."²⁶

As God continued to unveil His vision to John, the sixth angel was again directed to the Euphrates to pour out the wrath of God opening the way for the kings from the east to gather at Armageddon.

"¹²The sixth angel poured out his flask upon the great River Euphrates and it dried up so that the kings from the east could march their armies westward without hindrance. ¹³And I saw three evil spirits disguised as frogs leap from the mouth of the Dragon, the Creature, and his False Prophet. ¹⁴These miracle-working demons conferred with all the rulers of the world to gather them for battle against the Lord on that great coming Judgment Day of God Almighty. ¹⁵"Take note: I will come as unexpectedly as a thief! Blessed are all who are awaiting me, who keep their robes in readiness and will not need to walk naked and ashamed." ¹⁶And they gathered all the armies of the world near a place called, in Hebrew, Armageddon-the Mountain of Megiddo." (Rev. 16:12-16, The Living Bible)

When the Euphrates is removed as an obstacle to the kings from the east, the way will be opened for the demonically inspired forces to move into position for the final battle as described in Revelation 9. The drying up of the waters will release the demonic forces that will fuel the destruction of one-third of mankind by the 200 million horsemen.

²⁶ The Wycliffe Bible Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1962 by Moody Press

The Tigris River

The Tigris River (Hiddekel) was also one of the rivers that was divided from the river that went out of Eden. Standing beside the Tigris,²⁷ Daniel had the following vision:

⁵Then I, Daniel, looked, and behold, there stood two others, the one on the brink of the river on this side, and the other on the brink of the river on that side. ⁶And one said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, How long shall it be to the end of these wonders? ⁷And I heard the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, when he held up his right and his left hand toward the heavens and swore by Him Who lives for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and a half [or three and one-half years]; and when they have made an end of shattering and crushing the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.” (Daniel 12:5-7, Amplified)

The angel was standing on the waters, which represented the “gulf” that separates man from God. This further describes the area where the end of the kings of the earth is within sight. By standing on the water He was indicating that divine control exists over the waters as well as over the land. God has dominion over all!

The Jordan River

The Jordan River, the principal river of Palestine, has been a place of various miraculous events throughout the course of history. The Hebrew meaning of “Jordan” is “a descender”²⁸ and it is derived from a primitive root which means to descend (literally, to go downwards; or conventionally to a lower region, as the shore, a boundary, the enemy, etc.; or figuratively, to fall); causatively, to bring down, to take down.²⁹ Its very meaning implies that it has been a boundary that the enemy has attempted to use to stand in the way of God’s purpose and promise.

One of the familiar passages related to the Jordan was when Joshua and all of Israel aligned themselves with God’s purposes to enter and possess the Promised Land. The river, which was at flood stage, roaring out of its boundaries, stood as an enemy in the face of the Israelites. Only through a miracle of God would the Israelites cross over and enter into their destiny. Because of God’s faithfulness and longing to see His people fulfill all that He had in store from them, He promised Joshua that every place the sole of his foot tread, He would give him as long as he remained strong and courageous and

²⁷ Daniel 10:4

²⁸ H3383

²⁹ H3381

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observed all that was written in the book of the law. And so it was, as the sole of the feet of the priests, who were carrying the ark of God's presence, touched the edge of the river, the Lord of all the earth came down in the Jordan and opened the way for the Israelites to pass over on dry land. By this, God demonstrated that He was among them and would be with them as they forged into the land to destroy the "ites." The same promise is ours today – as long as we are faithful to follow after God's ways.

The priests carrying the presence of God stood in the Jordan, holding back the enemy, until all was accomplished. And when they finally came up out of the Jordan, the waters of Jordan returned. God opened the way for them to move forward into their destiny and actually shutoff the way for them to turn back. He wants us to press forward!!³⁰

¹⁰So the priests who bore the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD had commanded Joshua to speak to the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua; and the people hurried and crossed over." (Josh. 4:10, NKJV)

¹⁵Then the LORD spoke to Joshua, saying, ¹⁶"Command the priests who bear the ark of the Testimony to come up from the Jordan." ¹⁷Joshua therefore commanded the priests, saying, "Come up from the Jordan." ¹⁸And it came to pass, when the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the LORD had come from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet touched the dry land, that the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks as before." (Josh. 4:15-18, NKJV)

The Jordan River was also part of the making of Elisha into God's servant as Elijah's anointing was passed on to him. In the days leading up to the time at which the Lord planned to take Elijah by a whirlwind to heaven, he and Elisha traveled to the school of the prophets in Gilgal, Bethel, Jericho, and finally arrived at the Jordan.³¹ At every stop, the sons of the prophets approached Elisha and said to him, "do you know that the Lord will take away your master from over you today?" Elisha responded that he knew, but he chose to press on and remain with Elijah. Fifty of the sons of the prophets stood at a distance, unwilling to go with Elijah, while Elisha and Elijah crossed the Jordan. When they arrived at the Jordan, it stood as a test for Elisha and an enemy of Elijah in the way of God's plan. Once again, as soon as Elijah took his mantle and struck the waters God divided the waters.³² It wasn't until they had crossed the Jordan that Elijah could ask Elisha what he could do for Elisha before he was taken up. Elisha had proven he would go the distance and sacrifice all to have the anointing and know the Lord the way Elijah did. And now, the transfer could take place.

³⁰ Please read "Redeeming the Priesthood" at www.watchmannelnetwork.org

³¹ 2 Kings 2:1-6

³² 2 Kings 2:8

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“¹⁰So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so." ¹¹Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. ¹³He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.” (2 Kings 2:10-14, NKJV)

Demonic entities, which can be categorized as anything standing in the way of God’s plan and purpose, can be moved aside. The final day when Elijah and Elisha were together demonstrates this. Elisha had to leave the old behind – pick up the anointing – divide the waters of the Jordan and move into the new.

Miraculous events continued at the Jordan on various other occasions including when the sons of the prophets requested Elisha join them as they traveled to the Jordan. Their plan was to expand their borders by establishing a new place where they could live. While cutting trees by the Jordan, the axe head fell into the water. Now the enemies in the water held one of the tools needed to accomplish their success.

“⁶So the man of God said, "Where did it fall?" And he showed him the place. So he cut off a stick, and threw it in there; and he made the iron float. ⁷Therefore he said, "Pick it up for yourself." So he reached out his hand and took it. (2 Kings 6:6-7, NKJV)

Against the laws of nature, God through Elisha caused the axe head to float on the waters so it could be retrieved. Many times God over comes the enemy on our behalf and leaves it to us to “pick up” what was lost. Command the enemy to restore what was stolen. It is our choice!

Another powerful example of a way God used the Jordan is in the following verse:

“¹⁰And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.” (2 Kings 5:10, KJV)

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Could it be that the washing in the Jordan removed the demons? By believing the prophet and by taking action on the Word of the Lord, the miraculous occurred.

The most significance event that occurred in the Jordan was Jesus' baptism.

"¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. ¹⁶When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matt. 3:13-17, NKJV)

In this passage, we see that John the Baptist tried to prevent Jesus from being baptized in the Jordan, but Jesus knew what would be accomplished. The enemy had to be overcome so that He could experience every temptation and evil that we experience. Jesus said that He only did what He saw the Father doing – as we think back to the days of Joshua and remember that God parted the Jordan to allow the Israelites to cross over into the Promised Land, we know that Jesus was doing what He had seen done – He was opening the way for us once again, through His overcoming power to cross every Jordan and to come to the presence of the Father. As He rose out of the Jordan overcoming the obstacle it presented, immediately the heavens were open. This same power is available to us as we overcome the enemy and push back the obstacles through prayer, the heavens are open and the power of God is released.

God never leaves us in that place of descent or death, but provides a way to come up into life. Dividing the waters of the Red Sea, parting the waters of the Jordan, and moving mountains – God is in the business of making a way for His people. It is through His presence that the victory is won.

"³The Red Sea saw them coming and quickly broke apart before them. The Jordan River opened up a path for them to cross. ⁴The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like lambs! ⁵What's wrong, Red Sea, that made you cut yourself in two? What happened, Jordan River, to your waters? Why were they held back? ⁶Why, mountains, did you skip like rams? Why, little hills, like lambs? ⁷Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, the God of Jacob. ⁸For he caused gushing streams to burst from flinty rock." (Ps. 114:3-8, The Living Bible)

Our strength and victory are through the mighty hand of God. Each of us has a call on our lives and a purpose to advance the kingdom of God. Often times we grow weary and complain to the Lord about the wickedness in the land and the

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ease of their lifestyles, yet God rebuked Jeremiah for such complaining and impatience.³³

“⁵If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?” (Jer. 12:5, KJV)

Let us take heed not to grow weary – there are battles to fight and obstacles in the way of God’s people accomplishing His purposes. All things must be fulfilled before He will return. Be prepared to contend with the swelling of the Jordan!!

The Nile River

During the days of the Pharaohs, God used the Nile River several times to bring destruction on the Egyptians. Below is an excerpt from Matthew Henry’s Commentary describing how the Egyptian’s viewed the river:

“Nilus, the river of Egypt, was their idol; they and their land derived so much benefit from it that they served and worshipped it more than the Creator. The true fountain of the Nile being unknown to them, they paid all their devotions to its streams: here therefore God punished them, and turned that into blood which they had turned into a god. Note, That creature which we idolize God justly removes from us, or embitters to us. He makes that a scourge to us which we make a competitor with him.”³⁴

Any place there is idol worship; the door is opened for the demonic forces to gather. This is exemplified in Joseph’s explanation of Pharaoh’s dream and Joseph’s subsequent interpretation.

“¹⁷Then Pharaoh said to Joseph: "Behold, in my dream I stood on the bank of the river. ¹⁸Suddenly seven cows came up out of the river, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow. ¹⁹Then behold, seven other cows came up after them, poor and very ugly and gaunt, such ugliness as I have never seen in all the land of Egypt. ²⁰And the gaunt and ugly cows ate up the first seven, the fat cows. ²¹When they had eaten them up, no one would have known that they had eaten them, for they were just as ugly as at the beginning. So I awoke.” (Gen. 41:17-21, NKJV)

“²⁶The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good heads are seven years; the dreams are one. ²⁷And the seven thin and ugly cows which came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty heads

³³ Please read “Running with the Horses” at www.watchmannetwork.org

³⁴ Matthew Henry’s Commentary on the Whole Bible: New Modern Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1991 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc.

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blighted by the east wind are seven years of famine.” (Gen. 41:26-27, NKJV)

Typically the Nile provided water for the crops, which is represented by the seven fine, fat cows that came from the river. As long as there was water in the river, the crops flourished. The seven thin and ugly cows, which came from the river, represented a season of famine was ahead. The water level in the Nile went down, the famine came, and evil spirits came out of the water and ate of the goodness of the land.

Part of the Egyptians' worship of the Nile River also included child sacrifice as they were asking the river gods to destroy the Hebrews by offering their children as sacrifices. This is found in the following verse:

“²²And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.” (Ex. 1:22, KJV)

Moses was earmarked for sacrifice as many of the Hebrew children were. however, by God's divine intervention an ark was prepared to float Moses above the gods of the river. Years later God called upon Moses to execute His judgment against the gods of the Nile by turning the water to blood. This brought God's retribution.

“¹⁷Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood. ¹⁸And the fish that is in the river shall die, and the river shall stink; and the Egyptians shall lothe to drink of the water of the river.” (Ex. 7:17-18, KJV)

Years later the river god of the Nile was still functioning as the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel to prophesy against the king of Egypt,

*“³Tell them that the Lord God says: `I am your enemy, Pharaoh, king of Egypt-mighty **dragon lying in the middle of your rivers. For you have said, "The Nile is mine; I have made it for myself!"** ⁴I will put hooks into your jaws and drag you out onto the land with fish sticking to your scales. ⁵And I will leave you and all the fish stranded in the desert to die, and you won't be buried, for I have given you as food to the wild animals and birds. ⁶Because of the way your might collapsed when Israel called on you for aid [instead of trusting me], all of you shall know I am the Lord. ⁷Israel leaned on you but, like a cracked staff, you snapped beneath her hand and wrenched her shoulder out of joint and made her stagger with the pain. ⁸Therefore the Lord God says: I will bring an army against you, O Egypt, and destroy both men and herds. ⁹The land of Egypt shall become*

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*a desolate wasteland, and the Egyptians will know that I, the Lord, have done it. ¹⁰ **Because you said: "The Nile is mine! I made it!" therefore I am against you and your river, and I will utterly destroy the land of Egypt, from Migdol to Syene, as far south as the border of Ethiopia. ¹¹ For forty years not a soul will pass that way, neither men nor animals. It will be completely uninhabited. ¹² I will make Egypt desolate, surrounded by desolate nations, and her cities will lie as wastelands for forty years. I will exile the Egyptians to other lands.**"* (Ezek. 29:3-12, The Living Bible)

The Nile that was a hindrance to the Hebrews will again be a sign of God's intervention when He brings His people home. Zechariah 10:11 (NKJV) depicts this.

"¹¹ He shall pass through the sea with affliction, And strike the waves of the sea: All the depths of the River shall dry up. Then the pride of Assyria shall be brought down, And the scepter of Egypt shall depart."

This verse implies that God will execute judgment on all the rivers that are the pride of Assyria and Egypt, as these countries are symbolic of all the nations where God has scattered His people. Whatever demonic structure is in the way, He will remove as He calls forth the scattered remnant.

The Plagues of the Frogs and the Locust

As Moses continued to work with God to loosen the stronghold that Pharaoh had on the Israelites, he called upon the frogs and the locust, among other things.

God brought the frogs out of the river to cover all of Egypt, enter into the houses, the bedchambers, the ovens and the kneading troughs (Exodus 8:3). In Revelation 16:13, God describes the frogs as unclean spirits:

"¹³ And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet." (Rev. 16:13, KJV)

These unclean spirits still reside in the river as is reflected in Exodus 8:9 where Moses commanded the frogs to return to the river and remain there only. The land suffered from the foul odor left by the heaps of dead frogs that were collected together. What pollution!!

God used the locust as His great army and destructive force against Pharaoh. The locust covered the earth in its entirety and ate everything that remained after the previous plagues. When Pharaoh repented and requested that Moses ask God to remove the death and destruction that the locust brought, God cast the locust into the sea.

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“¹⁹And the LORD turned a mighty strong west wind, which took away the locusts, and cast them into the Red sea; there remained not one locust in all the coasts of Egypt.” (Ex. 10:19, KJV)

The destruction of the locust not only affected Pharaoh, it also caused distress for the Israelites. All of creation is at God's disposal to use however He chooses. At times He will use such things as the locust as His weapon of destruction, but He is also faithful to restore what has been lost to His chosen ones as is reflected in Joel 2:25-26.

²⁵And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you. ²⁶And ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you: and my people shall never be ashamed.

The Red Sea – the Israelites Freedom and the Egyptians Death

As the Israelites fled from Pharaoh's chariots, God again turned to the sea as a source to capture and destroy the enemy. The Red Sea stood as a barrier, almost as an enemy, in the path that the Lord had planned for the Israelites. But the Lord opened the sea as an escape route for the Israelites and then closed it over Pharaoh and his chosen captains. There was not one Egyptian left who could pursue His people.

³The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name. ⁴Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea: his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea. ⁵The depths have covered them: they sank into the bottom as a stone. (Ex.15:3-5, KJV)

*¹⁹For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the sea, and **the LORD brought again the waters of the sea upon them**; but the children of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea. (Ex. 15:19, KJV)*

God fulfilled His promise which He spoke to Moses:

*“¹³And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: **for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.**” (Ex. 14:13, KJV)*

These words are true today, as we align ourselves with God's purposes – when we cast the enemy we see today into the sea, we will never see him again! This

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is something we really need to understand. God has given us power and authority over all devils.³⁵

⁵Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. ⁶Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; ⁷To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people; ⁸To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron; ⁹To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.” (Ps.149:5-9)

The Wicked and the Sea

²⁰But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. ²¹There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked. (Is. 57:20-21, KJV)

²³Concerning Damascus. Hamath is confounded, and Arpad: for they have heard evil tidings: they are fainthearted; there is sorrow on the sea; it cannot be quiet.” (Jer. 49:23, KJV)

These passages correlate the wicked with troubled seas and the waters of the troubled sea as sticky, foul, and agitated. The Hebrew meaning of the word “troubled” is “to drive out from a possession³⁶” and the meaning of “seas” is “roaring.”³⁷ The Hebrew meaning of the word “quiet” is to rest, be undisturbed, be unmolested, be inactive, be calm, to be silent and to be motionless.³⁸ One of the characteristics of the wicked is that they are “roaring” because they have been “driven out” from what they perceive as their possession. Doesn’t this place in the sea where there is no rest sound like somewhere that demons might reside?

Jude 13 paints of picture of raging seas that further exemplifies that the seas might be a place where the demons and un-redeemed spirits of dead men reside.

¹³Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.”

The following passages illustrate how God is our deliverer, rescuing us from the grips of the deep where our strong enemy resides.

³⁵ Luke 9:1

³⁶ H1644, (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

³⁷ H3220, Ibid.

³⁸ H8252, Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible, Lexical Aids to the Old Testament, page 1672

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⁶In my distress I screamed to the Lord for his help. And he heard me from heaven; my cry reached his ears. ⁷Then the earth rocked and reeled, and mountains shook and trembled. How they quaked! For he was angry. ⁸Fierce flames leaped from his mouth, setting fire to the earth; smoke blew from his nostrils. ⁹He bent the heavens down and came to my defense; thick darkness was beneath his feet. ¹⁰Mounted on a mighty angel, he sped swiftly to my aid with wings of wind. ¹¹He enshrouded himself with darkness, veiling his approach with dense clouds dark as murky waters. ¹²Suddenly the brilliance of his presence broke through the clouds with lightning and a mighty storm of hail. ¹³The Lord thundered in the heavens; the God above all gods has spoken—oh, the hailstones; oh, the fire! ¹⁴He flashed his fearful arrows of lightning and routed all my enemies. See how they run! ¹⁵Then at your command, O Lord, the sea receded from the shore. At the blast of your breath the depths were laid bare. ¹⁶He reached down from heaven and took me and drew me out of my great trials. **He rescued me from deep waters. ¹⁷He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me—I who was helpless in their hands.**” (Ps. 18:6-17, The Living Bible)

²²The Lord said, I will bring again from Bashan, **I will bring my people again from the depths of the sea:** ²³That thy foot may be dipped in the blood of thine enemies, and the tongue of thy dogs in the same.” (Ps. 68:22-23, KJV)

Jonah and the Sea

¹¹Then said they unto him, **What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.** ¹²And he said unto them, **Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.** ¹³Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for **the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.** ¹⁴Wherefore they cried unto the LORD, and said, We beseech thee, O LORD, we beseech thee, let us not perish for this man's life, and lay not upon us innocent blood: for thou, O LORD, hast done as it pleased thee. ¹⁵**So they took up Jonah, and cast him forth into the sea: and the sea ceased from her raging.** ¹⁶Then the men feared the LORD exceedingly, and offered a sacrifice unto the LORD, and made vows. (Jon. 1:5-16, KJV)

In this passage Jonah was fleeing from the presence of the Lord aboard a ship going to Tarshish, a remote place far from Nineveh where God had summoned him. Because of Jonah's disobedience, the Lord sent out or literally "cast or

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threw” upon the sea mighty wind and a violent tempest, which was like a hurricane,³⁹ to destroy the ship.

We all know the story of Jonah in the belly of the whale, but what we may not consider is the way God viewed Jonah’s sin, which was causing all this trouble. Sin is anything that opposes God – just as any demonic activity is in opposition to God. Jonah recognized that he was calling out to God from the belly of Sheol, a place of death. In Jonah 2:5-6 he said, *“The waters surround me, even to my soul; the deep closed around me; Weeds were wrapped around my head. I went down to the moorings of the mountains; The earth with its bars closed behind me forever; Yet You have brought up my life from the pit, O Lord, my God.”* The term “deep” is the same term used in Genesis 1:2 that describes the mysterious sea.

It was Jonah’s sin that was causing all this trouble. Micah 7:18b-19 (NKJV) says, *“He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”* Just as God closed the sea over the Egyptians, totally destroying all of them, our sins are cast into the sea – totally destroyed to never rise against us, unless we revive them. Jonah went through several trying days as he chose to obey God – once he did, the sea retained his sin and he went to Nineveh to speak the word of the Lord.

Witchcraft and the Waters

I recently received a report regarding a former 4th generation witch doctor who said he was trained for 12 years under the sea in a demonic city. This provides some confirmation that the sea is a demonic vortex in the earth. I believe we will become more aware of these activities as those who are currently bound in the practice of sorcery and witchcraft are redeemed and provide inside information related to these practices.

God Uses the Waters as His Weapon

There are several instances throughout scripture in which God has used the waters as a way of destruction. One occasion occurred when all of the Philistines came against King David. This is recorded in 2 Samuel 5:17-20. As was his custom, David inquired of the Lord before engaging in battle and God promised He would deliver the Philistines into David’s hands.

“And David came to Baal-perazim, and he smote them there, and said, The Lord has broken through my enemies before me, like the bursting out

³⁹ H5591, (Biblesoft’s New Exhaustive Strong’s Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

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of great waters. So he called the place Baal-perazim [Lord of breaking through].” (Amplified)

God will use the waters as His weapon to break through the enemy’s frontline. The great flood and the meeting of Barak and Deborah with Sisera at the River Kishon are other examples of God using the waters as His weapon.

The Great Flood

In Genesis 6:17 the Lord told Noah, *“And, behold I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and every thing that is in the earth shall die.”* God’s words to Noah were that He would destroy everything on earth. God used the rain, water from above the firmament, and the fountains of the deep to flood the earth and bring destruction. Noah and his family were preserved as they floated above the corrupt and violent filled earth that had been fueled by demonic activity. But as soon as they were on dry land, Noah invited the enemy back out of the water by the sin of drunkenness. The enemy was now back out from the deep able to begin his devastation again.

The River Kishon

This is the remarkable record of Deborah and Barak as they rose to fight Jabin, the king of Canaan, his captain, Sisera, and their nine hundred chariots of iron. The odds in the natural of Deborah and Barak winning against these mighty forces were slim to none, but God was with them and told Deborah in Judges 4:7, *“And I will draw unto thee to the river Kishon Sisera, the captain of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude; and I will deliver him into thine hand.”* In Deborah’s victory song, she sang, ²⁰*They fought from heaven; the stars in their courses fought against Sisera.* ²¹*The river of Kishon swept them away, that ancient river, the river Kishon. O my soul, thou hast trodden down strength.”* (Judg. 5:20-21, KJV)

God used the Kishon River again as He directed Elijah to kill all the prophets of Baal, although there are not many details to relate.

⁴⁰*And Elijah said unto them, Take the prophets of Baal; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slew them there.”* (1 Kings 18:40, KJV)

Cities of Sodom and Gomorrah

When Lot and Abraham separated from one another, Lot chose to settle in the plain of the Jordan where it was well watered. He chose to pitch his tent near

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Sodom and found out later that the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the Lord.

“¹⁰And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar. ¹¹Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. ¹²Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. ¹³But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.” (Gen. 13:10-13, KJV)

Researchers have placed Sodom and Gomorrah near the southern tip of the Dead Sea. It is interesting to note that the Dead Sea, which is not a sea, but a 50-mile long by 11-mile wide salt lake. It is the lowest body of water on the earth, nearly one-quarter mile below sea level and nothing lives in it. It was formed where two crustal plates were spreading apart. The sea is located along the Rift Valley where the earth's crust is being stretched thin. The Dead Sea is still sinking lower today. Scientists have estimated that the Dead Sea lowers by as much as 13 inches per year. The Dead Sea is continually fed fresh water from the Jordan River, but none of the water “drains” out of the sea since its elevation is lower. The water only evaporates leaving the minerals. The area, which was once as the garden of Eden, became desolate with wicked spirits and demons covered over by what is now the Dead Sea.

There remains a future for the dead waters in the Dead Sea; they will become fresh:

“⁸He told me: "This river flows east through the desert and the Jordan Valley to the Dead Sea, where it will heal the salty waters and make them fresh and pure. ⁹Everything touching the water of this river shall live. Fish will abound in the Dead Sea, for its waters will be healed. Wherever this water flows, everything will live. ¹⁰Fishermen will stand along the shores of the Dead Sea, fishing all the way from Engedi to Eneglaim. The shores will be filled with nets drying in the sun. Fish of every kind will fill the Dead Sea just as they do the Mediterranean! ¹¹But the marshes and swamps will not be healed; they will still be salty.” (Ezek. 47:8-11, The Living Bible)

City of Tyre

Tyre (also called Tyrus) was a merchant city, the market place for the nations. Its merchants were princes and its traders were the honored with wealth and prestige. They were a proud people and they “gloried” in their accomplishments. The prince of Tyre was described as Satan, himself, in Ezekiel 28. In Ezekiel

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27:3-4 we find that Tyre was situated at the entry of the sea and its borders were in the midst or seat of the seas. These verses seem to identify the very seat of Satan.

God made it clear that He was against Tyre and that He would cause many nations to come against Tyre even as the sea causes waves to come up.⁴⁰ The prince of Tyre and the city's demise would be found in the sea as is reflected in the following passages.

*²⁷Your riches, wares, and merchandise, Your mariners and pilots,
Your caulkers and merchandisers, All your men of war who are in you,
And the entire company which is in your midst, Will fall into the midst of
the seas on the day of your ruin. (Ezek. 27:27, NKJV)*

*⁴⁸They shall throw you down into the Pit, And you shall die the death of the
slain In the midst of the seas.” (Ezek. 28:8, NKJV)*

The Lord also spoke through Zechariah concerning Tyre.

*³For Tyre built herself a tower, Heaped up silver like the dust, And gold
like the mire of the streets. ⁴Behold, the LORD will cast her out; He will
destroy her power in the sea, And she will be devoured by fire.” (Zech.
9:3-4, NKJV)*

Man's own craftiness and wisdom will bring him to destruction, but if we seek God's counsel and wisdom and follow it, we will find salvation.

The City of Nineveh

For Nineveh, the picture was not so pretty. Even though they repented at first, Nahum prophesied their final destruction and in part said in Nahum 2:6, *“And the gates of the rivers shall be opened and the palace shall be dissolved.”* The sea destroyed Nineveh.

The City of Babylon

The Hebrew translation of “Babylon” is “confusion.” Confusion can be represented so many ways – the twisted truth may sound acceptable, it did to Eve, but the result was an open door to an evil end. Babylon represents every kind of evil. God prophesied of Babylon's doom in Jeremiah 51.

*¹²Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong,
set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the LORD hath both*

⁴⁰ Ezekiel 26:3

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devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon.
¹³*O thou that dwellest upon many waters, abundant in treasures, thine end is come, and the measure of thy covetousness.”* (Jer. 51:12-13, KJV)

²⁴*And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD.*

²⁵*Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.”* (Jer. 51:24-25, KJV)

⁴¹*How is Sheshach taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth surprised! how is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations!*
⁴²*The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof.”* (Jer. 51:41-42, KJV) ⁴¹

⁶³*And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates: ⁶⁴And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.”* (Jer. 51:63-64, KJV)

Although this sounds very heavy, it is all part of God's victory. The spirit of Babylon will be thrown down! We need to grasp this with excitement. God's word spoken through Jeremiah will be completed as is indicated in Revelation 18:21 (KJV).

²¹*And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.”*

⁴¹ In this passage the sea is actually the overflowing waters of the Euphrates during the spring. Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by Biblesoft

Poseidon, the god of the sea

Mythology is defined as a story of ostensibly historical events that serves to unfold part of the world view of a people or explain a practice, belief, or natural phenomenon.⁴² The ancient Greeks and Romans believed in many mythological characters. They worshipped these characters as if they were gods, drawing on the powers that they perceived that each represented. Once man connected with these forces, the belief related to that force was often manifesting in various ways. Poseidon was the Greek god of the sea and Neptune was the god of the sea among the Romans. Poseidon was one of the original Olympian deities. He was born of Cronus and Rhea and the older brother of Zeus and Hades. After the three brothers fought and defeated the Titans, lots were cast for the role of lord of the universe. Zeus won and became ruler over the skies and over all things, including the gods. Hades gained dominion over the dead and the underworld, while Poseidon gained control over all water and earthquakes. As the one who had control of the waters, Poseidon was considered famous for the mighty storms and tidal waves. Poseidon was also known as the god of equines and is able to change his shape into the form of a horse upon occasion. In addition he can grant the power of shape shifting and breathing in deep water to others and can teleport himself from place to place whenever he wants. As god of the sea, he commanded the horses and creatures of the sea to do whatever he chose.

As stated above, Neptune was the god of the sea among the Romans. He had the same characteristics as the Greek god Poseidon. It has been said that the planet Neptune governs dreams, abstract thought, and the mysterious – basically creating illusions. The power of this spirit may result in tormenting dreams as related in by Remy Starritt:

“One night when the child couldn’t sleep through tormented dreams the mother as she was praying for him had a vision of a dark ugly fish sitting at the bottom of the sea (this vision had also come to me late one night a couple of months ago as I was going off to sleep). It was a type of fish found in the darkest depths where there is no light. The fish was grotesque with big black bulging eyes and a huge mouth from which it spewed masses of dark green slime. As she told me I asked the Holy Spirit what this was and He said `it comes from the deep, ` which I relayed back to the mother explaining it was a spirit from the deep. Meanwhile June Cash, pastor of the Swindon annex COC in Grove, was on a missionary trip to South Africa. While she was there she spoke to a Christian lady who told her that her husband had left her and given himself over to a Satanist group. One night she was sleeping in bed with her

⁴² Webster’s Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, G. & C. Merriam Company, Publishers, Springfield, Massachusetts, Copyright 1969, page 561

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daughter when her husband broke into the house brandishing an Asegai sword with the intention of chopping her to pieces. He entered the bedroom and broke down and cried as they started to talk to him. He told them he was leaving his job, moving to a coastal town to take up “undersea operations.” June later spoke to a lady who heads up an Intercessors network involving 66 churches who told her that Satanists were taking up deep sea diving and operating out of undersea caves. The reason for this was to activate and call forth the spirit of the deep and they were going to commission submarines to get as far down as possible. Using the pentagram, occultists see the top point representing God at the highest brightest point of power so when inverted the point is directed to the deepest darkest point of power and the nearer they can get to the center of the earth the darker spirits they think they can conjure up. When the woman asked her husband how he got in he said he had come through the window but all the windows were closed and have burglar bars on them. Apparently these spirits enable people to get into houses etc. through keyholds and the woman thinks this is how he got in.”

After reading what the Lord showed Remeny and others, it is apparent that the Satanist group were worshipping the god of the sea, Poseidon, and invoking the power that is characteristic of him.

Although some may not believe that mythological characters are demonic spirits, a study of Greek mythology will reveal that the Greeks worshiped these characters and placed them above God; they were idols and had powers that were fueled by demons.

Jesus Addresses the Waters

Jesus encountered demonic activity in the waters several times throughout His days on the earth. On one occasion the seas roared into a storm of hurricane proportion against Jesus and His disciples.⁴³

“And He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, Hush now! Be still (muzzled)! And the wind ceased, [that is, sank to rest as if exhausted by its beating] and there was (immediately) a great calm – a perfect peacefulness.” (Mark 4:39, Amplified)

Jesus wasn’t speaking to the water or the wind, he was speaking to the demons in the sea and winds, “peace be still.” He was commanding them to “hush, be silent, an involuntary stillness, an inability to speak.”⁴⁴ This is really an amazing story when we consider that when Jesus and His disciples landed on the other

⁴³ Matthew 8:24, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25

⁴⁴ G4623, (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

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side of the sea and entered the country of the Gadarenes, they immediately met a man filled with an unclean spirit named Legion. Is it possible that the demons in the stormy sea were working with the demons in this man attempting to prevent Jesus from crossing the sea where they knew he could bring freedom to this man? They knew who Jesus was, knew that He had power over them, and knew that the man with the unclean spirits would be on the other side of the sea. The demons said to him, "Have You come to torment us before the appointed time?" The Living Bible says it this way, "you have no right to torment us yet." (This word torment comes from the root word meaning "through the notion of going to the bottom") At this time the price of redemption had not yet been paid by Jesus, but now has and all legal right has been pulled out from under Satan and the demons that serve him. Saints we can now bind, chain, and torment them, send them to the bottom. They pleaded with Him to let them stay in the region (a picture of territorial spirits) and if He was going to cast them out to let them to go into the heard of swine. They specifically asked Jesus that they not be cast into the deep in Luke 8:31, "*And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the **deep***"⁴⁵." Jesus simply said "go." The demons entered the hogs, which immediately rushed headlong into the lake and were drowned in the sea. Jesus knew the pigs would run into the lake and the demons would end up there.

Jesus' encounter with the demons of the seas continued after He had fed the five thousand and He insisted that the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side.⁴⁶ A great and violent wind rose that was contrary (against God's purpose) causing the sea to be filled with torturing swells of water in opposition to God's purpose. From a distance Jesus saw that the disciples were in distress and walked on the water, above the stirring antagonistic spirits of the sea, to rescue them. When Peter recognized that it was Jesus walking on the water, he got out of the boat to walk to Him. But when Peter perceived and felt the strong wind, he gave into fear and sunk into the sea, unknowingly agreeing with the demons of fear that resided in the sea. Before Peter sank too far Jesus stretched forth His hand and caught him and together they returned to the boat at which time the seas were calm. Once again Jesus demonstrated that He has dominion over everything.

The parable told by Jesus in Luke 16 concerning the rich man and Lazarus is very interesting. Some say it is not a parable, but if it is, it represents what shall be – the future. In the parable Lazarus and the rich man have died. Lazarus was carried by the angels into the bosom of Abraham, while the rich man was placed in hell. The bosom of Abraham represents heaven in this story, but could it be the holding place of the departed righteous until Jesus led captivity captive?

⁴⁵ G1037, depths of the sea, depthless, bottomless pit, abyss, or sea

⁴⁶ Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:15-21

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Interestingly, the word bosom means bay or creek.⁴⁷ The rich man cried out for Lazarus to dip his finger in water and cool his tongue; for he was tormented (the same word used by the demons who said to Jesus, have you come to torment us before the time?). But this was not allowed, as there was a great gulf, which means impassable interval,⁴⁸ fixed between the two of them. Lazarus was basking beside the living waters of the river and the rich man was tormented in the lake of fire.

Demons Compared to Mountains and Trees

In Matthew 17:14-21,⁴⁹ a young boy who was a lunatic and sorely vexed was brought to Jesus for healing. Jesus immediately rebuked the devil and he departed from the boy leaving the disciples wondering why they could not cast him out. Jesus said to them:

“²⁰Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have the faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove and nothing shall be impossible unto you.” (Matt. 17:20)

A similar verse occurs in Mark 11:23,

“²³For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

In these verses, Jesus was making a comparison between the demon and the mountain with the mountain representing the demon and anything that rise up against you. Jesus directed His disciples to cast the mountain (demon) into the sea. He repeated the comparison in relationship to the unfruitful fig tree⁵⁰ when he said:

“Verily, I say unto you, If ye have faith and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” (Matt. 21:21-22)

⁴⁷ G2859, (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

⁴⁸ G5490, (Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright (c) 1994, Biblesoft and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

⁴⁹ Also in Mark 9:14-20 and Luke 9:37-43

⁵⁰ Matthew 21:18-22, Mark 11:12-14, and Mark 11:20-24

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In Luke 17:1-6 we find a comparison between the snares that are set to entice one to sin and the mulberry tree. In this passage, Jesus was telling the disciples that for the one who sets the snare or trap it would be more profitable for him if he were cast into the sea. He continues by telling them that they should pay attention, always be on guard, and look out for one another, repent and forgive. When the apostles heard this, they asked the Lord to increase their faith. Jesus replied to them:

"If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."
(Luke 17:6, NKJV)

We have the same commandment that Jesus gave the disciples - to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast out devils.⁵¹ We also are charged to be on guard, watching that we and those around us do not stumble. Demonic forces may be the source of anything that rises up against us, appearing as big as a mountain, and any trap of temptation set against us. As we pray and believe, we too can cast the demons into the sea where they will be held until God releases them or man invites them out. Jesus appointed the disciples to carry out the mandate of the great commission.

"¹⁵Go ye into the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. ¹⁷And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; ¹⁸They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mark 16:15-18)

In Mark 9:25 we find Jesus asserting His omnipotent power charging the demon to come out and enter no more. Obviously, the demon was chained by the command of Jesus and sent where he could not return.

"²⁵When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him."

We have been given this same authority. Let us rise up in our place of responsibility and make our calling sure.

Deadly waters and living waters

In the following passage we find an unclean spirit searching for a human body to carry out his deeds.

⁵¹ Matthew 10:8

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²⁴When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, he roams through waterless places in search [of a place] of rest (release, refreshing, ease); and finding none he says, I will go back to my house from which I came. ²⁵And when he arrives, he finds [the place] swept and put in order and furnished and decorated. ²⁶And he goes and brings other spirits, seven [of them], more evil than himself, and they enter in, settle down and dwell there; and the last state of that person is worse than the first.” (Luke 11:24-26, Amplified)

It appears that the unclean spirit was free to search out a “place of residence” while he was in a waterless place and decided to check out his previous “residence” where he apparently was “comfortable.” Could it be that if the unclean spirit had been cast into the sea, bound with chains and fetters of iron, he would not have been free to return?

It is interesting to note that per scientific research an average adult body is 50 to 65 percent water. Men typically have 60 to 65 percent water, while women have 50 to 60 percent. Infants are approximately 70 percent water. In addition water content differs throughout the body. The blood contains up to 83 percent water, bones are 22 percent water and muscle is 75 percent water.⁵² When the unclean spirit found the unguarded “house swept clean” (the owner was on vacation) and the “comfort” of the water, he returned with more tormenting forces. Now his hold was stronger which from his perspective likely made it more difficult for the person to be free.

Thank God for the purifying blood of Jesus! In John 7:37-38 we find that we can be delivered from the snares of the unclean spirits.

³⁷Now on the final and most important day of the feast, Jesus stood forth and He cried in a loud voice, If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink! ³⁸He who believes in Me – who cleaves to and trust in and relies on Me – as the Scripture has said, Out from his innermost being springs and rivers of living water shall flow (continuously).” (Amplified)

Satan and his demons need a body to carry out their deeds of darkness just as God needs a body to carry out His plans. Life giving water will flow from the temple of man when it is purified from demonic defilement.

The Sea is one of the Signs of Return of Jesus

In Luke 21:22-28, Jesus spoke of things to come and His return. He pointed out that one of the signs of His return involved the sea causing confusion among the

⁵² Statistics compiled by the International Bottled Water Association

nations. The demons of hell roaring in the seas will cause men's hearts to fail them.

*²²For those will be days of God's judgment, and the words of the ancient Scriptures written by the prophets will be abundantly fulfilled. ²³Woe to expectant mothers in those days, and those with tiny babies. For there will be great distress upon this nation and wrath upon this people. ²⁴They will be brutally killed by enemy weapons, or sent away as exiles and captives to all the nations of the world; and Jerusalem shall be conquered and trampled down by the Gentiles until the period of Gentile triumph ends in God's good time. ²⁵Then there will be strange events in the skies—warnings, evil omens and portents in the sun, moon and stars; and **down here on earth the nations will be in turmoil, perplexed by the roaring seas and strange tides.** ²⁶The courage of many people will falter because of the fearful fate they see coming upon the earth, for the stability of the very heavens will be broken up. ²⁷Then the peoples of the earth shall see me, the Messiah, coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸So when all these things begin to happen, stand straight and look up! For your salvation is near." (The Living Bible)*

The Beast and the Final Destruction of Evil

As we begin to look into Revelation we find the number seven as the number of fulness and completion. We can gain a glimpse of what must be fulfilled and completed as we observe what is associated with the seven angels, seven churches, seven lampstands, seven horns, seven eyes, seven spirits of God, seven seals, seven trumpets, seven thunders, seven vials and seven plagues. Since we are in the times of fullness,⁵³ we need to be looking for the signs that suggest the completion of the things associated with each seven.

In Revelation we find many passages related to the seas that also tie into Daniel's dream and vision. In Revelation 7:1-3 we see the four angels holding back the four winds until the servants of God have received the seal on their foreheads. God's dominion over all of creation, the earth and sea is once again demonstrated.

¹And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. ²And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, ³Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads."

⁵³ Ephesians 1:10

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After the remnant were marked, the seventh seal is broken, loosing the seven trumpets to sound. Silence filled heaven for about half an hour and then all hell broke loose. Fire was thrown to the earth, ringing of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake came. The first trumpet sounded and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and a third of the earth, the trees and the green grass were burned up. The second trumpet sounded and **something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea and the sea became blood. One third of the creatures in the sea died and a third of the ships were destroyed. The third trumpet sounded and a great star, named wormwood, fell from heaven on a third of the rivers and springs of waters making the waters bitter. Many men died from the waters.** When the fourth trumpet sounded, one third of the sun and moon and stars were smitten so that one third of them became dark. Then John saw an eagle flying in mid-heaven saying *“woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound.”*⁵⁴

When the fifth trumpet sounded, **a star from heaven fell to earth and was given the key to open the bottomless pit**, locusts swarmed the earth.⁵⁵ The locusts had a king over them, the angel of the abyss; he was a destroyer who would bring destruction. Their mission was to torture those who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads. The agony of those tormented was so great, they sought death but God would not allow them to find it. The first of the three woes was now past.

Upon the sounding of the sixth trumpet, **four mighty demons riding horses whose heads were like lions were released who had been bound in the Euphrates.**⁵⁶ From their mouth came fire, smoke, and brimstone. The power of the horses was in their mouth and their tails. They had been prepared for the day, the hour, the month and the year – God’s exact timing – so they might kill one third of mankind.

Before the seventh trumpet sounded John was told to *“seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken, and do not write them.”*⁵⁷ But we are told that there are fresh prophesies that will be prophesied out of these mysteries to nations, tongues and peoples.⁵⁸

⁵⁴ Revelation 8:13

⁵⁵ In Exodus 10:19, God drove the locust in the Red Sea, leaving none in all the territory of Egypt. In these last days, the destruction of the locust will once again be unleashed upon the enemies of God. Revelation 9:7 portrays the locust with an appearance like horses prepared for battle, crowns on their heads, faces like men, hair like women, and teeth like the teeth of lions.

⁵⁶ Revelation 9:1

⁵⁷ Revelation 10:4

⁵⁸ Revelation 10:11

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⁵And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, ⁶And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: ⁷But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. ⁸And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth.” (Rev. 10:5-8, KJV)

Time is running out for Satan and all the earth.

In Revelation 11 we find the fulfillment of the second woe. Two witnesses will be granted authority to prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days. They have the power over the rain and over the waters to turn them to blood and can smite the earth with every plague as often as they desire. When they have finished prophesying, the beast that comes out of the deep will make war with the saints.

At the sound of the seventh trumpet, loud voices arose from heaven saying,

“The Kingdom of this world now belongs to our Lord, and to his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever.” (Rev. 11:15, The Living Bible)

This was the beginning of the end! God’s temple in heaven was now open and signs began to appear revealing the final battle with Satan and his hordes of demons. Michael and his angels waged war in heaven against the dragon and cast him and his demons down to the earth. Then a loud voice from heaven proclaimed:

*¹⁰“Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. ¹²Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! **Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.**” (Rev. 12:10-12, NKJV)*

Outraged, the dragon went off to make war with the saints. The saints, the “they” and “them” in this passage, had overcome Satan, which prevented him from being able to roam freely in the heavens. Satan was cast down to the earth, which caused the heavens to rejoice but woe was upon the earth and the sea.

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As John stood on the sands of the seashore, he saw a **beast** rise up **from the sea**, having ten horns and seven heads. The beast was like a leopard, with feet like a bear and mouth like a lion. The dragon gave the beast his power, his throne, and great authority. The whole world was amazed at the beast and followed after him and worshiped him, saying, “*who is like the beast, who is able to wage war with him?*”⁵⁹ For forty two months he spoke arrogant words and blasphemies against God and was given authority to make war with the saints and over come them. Daniel had a similar vision recorded in Daniel 7. The good news is in Daniel 7:22 which says judgment is given into the hands of the saints and the saints posses the Kingdom.

Then a second beast came out of the **earth**. He exercised the same authority that had been given to the first beast. He causes all to be given the mark of the beast.

We can only imagine the tension that John felt until he looked and behold the Lamb was standing on Mount Zion!! Let our worship forever be of Him as our God and Savior and may we be found blameless without a lie in our mouth!!

The final battle between heaven and earth was about to begin. A loud voice from heaven directed the seven angels to pour out seven bowls of the wrath of God into the earth. The **second angel poured out his bowl into the sea and it became blood and every living thing in the sea died**. The **third angel emptied his bowl into the rivers and springs of water** and they became blood. The angel of the waters said:

“Righteous are You in these Your decisions and judgments, You Who are and were, O Holy One! Because they have poured out the blood of (the saints) Your people and the prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. Such is their due – they deserve it!” (Rev. 16:5-6, Amplified)

The **sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates**⁶⁰ and its waters dried up, that the way might be prepared for the kings of the east. The stage is now set for the kings of the whole world to gather together for the war of the great day of God.

After the seventh bowl of wrath was emptied one of the seven angels “invited” John to a place where he could see the judgment of **the great harlot who sits on many waters**. The kings of the earth had committed acts of immorality with her and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.⁶¹ The waters where she sits are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. She is an arrogant, blasphemous, sinful, immoral woman who

⁵⁹ Revelation 13:4

⁶⁰ Revelation 16:12

⁶¹ Revelation 17:1-2

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claims that she will never see mourning as she sits as a queen and not as a widow. In one day, she will be burned up with fire, for the Lord God, who judges her, is strong.⁶² In one hour, her great wealth will be destroyed. God will pronounce judgment against her on behalf of the saints!

²¹Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore." (Rev. 18:21, NKJV)

A fourfold hallelujah came from heaven:

"Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Salvation is from our God. Honor and authority belong to him alone; 2 for his judgments are just and true." (Rev. 19:1-2, The Living Bible)

"Praise the Lord! The smoke from her burning ascends forever and forever!" (Rev. 19:3, The Living Bible)

"Praise our God, all you his servants, small and great, who fear him." (Rev. 19:5, The Living Bible)

"Praise the Lord. For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and honor him; for the time has come for the wedding banquet of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself." (Rev. 19:6-7, The Living Bible)

The beast and the kings of the earth and their armies were not through; they once again assembled to make war against the Lord and His army.

The Lake of Fire – the Final Destruction

In Revelation 19, 20, and 21 the final deathblow to the beast, the false prophet, the devil, death and hell, and whosoever was not found written in the book of life occurs when they are cast into the lake of fire. The Lord of Hosts, the great commander, will unleash His hand of anger against each of these, making them incapable of molesting the church any longer. This will be a glorious day for the saints – a day of triumphant victory!

²⁰And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. (Rev. 19:20, KJV)

⁶² Revelation 18:8

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³*And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. (Rev. 20:13, KJV)*

¹⁰*And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Rev. 20:10, KJV)*

¹⁴*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev. 20:14-15, KJV)*

⁸*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (Rev. 21:8, KJV)*

The sea will give up the dead, death and hell – all are together in the deep.

In Revelation 21:1 John saw a new heaven and a new earth for the first heaven and earth had passed away and **there was no longer any sea**. The Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary provides the following concerning “no more sea.”

The type of perpetual unrest (Isa 57:20; Mark 4:39). Hence, our Lord 'rebukes' it as an unruly hostile troubler of His people. It symbolized the political tumults out of which "the beast" arose (Rev. 13:1). As the physical corresponds to the spiritual world, so the absence of sea, after the earth's metamorphosis by fire, answers to the unruffled peace which shall prevail. The sea, though severing lands, is now, by God's eliciting good from evil, made the medium of their communication, through navigation. Then man shall possess powers which shall make the sea no longer necessary, but a hindrance: a perfect state. A "river" and "water" are mentioned, Rev. 22:1-2, probably literal (i.e., with such changes of the natural properties as correspond analogically to man's own transfigured body), as well as symbolical. The sea was once the element of the world's destruction, and is still death to thousands; whence, at the general judgment, it is specially said, "the sea gave up her dead." Then it shall cease to destroy or disturb: removed on account of its past destruction.⁶³

The following is from The Wycliffe Bible Commentary:

⁶³ Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by BibleSoft

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As to the statement that there will be no more sea, no one has more sensibly interpreted this affirmation than Swete himself, "The sea belonged to the order which has passed. It has disappeared because, in the mind of the writer, it is associated with ideas which are at variance with the character of the New Creation. For this element of unrest, this fruitful cause of destruction and death, this divider of nations and churches, there could be no place in a world of deathless life and unbroken peace."⁶⁴

The sea was a place where death resided and was a holding place for demons until the last days when God calls for all hell to be let loose. At this time the sea will become the Lake of Fire, which holds all evil. The waters that had once been perverted and bloodied by Babylon will be turned into fire.

Our mission is to accept our God given responsibilities and rise up as the army God has created us to be. Through prayer, worship, and decrees, He will give us the strategies we need to loose the demonic stronghold that hovers over and controls many parts of the earth. If the land is not free from these strongholds, the people cannot be. The earth has been given to man and the sea seems to have been given over to the dead and the demonic. As we identify the different aspects of the demonic chain of command, the structural hierarchy in Satan's kingdom can be torn down and will result in opening the way for more people to enter the kingdom of God. Let's sign up!!

God does not let evil overtake what He created to be good as is reflected in following passages.

*"¹God is our refuge and strength [mighty and impenetrable to temptation] a very present and well-proved help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, and though the mountains be shaken into the midst of the seas; ³Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling and tumult. Selah [pause, and think calmly of that]! ⁴**There is a river, whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the Most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved.** God will help her right early [at the dawn of the morning]. (Ps. 46:1-5)*

*"⁶And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the **fountain of the water of life** freely." (Rev. 21:6, KJV)*

*"¹And he shewed me a **pure river of water of life**, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. ²In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which*

⁶⁴ The Wycliffe Bible Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1962 by Moody Press

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bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” (Rev. 22:1-2, KJV)

*“¹⁷And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the **water of life** freely.” (Rev. 22:17, KJV)*

There will be no more pollution! What an exciting time, there will be a new heaven and a new earth, the first heaven and first earth will pass away and there will be no more sea.⁶⁵ There will be no more need for the sea since the demons will have been cast into the lake of fire. Revelation 4:6 and 15:2 describe the “sea of glass” where we will stand when we are victorious over Satan.

“⁶And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.” (Rev. 4:6, KJV)

“²And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.” (Rev. 15:2, KJV)

The day will come when we will stand beside a glassy sea that is at peace, calmed because Satan’s kingdom will be destroyed and under our feet.

When Jesus came to earth in the form of man, He came with the purpose to bring peace on earth, good will toward men.⁶⁶ In this period of “toward,” an intermediate between God’s creation and God’s kingdom in full rule, Jesus came to start what would lead to peace, but also to a sword. There is a spiritual war as we’re moving toward peace and the violent will attempt to take it by force. Jesus said, *“my peace I give unto you: not as the world gives. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”*⁶⁷ Peace is the opposite of trouble and fear and actually means deliverance and freedom from all the distresses that are the result of sin. It is the result of accomplished reconciliation between man and God brought about by atonement (Romans 5:9-10).⁶⁸ We have the promise of the words spoken in Haggai 2:9 and Zechariah 9:10:

“The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the Lord of host: and in this place will I give peace saith the Lord of hosts.”

⁶⁵ Revelation 21:1

⁶⁶ Luke 2:14

⁶⁷ John 14:27

⁶⁸ Lexical Aids to the New Testament, p. 1711

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*“And I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim, and the horse from Jerusalem, and the battle bow shall be cut off: and **he shall speak peace** unto the heathen: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from river even to the ends of the earth.”*

The peace that Jesus came to bring is a guarantee. But during His days on earth they did not understand that peace would come to them only if they followed after Him, recognizing Him as their Messiah. Upon Jesus' descent to the Mount of Olives toward Jerusalem, the people were shouting, *“blessed be the King that comes in the name of the Lord, peace in heaven and glory in the highest.”*⁶⁹ But the people didn't understand what their peace was which is reflected in the words Jesus spoke as He drew near to Jerusalem and wept over the city, *“If thou hast known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes.”*⁷⁰ How we need to pray for the peace of Jerusalem! Although Satan will come again and again in an attempt to destroy the peace of this earth, he cannot destroy the peace that comes from Jesus! Let us rest in the hope that our peace stands before the Father interceding on our behalf day and night.

For HE is our peace.

⁶⁹ Luke 19:38

⁷⁰ Luke 19:42 – Eph 2:14a