

There Was No More Sea
Revelation 21:1-8

A. The ancient Jews were not a seafaring people, even though their land bordered the Sea.

1. For the most part, the sea terrified them.

B. John's words in Revelation 21 are symbolic, as is the case for the entire book.

1. But while on the island of Patmos, John saw an age in which there was no more sea!

[The ushering in of the new heaven & the new earth did not come with a sea, as we are accustomed to seeing now in the present time.

There has been much discussion as to what that disappearing sea depicts; there are several good answers.]

I. THE SEA OF SEPARATION

A. The sea is a divider; it separates land & people.

1. When John wrote this, he was separated from his brethren by the Aegean Sea.

2. He could almost see the shores of Miletus from where he was guarded.

3. He spent many years with the church at Ephesus, building up the members & preparing them for lie ahead.

4. I've often wondered if congregations then had something like a gospel meeting where Christians could worship together & get to know one another in different locations.

5. Well, John couldn't do that anymore.

Revelation 1:9

9 **I, John**, your brother & fellow partaker in the tribulation & kingdom & perseverance which are in Jesus, **was on the island called Patmos** because of the word of God & the testimony of Jesus.

6. John looked forward a time when they could be reunited again, in a place where the sea no longer separated them.

B. Today there are many seas that stand between men & nations:

1. There is the sea of governments, of misunderstandings, of bitterness, of jealousy & suspicion.

2. Nothing can be done about those seas of separation until the gospel is accepted.

Galatians 3:27-28

27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 ***There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.***

- C. The same things that separate men & nations, also separate Christians (James 4)
 1. But in the future, there will be nothing to separate faithful members of the Lord's church.
 2. In Heaven, spiritual ties will be unbroken; isolation & separation will be a thing of the past.

Revelation 3:12

12 'He who overcomes, ***I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God***, & he will not go out from it anymore; & I will write on him the name of My God, & the name of the city of My God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God, & My new name.

Revelation 21:3

3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ***"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, & He will dwell among them, & they shall be His people, & God Himself will be among them,"***

[Another sea that will be "no longer" ...]

II. THE SEA OF MYSTERY

- A. To the ancient people -- who stood on the shore & gazed toward the distant horizon -- the sea held a great mystery.
 1. They wondered, what lies beyond? How far? How wide? How deep?
- B. Similarly, today life holds many mysteries in the secular & scientific world.
 1. Life has horizons beyond which we cannot see (e.g., for families & nations).
 2. Life has depths of knowledge we cannot comprehend (not the greatest scientist or what the world calls theologians)

Deuteronomy 29:29

29 "***The secret things belong to the Lord our God***, but the things revealed belong to us & to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law."

- C. But thankfully, the greatest mystery of all has been revealed.

1. God's eternal purpose in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:1-6

3 For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — 2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you; 3 that **by revelation there was made known to me the mystery**, as I wrote before in brief. 4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles & prophets in the Spirit; 6 **to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs & fellow members of the body, & fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,**

D. The only mystery that remains is what we will be like when the Lord returns, & what we will be doing afterwards.

1. And we have only a few references from the HS on that matter.

1 John 3:2

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, & it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, **we will be like Him**, because we will see Him just as He is.

Revelation 22:3-4

3 There will no longer be any curse; & the throne of God & of the Lamb will be in it, & **His bond-servants will serve Him**; 4 they will see His face, & His name will be on their foreheads.

[A third sea that will be "no more" ...]

III. THE SEA OF UNREST

A. The sea is in constant motion (Psa 107:25; Jude 1:13).

1. That's what keeps a lot of people off boats, & a lot of people who would like to be on a Navy ship - on shore duty.
2. You don't go out on the sea without being just a little bit afraid, because you feel so vulnerable in the face of the billowing unpredictable water.
3. The sea is a place & a symbol of the continuous unrest & instability within the human race, & even within our lives.

B. The comparison is that in the present world (the old heaven & the old earth) nothing is ever at rest.

Isaiah 57:20-21

20 But **the wicked are like the tossing sea**, for it cannot be quiet, & its waters toss up refuse & mud. 21 "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

1. I'LL LIVE IN GLORY: "I'd like to stay here longer than man's allotted day, & watch the fleeting changes of life's uneven ways."

2. There is unrest in the physical world to the point that it even disturbs the tranquility of the church.

Revelation 13:1

1 And the dragon [Satan] stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw **a beast coming up out of the sea** [Roman Government] having ten horns & seven heads, & on his horns were ten diadems, & **on his heads were blasphemous names**.

3. The Caesars wanted to be considered gods, & that caused unrest among God's people.

C. This is the reason we cannot look for AND hope to find any lasting peace in this world.

Hebrews 13:12-14

12 Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people through His own blood, suffered outside the gate. 13 So, let us go out to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach. 14 **For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come**.

1. In heaven, there will be no unrest, no agitation, & no commotion causing us distress & despair.

Hebrews 4:9-10

8 For if Joshua had given them [Israel] rest, He would not have spoken of another day after that. 9 **So there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God**. 10 For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works, as God did from His.

Revelation 14:13

13 And **I heard a voice from heaven, saying**, "Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "**so that they may rest from their labors**, for their deeds follow with them."

2. In Job's misery, he wished he could go back to where he came from before he was born.

Job 3:16-17

17 "**There** the wicked cease from raging, & there **the weary are at rest**."

[The final sea that will no longer be...]

IV. THE SEA OF DANGER & DEATH

- A. The sea was feared & dreaded by ancient people (Mark 4:35-41; Acts 27:14-20).

1. There is still a little bit of that fear & dread today, but not like in ancient times.

a. Ships were often poorly built.

b. They had no compass & few shore lights to guide them on their way & protect them from danger.

- c. Many sailed out to sea never to return to those they loved & who loved them.
- d. The sea was, in fact, a grave for many people young & old, male & female alike.

Revelation 20:12-15

12 And I saw the dead, the great & the small, standing before the throne, & books were opened; & another book was opened, which is the book of life; & the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And **the sea gave up the dead which were in it**, & death & Hades gave up the dead which were in them; & they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death & Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

- **The sea and death** [graves or tombs] **have the bodies of all human beings; hades has their spirits**
(A. Clarke)

- B. But in this voyage of life, there is spiritual danger & death all around us.
 1. There are people dead & dying in their sins (Eph 2:1-2).
 2. There are souls on the brink of renouncing their faith in Christ (Heb 10:39; 2 Pet 2:22).

- 3. There are souls making shipwreck of their faith (1 Tim 1:18-20).

- C. But in the world to come, the sea of danger & death are unknown.

1. Heaven will be a place – **not** – of **death & danger** – but – of life & security, **not** – of **unrest** – but – of peace & eternal rest.
2. A place where there will **never** again be any **separation** or **mystery** (unknowns).

Revelation 21:4

4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; **the first things have passed away.**"

CLOSING

- Are you looking forward to the day when there will be no more sea?
- All those who are in fellowship with Jesus Christ will rejoice in that day.
- Will you be among them?

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<http://thetfordcountry.com>