

## How God Set Boundaries for the Darkness and Deep of Genesis 1:2

### The Bible Begins with a Dark Water Covered Earth

The earth was formless and void, and **darkness** was over the surface of **the deep**, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the **waters**. (Gen 1:2)

### The Bible Ends with an Earth with No Night and No Sea

And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. In the daytime (for **there will be no night there**) its gates will never be closed. (Rev 21:23-25)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and **there is no longer any sea**. (Rev 21:1)

### The Sea in the Bible is a Negative Symbol<sup>1</sup>

But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud. (Isa 57:20)

### The Book of Revelation Associates the Sea with the Bottomless Pit (The Abyss)<sup>3</sup>

...the beast that rises from **the bottomless pit** .... (Rev 11:7)

...a beast rising out of **the sea**.... (Rev 13:1)

### God Begins Forming the Formless Earth through Separation and Setting Boundaries<sup>2</sup> He Places a Boundary Around the Sea

...He set for the sea its boundary So that the water would not transgress His command... (Prov 8:29)

"For I have placed the sand as a boundary for the sea, an eternal decree, so it cannot cross over it. though the waves toss, yet they cannot prevail; though they roar, yet they cannot cross over it." (Jer 5:22)<sup>4</sup>

### Darkness in the Bible is also a Negative Symbol, Symbolizing Evil

...God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)

The Light shines in the **darkness**, and the **darkness** did not comprehend it. (John 1:5)

### God Separates Light from Darkness and Places Evening and Mourning as Boundaries for the Darkness

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and **God separated the light from the darkness**. God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. **And there was evening and there was morning**, one day.<sup>5</sup> (Gen 1:3-5)

### This Interpretation is Reinforced by Mark's Account of Jesus' First Day of Ministry (Mark 1:21-38)

When **evening** came, **after the sun had set**, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. (Mark 1:32)

In the early **morning**, **while it was still dark**, Jesus got up, left the house, and went away to a secluded place, and was praying there. (Mark 1:35)

### This Was the Evening and Morning of the First Day of the Kingdom of God where Jesus Begins to Roll Back the Boundaries of the Kingdom of Darkness<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Patterson summarizes the Scripture's characterization of the sea by saying, "On the whole, the Bible views the sea as hostile" and "dangerous." ("Sea," *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, 5:316)

<sup>2</sup> Cf. John E. Hartley, *Genesis (New International Biblical Commentary 1; Peabody: Hendrickson, 2000)*, 40.

<sup>3</sup> Abyss in the Septuagint "translates the Hebrew *tehōm* [deep] , meaning the primeval waters of Genesis 1:2.... In later Judaism it means the interior depths of the earth and the prison of evil spirits." (Emmet Russell, Abyss," *The New International Dictionary of the Bible: Pictorial Edition* , 10.

<sup>4</sup> See also Job 7:12; 38:8-12; Ps 93:4; 104:7-9.

<sup>5</sup> Collins points out in the expression "and there was evening and there was morning," that "we have successive events, each denoted by ...*wayehi* , "and there was," and we have the evening followed by the morning.... Logically this is nonsense: to get a day we must describe twenty-four hours or at least the period of daylight. To add evening and morning means nothing, but if we simply allow the verbs to indicate two separate events, we find that they mark the endpoints of the night time." (Compare Numbers 9:15-16.) "Evening and morning bracket the night." (C. John Collins, *Genesis 1-4: A Linguistic, Literary, and Theological Commentary* [Phillipsburg, New Jersey: P&R, 2006], 56,77. Evening and morning are God's boundaries confining darkness to a prescribed time. This view also explains the order evening and morning. Evening is the period of light which precedes the darkness of night and morning light is what follows it.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. Paul E. Miller, *A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Disconnected World* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2009), 44.