

Here There Be Monsters: God's War with The Sea

—God at War, Week 2—

NIV (unless otherwise noted; also, an asterisk [] marks a verse read earlier in message)*

I. God Has Long Battled _____

In the ancient Near East, and throughout the Bible, the sea was understood to be a source of cosmic chaos, evil, and threat. This threat was sometimes envisioned as various terrifying monsters—God's enemies, with whom God battles. These enemies include:

- **Leviathan**
 - Isaiah 27:1 (see Ugaritic Text *KTU* 1.5 I,1 [back page])
 - Psalm 74:14 (see 12-15; Rev 12:3; 13:1)
 - Job 3:7-8
 - Job 41:1
- **Rahab**
 - Psalm 89:9-10
 - Isaiah 51:9
 - Job 9:13
 - Job 26:11-14
 - Isaiah 30:7 (NLT)
- **Sea Serpents, Dragons, or Monsters** (Hebrew: *Tannin*)
 - Psalm 74:13 (see 10-17)
 - Job 7:12
 - (Ezekiel 29:3; 32:2)
 - (Jeremiah 51:34)
 - *Isaiah 27:1
 - *Isaiah 51:9
- **The Sea Itself** (Heb: *Yam*; also the name of the Canaanite sea god)
 - *Psalm 74:12-15 (see 10)
 - Job 9:8
 - Habakkuk 3:8-15
 - Nahum 1:4 (cf. 2-8)
 - (Job 38:8-11)
 - (Psalm 29:3-4, 10)
 - *Isaiah 51:9-10
 - *Job 7:12

II. God Battled the Sea _____

Some ancient Near Eastern creation myths featured their gods fighting cosmic chaos sea monsters. The Bible interacts with this theme to argue that the God of Israel is the true God who defeated chaos in creation.

- Psalm 104:1-9 (echoes Baal's battle with Yam)
- (Prov 8:27-29)
- Job 38:8-11

- *Psalm 74:12-17
- *Psalm 89:9-12
- *Job 26:12 (see 7-14)

III. God Battled the Sea _____

The Bible picks up on this theme of God's war with the sea and its chaos monsters and applies it to God's saving action on behalf of his people.

- **Corporately**
 - Psalm 77:16-20
 - Psalm 114
 - Psalm 106:7-11
 - (Isaiah 17:12-13)
 - Ezekiel 29:3
 - Ezekiel 32:2
 - (Jeremiah 51:34; see 51:55)
 - *Habakkuk 3:8-15
 - *Isaiah 51:9-11
- **Individually**
 - Psalm 69:14-15
 - Psalm 144:7
 - (Psalm 18:14-15; see 3-17)

IV. _____ Battled the Sea _____

Given the sea as a symbol of chaos and evil, it is unsurprising that this theme exists in Jesus' ministry with connections to exorcism.

- Mark 4:35-41 (see Ps 106:9; Mark 5:13)
- Mark 6:45-52 (see Job 9:8)

V. The Battle against the Sea _____

Though this battle runs from creation to re-creation, the story of God's war with the sea will have an ending.

- Daniel 7:2-3, 11-14
- *Isaiah 27:1 (see 24:21)
- Revelation 13:1; 19:11-21
- Revelation 21:1

The Bottom Line

_____ your _____ and _____ on the "true _____"
of God's _____ the Sea, Chaos, and Evil.

Ugaritic Text *KTU* 1.5 I,1 (Compare with Isa 27:1; Ps 74:14): "When you [Baal] killed Lotan, the gliding serpent, Finished off the coiling serpent, the seven-headed monster..." (Longman III and Reid, *God is a Warrior*, page 78)