



“...a net...cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind.” Matthew 13:47

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THE WICKEDEST CITY ON EARTH?—While Port Royal, Jamaica, is now a relatively quiet fishing village at the end of a 29km sandbar extending out from Kingston, in the late 17th century its reputation was so nefarious that it was considered by many to be “the wickedest city on earth”. Controlled by the Spanish for more than 150 years ever since Columbus first declared it “the fairest island eyes have beheld” in 1494, Jamaica was attacked by an English expeditionary force in 1655 and quickly turned into a profitable possession. The English lack of manpower, however, meant that to protect the island, then-governor Edward D’Oyley was forced to recruit a coalition of pirates and privateers. This, combined with the riches brought from trading slaves, sugar and logwood, saw Port Royal turn into an unhinged haven of alcohol, money and sex. Famous for a quarter of its buildings being either a bar or a brothel, the town quickly grew in wealth, and the pirates’ rapacious taste for excess and debauchery became the stuff of legend. Pirates from around the world congregated at Port Royal, coming from waters as far away as Madagascar. Attracting famous seafaring names of the age such as Captain Henry Morgan, they attacked and plundered the poorly-defended Spanish ports of the region (Morgan himself led violent sackings of Panama City and Maracaibo) while rapidly spending their riches on absurdly hedonistic lifestyles.

On the morning of June 7, 1692, however, that atmosphere and Port Royal itself were changed forever. Two thousand lives were lost as a massive earthquake decimated Port Royal and its landmass, which was about 52 acres. Approximately two-thirds was destroyed and sank in Kingston Harbour. The earthquake decimated the buildings and a lot of people died from collapsing walls. More than half of the population perished. The earthquake caused the sand under Port Royal to liquefy and flow out into Kingston Harbour. A tsunami followed, dragging what had not been destroyed by the earthquake out to sea. The cemetery where Captain Morgan was buried slipped into the sea, its bodies floating up to mix with the freshly dead.

Even as God destroyed the cities of the plain (Sodom and Gomorrah) by raining brimstone and fire out of heaven (Genesis 19), the destruction of Port Royal by earthquake and tsunami are only the beginnings of the destruction of the ungodly. 2 Peter 3:10, 13, “*But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*”

“*Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.*”

KEEPING THE STARS—Psalm 147:4-5, “*He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.*” Hundreds of years ago, early navigators traversed the open ocean using only their eyes and the stars. The seafarers tracked the movement of stars across the night sky and knew the positions of constellations during every season. (Fisher-Mund knew many stars and loved “stargazing”.) Constellations are groupings of stars that create recognizable patterns in the sky. As Earth orbits around the sun, these star patterns shift in the sky, making different constellations visible during different seasons. Some constellations, called circumpolar constellations, remain visible all year long in the hemisphere where they are located. Because circumpolar constellations never rise or set, they provide reliable reference points for astronavigation. Here are some basic steps for star navigation in each hemisphere.

1. Know your constellations. *Ursa Major*, also called the Great Bear, in the Northern Hemisphere resembles a bear. It contains a group of seven bright stars called the Big Dipper, which is also known as the Saucepan, the Plough and the Great Wagon, among other names.

Ursa Minor also called the Little Bear and contains a group of stars called the Little Dipper. It is a smaller version of the Big Dipper. It is essential for celestial navigation because the North Star is the last star on the Little Dipper’s handle.

Cassiopeia is a group of five bright stars shaped like an irregular W. Located in the Northern Hemisphere it can be used to find the North Star when the Big Dipper is not visible.

Orion, also known as the Hunter, is one of the most easily recognizable constellations in the Northern Hemisphere. It resembles a hunter holding a bow, with three bright stars forming Orion’s Belt and five stars marking the hunter’s feet, shoulders and head. Hanging from Orion’s Belt is a sword composed of three fainter stars.

Crux is commonly called the Southern Cross, and is the most important constellation for navigating the Southern Hemisphere, as it can be used to find due south. It contains five stars that form a slightly irregular cross and is the smallest constellation in the sky. It is visible from latitudes of about 27 degrees north and farther south.

Centaurus is one of the largest constellations in the sky and resembles a centaur of Greek mythology. It is visible only in the Southern Hemisphere and can be used along with the Southern Cross to more accurately identify due south.

2. Find the North Star. Also called Polaris, it is located almost directly above the North Pole and does not

change position in the sky, while all the other stars in the Northern Hemisphere rotate around it. Because Polaris is also the end of the Little Dipper's handle it can be located by identifying this constellation. Be aware that the Little Dipper is not as bright as the Big Dipper and may be more difficult to spot in the sky. Polaris is often identified by using the Big Dipper and finding the two stars that form the front of the ladle. Follow a line through these two stars and straight out from the tip of the bowl. The North Star is located along this line about five times the distance between the two "front of the ladle" stars. If you reach Cassiopeia you have gone too far. Polaris can be identified by using Cassiopeia because it is located on the opposite side of the North Star from the Big Dipper. It will be high in the sky when the Big Dipper is low. Simply follow a line straight out from the middle of the wider V in Cassiopeia to locate the North Star. Once the North Star (Polaris) is found, drop your gaze to the horizon directly below it in the sky—this will be due north.

3. Find the Southern Cross. Because the North Star is only visible from the Northern Hemisphere, mariners south of the equator use another technique for navigating by the stars by locating the south celestial pole using the Southern Cross. At latitudes farther south than 35 degrees south, the Southern Cross can be seen year-round at every hour of the night. It reaches its highest point in the night sky when it is pointed due south. At its apex, the Southern Cross will stand perfectly upright over the horizon with the long part of the cross pointing straight down and towards the south celestial pole. However, when the southern Cross is not at its highest point in the sky, finding south requires a bit more calculation. (I sense this is getting a little tedious, so will go no further. If you would like to have the full instructions, please contact FOMMI and the instructions will be provided to you.)

4. Find East and West. Once you have located due north or due south, stand facing it and stretch your arms out straight to each side. When facing north your left arm points west and your right arm points east. When facing south, your right arm points west and your left arm points east. An alternate method is provided by Orion, which rises in the east and sets in the west, with the rightmost star on Orion's belt rising and setting within one degree of true east and true west every day.

5. Determine your latitude. The angle of the North Star above the horizon will be the same as your boat's latitude. Most accurate measurements use tools like a sextant or quadrant, but latitude can be estimated using only your hands. Extend your arms and make fists. Measure the distance between the horizon and the North Star by placing your fists one over the other. Each fist measures about ten degrees latitude. The same methods can be applied in the Southern Hemisphere using the south celestial pole. While this method will give only an estimate of latitude, it can prove valuable when no tools or charts are available.

6. Calculate your longitude. It is extremely difficult to determine using the stars alone. Careful record-keeping observing a specific rise and set star every night at the same exact time gave mariners a rough

idea of their travel east and west. Modern seafarers now use chronometers, charts and GPS to determine their exact position on the seas anywhere in the world.

Currently two of the primary resources available to make celestial navigation easier and more accurate to mariners are "The Nautical Almanac" and a "Navigational Star Chart".

Here are just a few times the Bible mentions stars. Genesis 1:16, *"And 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."*

Psalm 8:3-4, *"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?"*

Isaiah 13:10, *"For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine."*

Jeremiah 31:35, *"Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name."*

1 Corinthians 15:41, *"There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory."*

Here is the "star" we are looking for! Revelation 22:16, *"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches, I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."*

FISHY HUMOR

- Where do you keep sea horses? In a "coral" next to a "barn"-acle.
- Where do fish go for money? To a loan "shark".
- Name a world-famous sea musician. Lawrence "Whelk".
- How do you spot a welfare fish? He "sponges" off others to make a few "clams".
- If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.

CHURCH BULLETIN MISUNDERSTANDINGS

- Sunday School children will be led in sinning and Bible study.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It is a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget your husbands.
- The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Morning sermon – "Jesus Walks on the Water"
- Evening sermon – "Searching for Jesus"
- In the morning service a visiting soloist sang, "I Will Not Pass This Way Again", giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

FISHY QUESTION—The question from the last edition asked what an island and the letter "T" had in common. Both are in the middle of water! This time name the five-letter word that becomes shorter when you add two letters to it. Waiting for your answer!