

## THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

### Gone Fishin'

*"And God said, 'Let there be a  
Vault between the waters to  
Separate water from water.' "* [Gen. 1:6]

The dictionary says that a vault is the visible expanse of the sky, or that which we can't see beyond.

Living in the world is a lot like living underwater. It lacks clarity and light, and "fish" have no conception of what the world above the water level is like. If just once we were willing to "stick our necks out," so to speak, we would see the whole of the world, not just the part below the water line.

Did you know that the only way for a fish to get an undistorted view of the sky, while still in the water, is to look straight up? At any other angle, the light from above is deflected or refracted, making the water line appear to be a ceiling to the fish, the end of his universe, or a vault. Even so it's comforting to note that our fish can be basically anywhere in the water when he decides to look up. There's no special place where he needs to be...a few that he ought to avoid, perhaps, like caves and such; but for the most part, any time and any place will do.

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But there's more to the world than sky, and there's no view from below the water line that compares to the view from above. But first, you must be "lifted up" out of the water. (Did you know that "to be lifted up" means "to be forgiven" in Hebrew?) And suddenly you have eyes and can really see...Mountains, below the water, become islands above the line; and these tops of mountains have a totally different life style...a different way of living. You have ears and can really hear, touch and can really feel.

Of course, you might end up developing a new way of breathing, like growing lungs instead of gills and discovering (like dolphins) that you can never completely return to the water below without coming up occasionally for a breath of ...Spirit. Still and all, it's worth it, and the sight is so breath-taking that you can't help but "come back" and tell others. Which is perhaps why Jesus said,

*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."* [Matt. 4:19]