

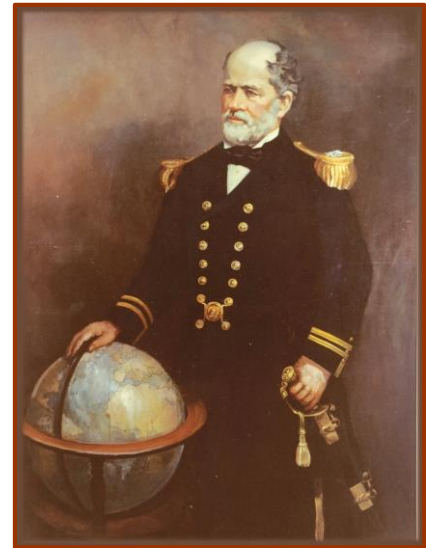
# The Paths of the Seas

Matthew Maury (1806 – 1873) had very impressive nicknames. He was referred to as “Pathfinder of the Seas” and “Father of Modern Oceanography and Naval Meteorology,” and later “Scientist of the Seas.”

In 1825, at age 19, Maury obtained – through U.S. Congressman Sam Houston – a midshipman’s warrant in the United States Navy. As a midshipman on board the frigate *USS Brandywine*, almost immediately he began to study the seas and record methods of navigation.

In 1839, when an injury ended Maury’s career at sea, he was given a post at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C. It was there that Maury’s love for the sea and his love for Scripture collided. It is also where his trust in God’s Word led to one of the great scientific discoveries of that day.

Reading in his *King James Bible* one day, he stumbled over these words: “whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas” (Psalm 8:8).



Maury had not considered that the ocean might have “paths,” and neither had anyone else in his day. But Maury trusted that the Lord knew what He was talking about, so he set out to find these paths.

He began setting weighted bottles adrift in the sea, complete with instructions for returning them. Based on the locations where and dates when those bottles were discovered, Maury was able to create the first mapping of the ocean’s currents.

And it was all because he took God at His word!

The apostle Peter wrote, “No prophecy of Scripture comes from one’s own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20-21).

The Bible is God’s Word, and that means we can trust it, no matter what we read in its pages.

David didn’t discover the ocean’s currents before penning Psalm 8, but God’s Spirit, the same Spirit who hovered over the waters when those paths were first laid down (Genesis 1:2), inspired him.

So if we can trust the Bible when it comes to oceanography, shouldn’t we be eager to trust what it has to say about us and about God?

*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter