

# Psalms 89:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers.

## Analysis

**I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers.** This verse promises extensive territorial dominion using symbolic geography. **I will set his hand in the sea** employs *wə-śam-tî ḥay-yām yādô* (וַיִּשֶׁם בַּיָּם יָדוֹ), where *śîm* (שִׁם) means to place, establish, set firmly. The "sea" (*yām*, יָם) likely refers to the Mediterranean Sea to the west, though it may symbolically represent all waters. The "hand" (*yād*, יָד) represents power, control, and dominion.

**And his right hand in the rivers** uses parallel structure. The "right hand" (*yemînô*, יְמִינוֹ) symbolizes authority and strength (the place of honor and power). "Rivers" (*ban-nəḥārôt*, בְּנְהָרוֹת) likely refers to the Euphrates and perhaps other major waterways to the east and north. Together, sea and rivers form a merism (two extremes representing totality)—from the Mediterranean to the Euphrates, the full extent of the Promised Land (Genesis 15:18, Exodus 23:31).

This isn't just about geography but sovereignty over creation. The imagery echoes God's own dominion: "The sea is His, for He made it" (Psalm 95:5). God delegates this authority to His anointed king. Ultimately fulfilled in Christ, to whom "all authority in heaven and on earth" has been given (Matthew 28:18), whose kingdom extends from sea to sea (Zechariah 9:10), and who will reign where "the river" flows from God's throne (Revelation 22:1).

## Historical Context

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David's kingdom expanded to approximate the borders promised to Abraham—from the Mediterranean to the Euphrates River (2 Samuel 8:3, where David defeated Hadadezer 'as he went to establish his control at the Euphrates River'). Solomon's kingdom reached its zenith (1 Kings 4:21, 24), controlling territory 'from the River to the land of the Philistines, to the border of Egypt.' Yet this was partial and temporary. The complete fulfillment awaits Christ's millennial reign and eternal kingdom.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's promise to set David's hand 'in the sea' and 'in the rivers' demonstrate the universal scope of the Davidic covenant?
2. What is the significance of this dominion being delegated authority rather than inherent power—how does this prefigure Christ's relationship to the Father?
3. In what sense does Christ's kingdom already extend 'from sea to sea,' and in what sense is this still future?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשִׁמְתִּי יָדוֹ	בַּיָּם	וּבְנָהָרֹת	יְמִינוֹ:	
<b>I will set</b>	<b>also in the sea</b>	<b>his hand</b>	<b>in the rivers</b>	<b>and his right hand</b>
H7760	H3220	H3027	H5104	H3225