

“Revelation, Celebration & Mission!”

John 21:1-14

After these things, **Jesus Revealed Himself again to the Disciples** at the **Sea of Tiberias**, and in this way, **He Showed Himself to Simon Peter**, ¹ **Thomas** called the Twin, ² **Nathanael** of Cana in Galilee, ³ the **‘Sons of Zebedee’**, ⁴⁻⁵ & **‘Two Other of His Disciples’** ⁶⁻⁷ were all together. **Simon Peter** said to **Them**, *“I am going fishing.”* **They** said to **Him**, *“We are also going with you.”* **They** went out & immediately got into the boat, & that night they caught nothing. But when the morning had now come, **Jesus** stood on the shore; yet the **Disciples** did not know that it was **Jesus**. Then **Jesus** said to **Them**, *“Children, have you any fish?”* **They** answered **Him**, *“No!”* And **He** said to **Them**, *“Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some.”* So, **They** cast, and now they were not able to draw it in because of the multitude of fish. Therefore, **‘That Disciple Whom Jesus Loved’** said to **Peter**, *“It is the Lord!”* Now when **Simon Peter** heard that it was the **Lord**, he put on his outer garment (for he had removed it) & dived into the sea. But the **Other Disciples** came in the little boat (for they were not far from land, about a hundred yards), dragging the net with fish. Then, as soon as **They** had landed, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid on it, and bread. **Jesus** said to **Them**, *“Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.”* **Simon Peter** went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, **one hundred and fifty-three**; and although there were so many, the net was not broken. **Jesus** said to **Them**, *“Come and eat breakfast.”* Yet none of the **Disciples** dared ask **Him**, *“Who are You?”*, for they knew that it was the **Lord**. **Jesus** then came and **took the bread and gave it to them, and likewise the fish**. This is now the **3rd Time Jesus Revealed Himself to His Disciples** after **He** was **Raised from the Dead**.

John 21:1-14 (NKJV)

Q

“What Is Actually Going On In This Resurrection Revelation?”

A1

This Is The **3rd Time** In John’s Gospel That **Jesus Appeared** To His Followers After **His Resurrection!**

A2

This Group Is Made Up Of **# 7 Chosen Disciples**, Some Named, Some Remain A Mystery, Including **“The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved”**

A3

It Involves A **Case Of Déjà Vu** That Nearly Duplicates **Two Miracles** Of The Multiplying Of The Fish In The Net & Multiplying The Bread & Fish Near The Beginning Of Jesus’ Ministry When He Called His Followers.

A4

The Entire Story Is A Unique & Important **Revelation** Of God’s Mission Told Within A Set Of Literary **Bookends** That Demonstrate That Jesus Has Completed His Mission On Earth & He Is Now Handing That Mission Over To Us - His Followers.

A5

This Entire Story Is Played Out Against The Backdrop Of A Fishing Trip Staying Out All **Night In The Dark**, Now The Sunrise Of A **New Day Is Dawning**, & They Are All Gathered Together Around A Meal Of Fellowship.

A1

This Is The 3rd Time In John's Gospel - Jesus Appeared To His Followers After His Resurrection!

1st Appearance To Group of Followers in the Upper Room Minus – Thomas John 20:19-23

2nd Appearance To Group of Followers in the Upper Room Plus + Thomas John 20:24-29

3rd Appearance To Group of a Chosen Seven Followers at the Sea Of Galilee + Thomas John 21:1-23

A2

This Group Is Made Up Of # 7 Chosen Disciples, Some Named,

Some Remain A Mystery, Including "The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved"

After these things Jesus Revealed Himself again to the Disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way, He showed Himself to Simon Peter, ¹ Thomas called the Twin, ² Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, ³ the 'Sons of Zebedee', ⁴⁻⁵ & 'Two Other of His Disciples' ⁶⁻⁷ were all together ... John 21:1-2

Since Neither Of The "Two Mystery Disciples" Are Named, They Are Almost Certainly Not Among The Eleven Apostles, As Each Of The Other Five Disciples Are Named Above: 1) Peter, 2) Thomas, 3) Nathaniel, 4) 5) 'Sons of Zebedee' (James & John), & 6) 7) "Two Mystery Disciples"

Q

"Who Is The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved?"

Therefore, 'That Disciple Whom Jesus Loved' said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" ... John 21:7a

Q

"Who Is The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved?"

A

He Is Always Associated With "The Other Disciple", "That Disciple".

He Always Remains A "Mystery Disciple"

This Disciple Is Mentioned Only Eight Times, In The Entire New Testament!

All Eight Of Them Are Only Found In John's Gospel:

1:35-40 ¹ 11:1-44 ² 12:1-2 & 9-11 ³ 13:21-26 ⁴ 18:15-16 ⁵ 19:25-27 & 31-37 ⁶ 20:1-10 ⁷ & 21:1-25 ⁸

According To Christian Tradition The Probable Candidate Is John The Apostle!

However, Lazarus Remains A Real Logical Alternative Candidate!

I Personally Believe That It Is Very Possible That

The Gospel Is In Fact A Product Of A 3-Fold Divine & Human Disclosure!

My Thesis on the 3-Fold Disclosure of the Gospel Of John

- 1) As The Father Disclosed His Love & Salvation To His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ;
- 2) So, Jesus Christ Disclosed His Father's Love & Salvation To His "Beloved Disciple" & "Other Disciples"
- 3) The "Beloved Disciple" is Lazarus & John the Apostle, Co-Disclosed The 'Good News' To All Of Us, In The Gospel, Named After The Apostle John! Lazarus' Prologue (1:1-18) Was Purposefully Designed Into a Structural Outline for Writing the Entirety of the Gospel
8 # Primary & Literary Conclusions Within My Thesis
- 1) I Believe John the Apostle Co-Wrote The Entire Gospel With The Help Of Lazarus
- 2) Lazarus Is One Being Mentioned Wherever One Reads: "Another Disciple", "That Disciple", & "The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved"
- 3) Lazarus Wrote The Prologue To The Gospel 1:1-18 To Serve As An Internal Outline For The Entirety Of The Gospel
- 4) We Encounter Lazarus (x8) in the Gospel: 1:35-40 ¹ 11:1-44 ² 12:1-2 & 9-11 ³ 13:21-26 ⁴ 18:15-16 ⁵ 19:25-27 & 31-37 ⁶ 20:1-10 ⁷ & 21:1-25 ⁸
But Especially After 11:35-36: Jesus wept. ³⁵ Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" ³⁶

- 5) We Encounter **John The Apostle** Throughout the Entirety of the Gospel: **Chapters 2 – 21**
- 6) We Never Encounter **John By Name**, Other Than Being Referred to as a '**Son of Zebedee**'
- 7) **John the Apostle** Appears to Write the **1st Conclusion** to the **Gospel 20:30-31**
- 8) **Lazarus** Writes The **2nd Conclusion** & Closure to the **Gospel 21:24-25**

A3

It Involves A **Case Of Déjà Vu** That Nearly Duplicates **Two Miracles**
Of The Multiplying Of The Fish In The Net & Multiplying The Bread & Fish
Near The Beginning Of Jesus' Ministry When He Called His Followers.

It Reminds Us That God Is All Powerful & His Desire To Bless Us Abundantly With His Goodness Is Limitless! He Desires To Give Us His Goodness To Multiply His Grace & Presence With Us As We Are Obedient To His Mission – To Serve & Seek The Lost!

Told in Part In 3# Gospels

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing and mending their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, *“Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”* But Simon answered and said to Him, *“Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless, at Your word I will let down the net.”* And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So, they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, *“Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!* For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so were James and John, the Sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, *“Do not be afraid! From now on you will catch men!”* So, when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

Luke 5:1-11 (Matthew 4:18-22 & Mark 1:16-20)

Told In Detail In All 4# Gospels

After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, *“Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”* But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him, *“Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little!”* One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, *“There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?”* Then Jesus said, *“Make the people sit down.”* Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, *“Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost!”* Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten. Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, *“This is Truly the Prophet Who is to come into the world!”* Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

John 6:1-15 (Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, & Luke 9:10b-17)

A4

The Entire Story Is A Unique & Important **Revelation** Of God's Mission Is Told Within A Set Of Literary **Bookends** That Demonstrate That Jesus Has Completed His Mission On Earth & He Is Now Handing That Mission Over To Us, His Followers.

Bookend #1: After these things, **Jesus Revealed Himself again to the Disciples** at the **Sea of Tiberias**, and in this way, **He Showed Himself** ... **John 21:1**

Bookend #2: ... This is now the **3rd Time Jesus Revealed Himself to His Disciples** after He was **Raised from the Dead** ... **John 21:14**

Except For One Time (x1) In **Mark's Gospel** Where it Refers to Man's Deeds The Words: **Reveal, Revealed, or Revelation** are **NEVER USED** in the **Three Synoptic Gospels - Matthew, Mark, & Luke**. The Words: **Reveal, Revealed, or Revelation** are **Exclusive To John's Gospel** Concerning Jesus Christ! However, within the other **4# Resurrection Stories** in **Chapter 20** Of **John's Gospel**, the Words: **Reveal, Revealed, or Revelation** Are Not Used At All! John Continues to Use Them Again In The **Book Of Revelation!**

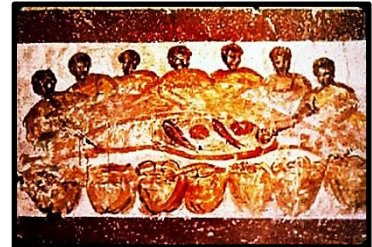
Q

"What **Deeper Hidden Truths** Are So Important That They Are **Specially Embedded** In This Story Between **"Bookends Of Revelation?"**"

A1

Symbolism Of The Faith

The Oldest Frescos, Paintings, Mosaics, & Medallions Are Signs & Symbols For Christianity!



A2

The Last Supper

Recalls The New Sacrament Instituted By Jesus Christ.

Reminds Us Of Our Continual Need For Grace, Forgiveness, Fellowship, & Unity! In The Ancient Church, A Loaf Of Bread & Some Fish, On A Plate, Or In A Basket, Was First & Foremost A Symbol Of Holy Communion Or Eucharist!

A3

Distribution Of Bread & Fish At This Morning's Breakfast

Recalls Two Other Miracles In The Life Of The Apostles

As They Experienced Jesus Multiplying Fish in a Net Or Multiplying The Loaves & Fish.

Reminds Us Of Our Mission of Service To All People On Earth!

The Crowds Were From Gentile Nations (4,000) & The Jewish Nation (5,000)

A4

Jesus Commanding His Followers To Go & Preach The Good News To Everyone

Recalls & Reminds Us Of Our Mission To Serve All, Love All, Call All, & Catch All!

Jesus Stated, *"Do not be afraid! From now on you will catch men!"*

Luke 5:10b

So when they had eaten breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter ... *"Feed My lambs!"* Jesus said to Peter a second time ... *"Tend My sheep!"* Jesus said to Peter a third time ... *"Feed My sheep!"*

John 21:15-17

God Calls & Desires That All Should Come To Him & That None Should Perish

Recalls & Reminds Us That God's Grace & Mercy Is Offered To All!

#153 Fish Refers To The Symbolism Of Completeness - Gathering All Peoples To God!

Simon Peter went up and dragged the net to land, full of large fish, **one hundred and fifty-three**; and although there were so many, the net was not broken ... John 21:11

It Is Probable That This #153 Fish Is A Direct Allusion To

Ezekiel's Prophetic Words Concerning An End Times Catch Of Fish!

Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, Then he brought me back to the door of the temple; and there was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple toward the east, for the front of the temple faced east; the water was flowing from under the right side of the temple, south of the altar. He brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; and there was water, running out on the right side. And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed. He said to me, *"Son of man, have you seen this?"* Then he brought me and returned me to the bank of the river. When I returned, there, along the bank of the river, were very many trees on one side and the other. Then he said to me: *"This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes. It shall be that fishermen will stand by it from En Gedi to En Eglaim; they will be places for spreading their nets. Their fish will be of the same kinds as the fish of the Great Sea, exceedingly many. But its swamps and marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt (brackish stagnant water)."* Ezekiel 47:1-11

Numerology & Symbolism in the # 153

En Gedi = 17

En Eglaim = 153

17³ Cubed = 153

Known Species Or Kinds Of Fish In The Local Rivers & Sea Of Galilee In Ancient Times = 153

God's Mission

Jesus Christ Is Calling All People To Himself!

It Is Our Mission To Go & Serve Everyone & Tell Everyone About Him!

Jesus Taught About The Kingdom Of Heaven Through Another Fishing Parable

Jesus preached, *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea and **gathering fish of every kind (153)**; and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down and **gathered the good fish into containers, but the bad they threw away**. So, it will be at the end of the age; the angels will come forth and **take out the wicked from among the righteous and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**"*

Matthew 13:47-50

A5

This Entire Story Is Played Out Against The Backdrop Of A Fishing Trip Staying Out All **Night In The Dark**, Now The Sunrise Of A **New Day Is Dawning**, & They Are All Gathered Together Around A Meal Of Fellowship.

CQ1

“Have I Come To Know Fully My Heavenly Father, Through The Revelation Of Jesus Christ, His Only Son, By The Power Of His Holy Spirit Indwelling My Being?”

CQ2

“Am I Onboard With Other Disciples In Fellowship & Unity To Be A Part Of Our Lord’s Mission To Love All, Serve All, Call All, & Catch All!”

CQ3

“Am I Celebrating Daily The Revelation, The Mission, & The Call On My Life, & The Call On My Fellow Brothers & Sisters Lives As Well, As God’s Blessing & Approval In Declaring Us To Be Worthy To Receive God’s Unending & Unconditional Love, & Presence In Our Community Of Faith & Unity!

CA

“Let Us Rededicate Our Lives To The Will Of Our Lord, Let Us Rededicate Ourselves To His Final Mission For Us His People!”

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All Authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on Earth. Go therefore and make Disciples of All the Nations, Baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to Observe All Things that I have Commanded you; and lo, I AM with you always, even to the end of the age!” Amen!

Matthew 28:18-20

APPENDIX

A FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE NUMBER 153 & ITS VARIED MATHEMATICAL PROPERTIES!

- 1) 153 is the sum of the first 17 integers and is also the sum of the first five positive factorials: $1! + 2! + 3! + 4! + 5!$
- 2) The number 153 is associated with the geometric shape known as the “Vesica Pisces”. Which is the perfect intersection of three circles each overlapping the other in geometry (A Perfect 3 in 1).
- 3) Archimedes, in His “Measurement of a Circle”, referred to this ratio (153 / 265), as constituting the “Measure of the Fish”, this ratio being an imperfect representation of:

$$1 \div \sqrt{3} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$$

NOTE: 7# Distinct Mathematical Properties of the Number 153

- 1) 153 as a Triangular Number, is the sum of the first 17 integers, and is also the sum of the first five positive factorials: $1! + 2! + 3! + 4! + 5! = 153$. No other number occurs in these sequences before it.
- 2) 153 is also a Hexagonal Number, and a truncated triangle number, meaning that 1, 15, and 153 are all triangle numbers.
- 3) 153 with its distinct prime factors makes it a Ruth-Aaron Pair.
- 4) 153 is also a Narcissistic Number: $1^3 + 5^3 + 3^3 = 153$ and it is also the smallest three-digit number which can be expressed as the sum of cubes of its digits. Only five other numbers fit this criteria.
- 5) 153 is also a Friedman Number, since $153 = 3 \times 51$.
- 6) 153 is also a Harshad Number in base 10, being divisible by the sum of its own digits.
- 7) 153 when used in a Biggs-Smith Graph is a symmetric graph with 153 edges, all equivalent to one another. **It’s Literally A Perfect Number.**