

“Revelation, Celebration & Mission!”

John 21:1-14

Q: “What Is Actually Going On In This Passage?”

A1: This Is The 3rd Time In John’s Gospel - Jesus Appeared To His Followers After His Resurrection!

A2: This Group Is Made Up Of #7 Disciples, Some Named, Some Remain A Mystery, Including **“The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved!”**

A3: It Involves A Case Of Déjà Vu That Nearly Duplicates A Miracle Of The Multiplying Of The Fish That Occurred At 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 The Group Of Followers – Upper Room Minus – Thomas **John 20:19-23**

2nd Appearance To The Group Of Followers – Upper Room Plus + Thomas **John 20:24-29**

3rd Appearance To The Group Of Followers – Sea Of Galilee **John 21:1-23**

A2: This Group Is Made Up Of #7 Disciples, Some Named, Some Remain A Mystery, Including **“The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved!”**

Verses 1 – 2: After these things Jesus revealed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, & in this way He showed Himself to: **Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, & ‘two other of His disciples’** were all together.

Since Neither Of The **“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) Mystery Disciple, & 7) Mystery Disciple

Verse 7a: Therefore, **‘that disciple whom Jesus loved’** said to Peter, **“It is the Lord!”**

Q: “Who Is The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved?”

A: He Is Always Associated With **“The Other Disciple”** Or **“That Disciple”**.
He Is Always A **“Mystery Disciple”**

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

All Seven Of Them Are Only Found In John’s Gospel:

1:35-39, 11:36, 13:23, 18:15-16, 19:26-27, 20:2-4 & 20:8, 21:1, 21:7, & 21:20-23

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

However, **Lazarus** Remains A Real Alternative Candidate!

I Personally Believe That It Is Very Possible That

The Gospel Is In Fact A Product Of A 3-Fold 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”, Lazarus & The Apostle John, Co-Disclosed The ‘Good News’ To All Of Us, In This Gospel, Named After The Apostle John!

So That Leads Me To **Eight Specific Conclusions** That Were Purposefully Designed Into The Structural Outline & Writing Of The Gospel. With Its Prologue (The First 18 Verses) Being A Built In Outline For Every Chapter That Follows!

- 1) I Believe John Co-Wrote The Entire Gospel With The Help Of Lazarus
- 2) Lazarus Is 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 In Chapter 1 & Chapters 11 – 21.
Especially in Chapters 1, 11, & 18 – 21
- 5) We Encounter John The Apostle In Chapters 2 – 21
- 6) We Never Encounter John By Name, Other Than As A Son Of Zebedee!
- 7) John Writes The First Conclusion To The Gospel 20:30-31
- 8) Lazarus Writes The Final Conclusion To The Gospel 21:24-25

A3: It Involves A Case Of Déjà Vu That Nearly Duplicates A Miracle Of The Multiplying Of The Fish That Occurred At The Beginning Of Jesus’ Ministry When He Called His Followers.

This Miracle Is Told In All 4# Gospels

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 All & Seek The Lost!

“So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, & saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them & were washing & mending their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, & asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down & taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “*Launch out into the deep & let down your nets for a catch.*” But Simon answered & said to Him, “*Master, we have toiled all night & 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, & their net was breaking. So, they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come & help them. And they came & 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 & all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; & so were James & 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 & followed Him.”

Luke 5:1-11, Matthew 14:18-22 & Mark 1:16-20

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.

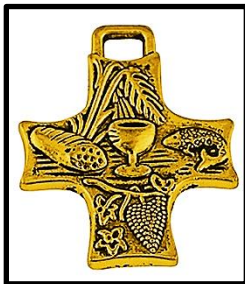
Bookend #1: After these things Jesus revealed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, & in this way He showed Himself ... **John 21:1**

Bookend #2: ... This is now the third time Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples after He was raised from the dead. **John 21:14**

Except For One Other Time In Mark's Gospel Referring To Man's Deeds The Word **Reveal** Or **Revelation** Is Not Used In The Other Three Gospels, The Words **"Reveal"**, **"Revealed"**, Or **"Revelation"** Is Exclusive To John's Gospel Concerning Jesus Christ! Further, With 4# Resurrection Stories In Chapter 20 Of John, The Terms **Reveal**, **Revealed**, & **Revelation** Are Not Used At All! However, John Uses Them Frequently In His Book Of Revelation!

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

A: The Oldest Frescos, Paintings, Mosaics, & Medallions Show This Sign For Christianity!



A: It Recalls **The Last Supper** As A New Sacrament Instituted By Jesus Christ.

It 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 A Symbol Of Holy Communion Or Eucharist – The Miracle Of The Multiplied Blessing & Body Of Our Lord & The Feeding Of The Multitudes!

The Distribution Of Bread & Fish At This Morning Breakfast, Recalls Then The Two Other Miracles In The Life Of The Apostles As They Experienced Jesus Multiplying Fish & Bread & Then Distributing Them Themselves To The Great Crowds Of 4,000 & 5,000 Men! One Of These Crowds Was From The Gentile Nations (4,000) & The Other The Jewish Nation (5,000).

A: It Recalls Jesus Commanding His Followers To Go & Preach The Good News To Everyone!

It Reminds Us Of Our Mission To Serve All, Love All, Call All!

"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

A: It Recalls That God Calls & Desires That All Should Come To Him & That None Should Perish! It Reminds Us That God's Grace & Mercy Is Offered To All!

"Simon Peter went up & dragged the net to land, full of large fish, one hundred & fifty-three; & although there were so many, the net was not broken."

John 21:11

153 Fish (People) Refers To The Symbolism Of Completeness - Gathering All Peoples To God!

It Is Probable That This 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; & 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 & led me around on the outside to the outer gateway that faces east; & 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, & 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 & brought me through; the water came up to my waist. Again he measured one thousand, & 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 & 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 & the other. Then he said to me: “*This water flows toward the eastern region, goes down into the valley, & 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, & 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 & marshes will not be healed; they will be given over to salt (brackish stagnant water).*”

Ezekiel 47:1-11 (NKJV)

Numerology & Symbolism

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

(See Appendix At The End Of The Notes Regarding The #7 Mathematical Properties Of 153)

God's Mission

Jesus Christ Is Calling All Peoples To Himself!

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

Remember A Parable Jesus Taught About The Kingdom Of Heaven

Jesus preached, “*Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, & gathering fish of every kind; & when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; & they sat down & 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 & take out the wicked from among the righteous & will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth.*”

Matthew 13:47-50 (NKJV)

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.

Q: “*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?*”

For Those Of Us This Morning, Who Know God Our Father, Only Through The Revelation Of Jesus Christ, His Only Son Our Lord. We Have Received His Forgiveness & Grace & Have His Presence By His Holy Spirit!

Q: “*Am I Onboard With Other Disciples In Fellowship & Unity To Be About Our Lord's Mission To Serve All, Call All, & Love All!*”

We Have Also Received Our Marching Orders & Our Life's Mission & Purpose From Our Lord! “*All authority has been given to Me in heaven & on earth. So, go & make disciples of all the nations, baptize them in the Name of the Father, & the Son, & the Holy Spirit, & teach them to observe all that I have commanded you! And remember, I AM with you always, even to the very end of the world!*”

Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)

**Q: "Am I Celebrating Daily
The Revelation, The Mission, & The Call On My Life,
& On My Fellow Brothers & Sisters Lives,
As God's Blessing & Approval In Declaring Us To Be Worthy
To Receive God's Unending & Unconditional Love & Presence!**

(APPENDIX)

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

153 is the sum of the first 17 integers and is also the sum of the first five positive factorials, $1! + 2! + 3! + 4! + 5!$ 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 (3 in 1).

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 divided by the square root of 3.

NOTE: 7# Distinct Mathematical Properties!

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 Perfect!