

153 GREAT FISH

CONTENT OF AN EMAIL TO BRETHREN SENT 7 MARCH 2017

Glad you asked about the 153 great fish of John 21:11. It provides me an opportunity to sharpen the pencil on the detail. There are a series of images below showing the detail to make the case, and supportive of my comments.

John 21:11 - "Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken."

This is the 8th Sign of John's Gospel. 8 is the number of a new beginning and immortality in Scripture. There are three nets in the NT:

1. **Luke 5:6** - "And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake." This is the first phase. The gospel is preached in the sea of nations (Isa. 9:1 - "Galilee of the nations"), but many escape the net as it breaks under the weight of the catch.
2. **Matt. 13:47-50** - "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." This is the second phase - the Judgement Seat of Christ.
3. **John 21:11** - "Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken." This is the third and final phase. The granting of immortality to the faithful of all ages who are embraced in the Abrahamic Covenant.

This is all prefigured in Jacob's greatest act of faith (Heb. 11:21) in Gen. 48. In the context of the allegory here where the natural firstborn Manasseh ("causing to forget" - Jer. 2:22 - Israel after the flesh) is superseded by the younger, Ephraim ("double fruit") representing spiritual Israel consisting of Jew and Gentile on the basis of an Abrahamic faith (Gen. 48:19; Cp. Gen. 17:4-8). The words of Jacob in Gen. 48:16 are the foundation of the 153 great fish of John 21:11.

Gen 48:16 The Angel⁴³⁹⁷ which redeemed¹³⁵⁰ me from all^{4480, 3605} evil,⁷⁴⁵¹ bless^{1288 (853)} the lads;⁵²⁸⁸ and let my name⁸⁰³⁴ be named⁷¹²¹ on them, and the name⁸⁰³⁴ of my fathers¹ Abraham⁸⁵ and Isaac;³³²⁷ and let them grow¹⁷¹¹ into a multitude⁷²³⁰ in the midst⁷¹³⁰ of the earth.⁷⁷⁶

Note the word "grow" here is *dagah* in Hebrew. See Strong's Concordance meaning below and note the root from which it comes.

H1711

דָּגָה

dâgâh

daw-gaw'

A primitive root; to *move rapidly*; used only as a denominative from H1709; to *spawn*, that is, *become numerous*: - grow.

The root of *dagah* is *dag* (see below). Both words infer the activity (especially the breeding activity) of fish. Hence, the Oxford KJV margin for Gen. 48:16 is quite accurate when it says for the phrase "grow into a multitude" - Heb. "as fishes do increase".

H1709

דָּג דָּגָה

dâg dâ'g

dawg, dawg

From H1711; a fish (as *prolific*); or perhaps rather from H1672 (as *timid*); but still better from H1672 (in the sense of *squirming*, that is, moving by the vibratory action of the tail); a *fish* (often used collectively): - fish.

The word for "multitude" in Gen. 48:16 is *rob* (see Strong's below).

H7230

רֹב

rôb

robe

From H7231; *abundance* (in any respect): - abundance (-antly), all, X common [sort], excellent, great (-ly, -ness, number), huge, be increased, long, many, more in number, most, much, multitude, plenty (-ifully), X very [age].

This Hebrew word *rob* just happens to occur 153 times in the Old Testament (see e-Sword search on Strong's number 7230 - *rob*). This is probably not accidental given the context!

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Gen 16:10 And the angel⁴³⁹⁷ of the LORD³⁰⁶⁸ said⁵⁵⁹ un...

Gen 27:28 Therefore God⁴³⁰ give⁵⁴¹⁴ thee of the dew⁴⁴⁸...

Gen 30:30 For³⁵⁸⁸ it was little⁴⁵⁹² which⁸³⁴ thou hadst¹⁹...

Gen 32:12 And thou⁸⁵⁹ saidst⁵⁵⁹ I will surely do thee good...

Gen 48:16 The Angel⁴³⁹⁷ which redeemed¹³⁵⁰ me from all...

Exo 15:7 And in the greatness⁷²³⁰ of thine excellency¹³⁴...

Lev 25:16 According to⁶³¹⁰ the multitude⁷²³⁰ of years⁸¹⁴...

Gen 48:16 The Angel⁴³⁹⁷ which redeemed¹³⁵⁰ me from all^{4480, 3605} evil,⁷⁴⁵¹ bless^{1288 (853)} the lads;⁵²⁸⁸ and let my name⁸⁰³⁴ be named⁷¹²¹ on them, and the name⁸⁰³⁴ of my fathers' Abraham⁸⁵ and Isaac;³³²⁷ and let them grow¹⁷¹⁴ into a

It is therefore no surprise that the phrase in the Hebrew "the sons of God" - *beni ha-elohim* - has a numerical value of 153; or that the NT phrase "heirs of God" in Greek has a numerical value of 1,071 = 7 x 153 (7 = covenant, in particular the Abrahamic Covenant).

Nor is it therefore surprising that 153 is a particularly significant number in the Divinely designed science of mathematics. To a Hebrew the number 17 is very important. It is of course, 7 plus 10. 7 speaks of completion (a full cycle), inter-alia, while 10 stands for all. Therefore, when 17 is used it speaks of absolute completion (that is, you need no more emphasis on completion). There are a number of clear Scriptural examples of the importance of 17 in the Divine scheme of things, namely e.g., Gal. 5:19-21 where Paul enumerates the works of the flesh; and Rom. 8:35-39 where he lists the things that should not separate us from the love of God. Again in Heb. 12:18-24 when the inspired writer (who I believe was Paul) set out the contrast between the Mosaic Covenant and the new or Abrahamic Covenant, he lists 7 things in relation to the Mosaic delivered at Sinai and 10 things that demonstrate the superiority of the Abrahamic Covenant (see Heb. 11:9,16 and compare Heb. 12:22-23).

Why then this focus on the importance of 17? Because, when you add the numerals 1 to 17 together (1 plus 2, plus 3, etc down to 17) you arrive at the aggregate number 153. How could Yahweh give any clearer demonstration that the work He would accomplish in His son through the Abrahamic Covenant would culminate in a numerous company of glorified saints like the stars of heaven for multitude and consisting of both Jew and Gentile?

One final word on this matter. 17 is the seventh Prime Number (that is a number which can only be divided by itself). 7 = covenant, completion of the cycle, and it is the Spirit number as well (Eureka Vol. 3 pg. 206 - Logos Edition). The sixth prime number is 13 = rebellion (Gen. 14:4; Nimrod - "we will rebel" the 13th generation from Adam, etc), and 11 is the 5th Prime Number (11 = failure and inadequacy which is met by Divine grace to produce a multitude of great fishes from the sea of nations for the glory of God). 7 is the 4th Prime Number (4 = righteousness and God manifestation). Need I say any more?

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