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**THE STORY: Jesus feeds the five thousand—the house of Judah**

After the beheading of John, the Baptist, Jesus with his disciples withdrew by boat privately crossing the far shore of the Sea of Galilee that is, the Sea of Tiberias to a solitary place—the town of **Bethsaida**. The crowds saw them leaving and recognized them, so **they ran on foot to follow** because they had witnessed the miraculous signs he had performed on the sick. They got ahead of Jesus and the disciples. When Jesus landed, they went up on **the hillside**. **The Jewish Passover was near**. Jesus saw the people and **he had compassion on them** because **they were like sheep without a shepherd**. He began teaching them about the Kingdom of God and healed the sick. At evening, the disciples told Jesus to send the people away, so that they can buy food for themselves. The location was a **remote place and the evening approached; it was getting late**. Jesus said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?” He asked this only to test him, for **he already had in mind what he was going to do**. Philip replied, “It would take **8 months of earnings** and still, it **would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!**” Jesus replied, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” Andrew said, “Here is **a boy with 5 small loaves of barley and 2 small fish**, but how far will they go among so many?” Jesus directed the disciples to have the people sit on the **green grass in groups of 100s and 50s**. He then **gave thanks to God** and **broke** the bread and **gave the food to the disciples who gave it to the people**. **They all ate and were satisfied**. The disciples picked up **12 basketfuls of the barley bread** that were left over, **nothing was wasted**. The number of those who ate were **5,000 men**, besides women and children. After **the people saw the miraculous sign** that Jesus did, they began to say, “Surely **this is the Prophet** who is to come into the world.” Jesus told the disciples to get into the boat and go ahead, knowing that **the people intended to come and make him king by force**, then **he withdrew again** into the hills by himself. **There he prayed in private**.

The multitude of 5,000: The House of Judah	An analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After <b>the beheading of John, the Baptist</b></li> </ul>	The ministry of Jesus began in full force after the beheading of John, the Baptist.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They were fed at <b>Bethsaida</b>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Bethsaida</b> is a Jewish town surrounded by large areas of uncultivated grass lands used for grazing. This is symbolic of the affluence of the word of God in the hands of the Jewish people. Yet, the land remained uncultivated, used only for grazing because the people there saw many miracles yet would not believe.</p> <p>“Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes” (Luke 10:13). So, were the characteristics of the people in Jerusalem.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The people <b>ran</b> and <b>arrived ahead</b> of Jesus and the disciples.</li> </ul>	<p>The people wanted a change in government. They recognized Jesus as a long-awaited Prophet but not as their Savior. They desired his rulership over their nation—now.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Jewish <b>Passover</b> was near.</li> </ul>	<p>“Barley is the first grain to be harvested in the Spring, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread celebrates the first fruits of the barley harvest. Jesus performs this miracle as Passover approaches, and will go on later in John 6 to explain that he himself is the Bread of Life. <b>The miracle of the loaves points backwards to great events in the Old Testament</b> to give us clues as to <b>who Jesus really is</b>. But, it also <b>points forward to the future, to what Jesus will do in the upper room on the night before he died</b>, and will make present again in every Eucharist.”</p> <p><a href="https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/hidden-meaning-of-the-loaves-fishes/">https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/hidden-meaning-of-the-loaves-fishes/</a></p> <p>“When Jesus gave the disciples bread and wine during the Passover meal, Jesus commanded his followers to do this in memory of him while referring to the bread as his body and the wine as his blood.”</p> <p><a href="https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/hidden-meaning-of-the-loaves-fishes/">https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/hidden-meaning-of-the-loaves-fishes/</a></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus sat on the <b>hillside</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>Jesus sat at a level of authority.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus had <b>compassion</b> on them because they were like <b>sheep without a shepherd</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>Jesus had compassion because <b>the people were spiritually hungry, but they did not have truly righteous leaders. The Jewish religious leaders were starving the people of truth and righteousness.</b> The Pharisees and Sadducees hated Jesus for disclosing their falsehood. They did not want to be dethroned and they planned and plotted to kill Jesus at every waking moment.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They were in a <b>remote place</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>They were away from the false teachers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The people were told to sit on the <b>green grass</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>The green grass was reflective of a place where the word of God was rich and plenty. They were the keepers of the oracles of God. Also, they were before the Good Shepherd—the <b>Word</b> of God in physical form.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The people were <b>organized into groups of 100s and 50s</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>The identity of these people is revealed in the method of how they were organized—in groups of 100s and 50s. They are the keepers of the Law and like the Law, they were numerically organized with precision.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>How much money</b> would it take to feed the multitude? <b>Eight months wages!</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Spiritual food, the word of God is priceless.</b> No money can buy the Word of God; it is a free gift to those who repent.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From within them a <b>boy</b> had 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish.</li> </ul>	<p>A young lad from within them could be reflective of Jesus himself as the boy—the young man about his father’s business, had the food to give to the multitude.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The words <b>“took”</b>, <b>“gave thanks”</b>, and <b>“brake”</b> is written in the <b>past tense</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>Jesus gives thanks. The breaking of the bread was an image of opening up the word of truth to understanding. The food is then given and the task completed.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Five barley loaves and 2 small fish</b> fed the multitude of 5,000 men besides women and children.</li> </ul>	<p><b>The miracle of multiplication:</b>  “Elijah had multiplied flour and oil to save a widow and her son from starvation.</p> <p>Elisha did a bit better than his master, multiplying 20 barley loaves so as to feed 100, with some even left over.</p> <p>Jesus multiplied 5 barley loaves and feeds 5,000, leaving 12 baskets left over. He is even greater still. Moses predicted that God would raise up a prophet like himself “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him” (Deuteronomy 18:18).</p> <p>Starting with five barley loaves, Jesus transforms the Mosaic Law into something much bigger, greater, and more nourishing.”  <a href="https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/hidden-meaning-of-the-loaves-fishes/">https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/hidden-meaning-of-the-loaves-fishes/</a></p> <p><b>The five barley loaves:</b>  The five loaves equate to the five books of the Old Testament—the Books of Moses.</p> <p><b>The two fishes:</b>  The disciples, Jesus said, would be fishers of men. Fish may represent people coming into the truth. They had with them two fish: Jesus may be one and possibly, John, the Baptist who led the way.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They <b>ate and were satisfied.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Jesus fed them with rich spiritual food that provides knowledge and understanding of spiritual matters.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The remains were gathered by the disciples into <b>12 baskets.</b></li> </ul>	<p>The number 12 is used throughout the Bible, often referring to <b>God’s perfect government who will be comprised of God’s people.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jesus was about his Father’s business</b> at the age of 12 (Luke 2:42).</li> <li>• <b>The New Jerusalem</b> descending out of heaven has 12 pearl gates manned by 12 angels. Each gate is named after one of the 12 tribes of Israel.</li> <li>• <b>Twelve thousand from each of the 12 tribes of Israel</b> will be sealed. Revelation 14:1-5. “Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads... They sang a new song... no one could learn the song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes. They were purchased from among men and offered as first-fruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.”</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The walls of the New Jerusalem</b> are measured at 144 cubits high (12 X 12) (Revelation 21:16).</li> <li>• <b>The New City is 12,000 furlongs squared</b> (Revelation 21:16).</li> <li>• <b>12 precious stones will be used as the foundation of the New Jerusalem</b> (Revelation 21:19-20).</li> <li>• The <b>wall of the city will have 12 foundations</b> with the 12 names of the apostles on each one (Revelation 21:14).</li> <li>• The <b>breastplate of the high priest</b> had 12 precious stones embedded within it.</li> <li>• There were <b>12 loaves of permanent offerings on the golden table</b> (Leviticus 24:5).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nothing was wasted.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Careful handling of the left-over bread is the preservation of the word of God, not thrown away to deteriorate into nothing and all those given under Jesus’ care to be fed spiritual truths were given fully God’s word.</p> <p>“And this is the will of him who sent me, that <b>I should lose nothing of all that he has given me</b>, but raise it up on the last day. For <b>this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life</b>, and I will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:39-40).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Jewish followers were with Jesus <b>one day</b>, but they were not fed until <b>it became very late</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>The Jews did not have to wait long before receiving the message of the Kingdom of God. They were fed on the same day they arrived, <b>but late in the evening</b>.</p> <p>The house of Judah will not be fed, until they accept Christ as their Savior. For many of them, it will occur during the last few years of this evil age during the Great Tribulation. They will repent, accept grace, and grieve bitterly for the One they pierced.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The people saw the <b>miraculous sign yet would not believe</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>“Jesus replied, ‘I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, <b>not because you understood the miraculous signs</b>’” (John 6:26).</p> <p>The people would not believe Jesus to be the Son of God. Consider all of the many miracles that they witnessed, things far beyond the ability of mankind and believe, still they would not.</p> <p>“But if I do his work, believe in the evidence of the miraculous works I have done, even if you don't believe me. Then you will know and understand that the Father is in me, and I am in the Father” (John 10:38).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The people intended to come and <b>make him king by force</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>The Jews wanted Jesus to rule NOW. They <b>wanted Jesus’ rule under their terms—to rule now and overthrow Roman rule</b>. As a result, they could not understand the <b>purpose of Jesus’ first coming</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Christ’s sacrifice paid the penalty of sin:</b> “He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the <b>written code</b>, with <b>its regulations, that war against us</b> and that <b>stood opposed to us</b>; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having <b>DISARMED THE POWERS AND AUTHORITIES</b>, he</li> </ul>

made a **PUBLIC SPECTACLE OF THEM, TRIUMPHING OVER THEM BY THE CROSS**" (Colossians 2:13-15).

- **Over-throw the rogue authorities ruling the nations:** "None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, **THEY WOULD NOT HAVE CRUCIFIED THE LORD OF GLORY**" (1 Corinthians 2:8).
- **At the time of Babel, God divided the nations among the sons of God, but they went rogue:** "When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when **he divided mankind, he fixed the borders of the peoples according to the number of the sons of God**" (Deuteronomy 32:8).
- **Gods who recently appeared:** "They [the Israelites] sacrificed to false gods, which are not God—**gods they had not known** [they only knew the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob], **gods that recently appeared** [the gods assigned to the nations who recently rebelled against the Creator, ruling to give glory to themselves], **gods your ancestors did not fear**" (Deuteronomy 32:17).
- **Christ won through conquest the authority over ALL the nations:** "This is why it says: 'When He ascended on high, **He led captives away, and gave gifts to men.**' What does '**He ascended**' mean, except that **He also descended to the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the very one who ascended above all the heavens, in order to fill all things**" (Ephesians 4:8-9).
- **Christ has reconciled ALL things on earth and in heaven through His shed blood:** "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him [Christ], and through him [Christ] to **reconcile to himself ALL things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross**" (Colossians 1:19-20).
- **Christ gave the authority which He took as booty from his conquest over the rogue authorities and gifted it to His servants:** "...some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **to prepare God's people for works of services, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we ALL reach unity in the father and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ**" (Ephesians 4:11-13).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Christ has now been given all power and authority on earth and in heaven:</b> “Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me’” (Mathew 28:18).</li> </ul> <p>The Jews were not seeking redemption for their brothers, the ten tribes who they despised. They were not seeking redemption for the nations. They sort to overthrow the Romans and establish a physical kingdom with Jesus as their king. When Jesus withdrew, they rejected him and missed the opportunity to preach the gospel to the world of a spiritual kingdom—the Kingdom of God that is based on love and not a kingdom of this world. They will repent and accept grace in the last years of our evil age.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus <b>withdrew</b> and <b>prayed</b> in private.</li> </ul>	<p>It could be surmised that his private prayer would be a request to his Father for help, to turn these people’s hearts from stone into a willing heart of flesh, so that they could hear and understand God’s grand plan for all of mankind. Most of the Jews rejected him and they will wait 2,000 years before they come to realize that they killed their Savior.</p> <p>“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a <b>spirit of grace and supplication</b>. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one <b>mourns for an only child</b>, and <b>grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a first born son</b>. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great, like the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo” (Zechariah 12:10-11).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number <b>5,000</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>Five is the number of grace.</b> Five thousand represents grace going out to the whole world—a global distribution.</p> <p>These people desperately need grace. Salvation cannot be earned through works. The self righteousness of the Jewish religious leaders is the yeast Jesus warned about.</p> <p>“Aware of their conversation, Jesus said, ‘You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? How is it you don’t understand that I was not talking about bread? Be on guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees’” (Matthew 16:8-11).</p> <p>“God has bound <b>ALL men</b> over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them <b>ALL</b>” (Romans 11:32).</p> <p>All men need to repent, accept grace, and keep the commandments carefully.</p>

**THE STORY: Jesus feeds the four thousand—the 10 tribes of Israel**

Prior to the story of the feeding of the 4,000 people, Mark records Jesus defining that which is ‘clean’ and that which is ‘unclean’. Cleanliness was all about what lies within the heart. “For from within out of men’s hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man ‘unclean’” (Mark 7:21-23). Next, Jesus healed a Greek girl possessed with a demon and a deaf and dumb man.

**During those days** another large crowd gathered. Jesus went along the Sea of Galilee close to the borders of the Decapolis region. He went up **into the hills** and sat down. **Great crowds came bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the dumb and many others and laid them by his feet and he healed them.** The **people were amazed and praised the God of Israel.** Jesus said to the disciples that he has **compassion on these people**; they had already been with him for **three days and have nothing to eat.** Jesus said that if he sends them away, **they will collapse on the way**, because **some of them have come a long distance.**” They were in a **remote place** and the disciples asked how these people could be fed. Jesus asked, “How many loaves do you have?” They replied, “**Seven.**” **He told the crowd to sit on the ground.** Jesus **gave thanks, broke them and gave the food to his disciples who gave it to the people.** They had a **few fish** as well and he gave thanks for them also. **The people ate and were satisfied.** Afterwards **the disciples collected seven basketfuls of left overs.** The number of them who ate were **4,000 men** besides women and children. After having sent them away, he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the region of Magadan.

The multitude of 4,000: The House of Israel	An Analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>During those days... <b>the days when the ‘clean’ and ‘unclean’ were defined by Jesus.</b></li> </ul>	<p>In a time after Jesus had clarified what it meant to be ‘clean’, 4,000 men besides women and children were fed. These people were not from the house of Judah. They were considered ‘unclean’ until Jesus clarified to the Jews what it means to be ‘clean’ and ‘unclean’.</p> <p><b>Cleanliness is all about having a heart of flesh, not a heart of stone.</b></p> <p>“O house of Israel... For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. <b>I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.</b> You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; <b>you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness</b>” (Ezekiel 36:22, 24-29).</p> <p>Jesus was stating that the 10 tribes of Israel, the divorced house is no longer unclean. His death will be the wiping clean of their sins and the re-entry into the covenant family. He fed them personally the word of God.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus was close to the borders of the <b>Decapolis region</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>This was an area where many Gentiles of the 10 tribes lived.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus went up into the <b>hills</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>Jesus sat at a level of authority.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The crowds brought <b>the lame, blind, crippled, dumb to Jesus' feet and they were healed</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>The crowds were healed from their physical ailments, but this healing amazed them and they believed Jesus immediately. He taught them and they became aware of their spiritual waywardness; they began to see, hear, and walk in understanding of spiritual truth. They were sincerely grateful; healed of their spiritual decay.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The people were amazed and praised the God of Israel.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>These Gentiles –the 10 tribes, immediately without question, recognized the miracles were done through Jesus BY THE ALMIGHTY GOD.</b> They had at one time known this God—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They were amazed that they could return to God and that there was a redemption plan for them. They were no longer a people without hope as their ancestors believed.</p> <p>“Then he said to me: ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and <b>our hope is gone; we are cut off.</b>’ (Ezekiel 37:11).</p> <p><b>These are no ordinary Gentiles. They are Gentiles from the ten tribes of Israel—the divorced house of Israel.</b> These people believed immediately that Jesus was the Son of God. <b>Immediately, they accepted grace</b> because they were cut off for a long time, <b>earnestly waiting to be redeemed.</b></p> <p><b>Jesus talking with a Samaritan woman at the well:</b></p> <p>“You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink? (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)” Jesus said that if she knew the gift of God and who it is that asks her for a drink, then she would have asked for living water. The woman replied, “Are you greater than <b>OUR</b> father Jacob, who gave <b>US</b> the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his flocks and herds?” (John 4:10-11).</p> <p><b>The Samaritan woman was not a Jew but a descendent of the divorced house of Israel.</b></p> <p>She added, “Sir, <b>I can see that you are a prophet.</b> Our father worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”</p> <p>Jesus replied, “... Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”</p>



	<p>The woman said, “<b>I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming.</b> When he comes, he will explain everything to us.”</p> <p>Then Jesus declared, “<b>I who speak to you am he.</b>”</p> <p>“Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony. <b>They begged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.</b> And <b>because of his words many more became believers.</b></p> <p>John 4:42 “<b>They said to the woman, ‘We no longer believe just because of what you said, now we have heard for ourselves, and WE KNOW THAT THIS MAN REALLY IS THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD.’”</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus has <b>compassion</b> on the people.</li> </ul>	<p>With the crowd of 5,000, Jesus had compassion on the people the moment he saw them. For the crowd of 4,000, Jesus had compassion after he healed the sick and <b>after they reacted with amazement and praised the God of Israel.</b> This was the repentance Jesus needed to witness before he had compassion. These people were from the ten tribes who had a long history of rebellion against the God of Israel. Jesus accepted their repentance and was ready to save them.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They were with Jesus for <b>3 days</b> before they were fed.</li> </ul>	<p>These people had traveled from far away and likely came prepared with resources but at the end of 3 days, nothing was left. From a spiritual perspective, it can be said that these people were far from God both physically and spiritually. They wanted grace because they were the divorced house who sincerely regretted the choices of their forefathers. Their humble heart and willing spirit sustained them, until Jesus could accept their repentance and feed them. They had to wait symbolically three days representing the 3 days and 3 nights Jesus lay in the grave. The marriage covenant would be annulled with his death and upon his resurrection, the house of Israel would no longer be considered an adulteress but now a virgin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>God married Israel:</b> “They broke my covenant, though I was a <b>husband</b> to them, declares the Lord” (Jeremiah 31:32).</li> </ul> <p>“Turn, O backsliding children, says the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion” (Jeremiah 3:14).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>House of Israel divorced:</b> “I gave faithless Israel her <b>certificate of divorce</b> and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet, I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery” (Jeremiah 3:8).</li> </ul> <p>“This is what the LORD says: ‘<b>Where is your mother's certificate of divorce</b> with which I sent her away? Or to which of my creditors did I sell you? Because of your sins you were sold; because of your</p>

transgressions your mother was sent away” (Isaiah 50:1).

- **The law that prevented remarriage to a divorced wife:** “Her former husband, which sent her away, **may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled**; for that is abomination before the Lord: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the Lord thy God gives thee for an inheritance” (Deuteronomy 24:4).
- **House of Israel saved:** “I became its servant by the commission God gave me to fully proclaim to you the word of God, **the mystery that was hidden for ages and generations** but is now revealed to His saints, to whom **God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles** [the divorced Gentiles/10 tribes of Israel] the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**” (Colossians 1:26). “Surely you have heard about the **administration of God’s grace** that was given to me for you, that is, the **mystery made known to me by revelation**, as I have already written briefly... you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets. **This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles** [both divorced Gentiles and Gentiles by birth] **are heirs together with Israel**, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!” (Ephesians 3:2-21).
- **Christ sent to redeem the lost sheep of Israel:** “He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel’” (Matthew 15:24).
- **Christ sent His 12 disciples to the lost sheep of Israel:** “These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Do not go onto the road of the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. **Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel**. As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near’” (Matthew 10:6).

“Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, **my covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,**” declares the LORD. **But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.** They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me,

	<p>from the least of them to the greatest of them, for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more” (Jeremiah 31:33).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>House of Judah strengthened, house of Joseph SAVED:</b> “I will strengthen Judah and <b>SAVE THE TRIBES OF JOSEPH</b>. I will restore them because I have compassion on them. They will be as though I had not rejected them, for I am the LORD their God and I will answer them” (Zechariah 10:6).</li> </ul> <p>“<b>Don’t be ignorant of this mystery... ALL of Israel will be saved</b>” (Romans 11:25-26). “They were broken off because of their unbelief... but God is able to graft them in <b>AGAIN</b>” (Romans 11:20-23).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “I will build you up again, and you, <b>Virgin Israel</b>, will be rebuilt. Again you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful” (Jeremiah 31:4).</li> <li>• I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called 'Not my loved one.' I will say to those called 'Not my people,' 'You are my people'; and they will say, 'You are my God.'" (Hosea 2:23).</li> <li>• When that day comes," says the LORD, "you will call me 'my husband' instead of 'my master.'" (Hosea 2:16).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They were fed in a <b>desolate place</b> and they sat on the <b>hard ground</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>These people were fed in a place void of God’s word. It was a spiritually dead place filled with paganism.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They traveled a <b>long distance</b> and waited <b>three days</b> before Jesus fed them.</li> </ul>	<p>Having been at one time close, these people were now “<b>far away</b>”. They came prepared filled with a willing spirit to learn, but their trip home would cause them to eventually fall away from the truth if a structure for sustaining truth could not be established. Hence, the establishment of the church.</p> <p>“But now in Christ Jesus you who <b>once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ</b>. For Christ himself has brought peace to us. <b>He united Jews and Gentiles into one people</b> when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us” (Ephesians 2:13-14).</p> <p>“Creating praise on their lips. Peace, peace, <b>to those far</b> and <b>near</b>," says the LORD. "And <b>I will heal them</b>" (Isaiah 57:19). <b>NOTICE BOTH NEED HEALING.</b></p> <p>“Son of man, the people still left in Jerusalem are talking about you and your relatives and <b>all the people of Israel who are in exile</b>. They are saying, '<b>Those people are far away from the LORD, so now he has given their land to us</b> as a possession!' Therefore, say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: Though <b>I removed them far off</b> among the nations, and though I scattered them among the countries,</p>

	<p>yet I have been a sanctuary to them for a while in the countries where they have gone.’ Therefore, say, ‘Thus says the Lord God: <b>I will gather you from the peoples and assemble you out of the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.</b>’ And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. And <b>I will give them one heart</b>, and a <b>new spirit [the Holy Spirit] I will put within them</b>. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And <b>they shall be my people, and I will be their God</b>” (Ezekiel 11:15-20).</p> <p><b>The number three is symbolic and in this case likely refers to the completion of a divine event.</b> The wait for three days could mean that after the completion of a divine event—the death and resurrection of Christ, these people will be fed.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These people <b>were told to sit</b>. They were not organized into groups of 50 and 100.</li> </ul>	<p>In contrast with the 5,000, these people are identified as unstructured, hence without the Law of God. They were “cut off” for hundred of years and lived as Gentiles adopting many of the pagan beliefs and customs.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>7 loaves</b> of bread and a <b>few fish</b></li> </ul>	<p>The loaves of bread and fish came from what the disciples had brought. Now the disciples were beginning to grow spiritually and provide the basis of the food that Jesus could use to feed the people.</p> <p>This second feeding was to the scattered house of Israel (the lost sheep of Israel) accomplished through the food provided by the disciples.</p> <p>“He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel’” (Matthew 15:24).</p> <p><b>The house of Israel continued the task of going out and preaching the gospel to the whole world after the Apostles died.</b></p> <p>“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).</p> <p>“And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone” (Mark 16:15).</p> <p><b>The 7 loaves:</b></p> <p>5 + 2 = 7. The loaves are the complete Bible both the Old and New Testament which is the complete Bread of Life.</p> <p><b>The few fish:</b></p> <p>The few fish are a non-specific amount since most Jews are still waiting for their Messiah, <b>the preaching</b> [symbolic of fish] of the gospel and <b>bringing people</b> [fish] into the truth lies disproportionately within the two houses of Israel.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus “gave” the bread which is the <b>imperfect tense</b>.</li> </ul>	<p>The imperfect tense indicates that <b>Jesus kept on giving to the disciples</b>.</p> <p>Over the past 2,000 years, the word of God has been a continual learning period as Christians grow in grace and knowledge.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>7 very large baskets of leftovers</b></li> </ul>	<p>The very large baskets are needed for the long period of time that Christians need to be fed spiritual truths, which has brought nourishment over 2,000 years by the seven churches of Revelation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number 4,000</li> </ul>	<p>“The number <i>four</i> always has reference to <b>all that is created</b>. It is emphatically the <b>number of Creation; of man</b> in his relation to the world as created.”  <a href="http://www.biblebelievers.org.au/number08.htm">http://www.biblebelievers.org.au/number08.htm</a></p> <p>“The Fathers of the Church saw in the number 1000 ‘the totality of the generations and the perfection of the life’”.  <a href="http://www.ridingthebeast.com/numbers/nu1000.php">http://www.ridingthebeast.com/numbers/nu1000.php</a></p> <p>It could be said that of the last group of people to be directly fed by Jesus, they will receive the complete word of God in its fullest. This rich meal will continue to go out to <b>all of mankind</b> [symbolic of number 4] for the totality of generations until all repent, receive the Holy Spirit, accept grace and keep the commandments of God. These people will be clean because their heart is not a heart of stone rather the precious heart of flesh willingly loving God and Christ in humility and gratitude.</p>

### THE SUMMARY OF THE ANALYSIS:

The Bible has a primary focus on the house of Israel (God’s inheritance), the great fracture of their kingdom and the intense hostility that grew between the two houses. It is a complex story filled with drama, emotional highs and painful lows. Despite their choices over 6,000 years, they will finally come together as a united kingdom ready to obey God and remain faithful forever. The story of the feeding of the 5,000 and 4,000 men besides women and children describes Christ teaching **BOTH** houses the good news of the Kingdom of God. All of Israel will be saved and from this united kingdom, a remnant of 144,000 from each tribe of Israel will appear spotless and pure. They will become the perfect God-abiding government established to feed the whole world the wonderful word of God throughout the Millennium and forever. A new beginning and a better beginning is on the horizon for all nations.

“Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and **with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father’s name written on their foreheads...** They sang a new song... no one could learn the song except **the 144,000** who had been **redeemed from the earth**. These are those who did not defile themselves with women, for **they kept themselves pure. They follow the Lamb wherever he goes**. They were purchased from among men and **offered as first-fruits to God and the Lamb. No lie was found in their mouths; they are blameless.**”

“Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

<p>“of the tribe of <b>Judah</b> twelve thousand <i>were</i> sealed; of the tribe of <b>Reuben</b> twelve thousand <i>were</i> sealed; of the tribe of <b>Gad</b> twelve thousand <i>were</i> sealed; of the tribe of <b>Asher</b> twelve thousand <i>were</i> sealed; of the tribe of <b>Naphtali</b> twelve thousand <i>were</i> sealed; of the tribe of <b>Manasseh</b> twelve thousand <i>were</i> sealed;</p>	<p>of the tribe of <b>Simeon</b> twelve thousand <i>were</i> sealed; of the tribe of <b>Levi</b> twelve thousand <i>were</i> sealed; of the tribe of <b>Issachar</b> twelve thousand <i>were</i> sealed; of the tribe of <b>Zebulun</b> twelve thousand <i>were</i> sealed; of the tribe of <b>Joseph</b> twelve thousand <i>were</i> sealed; of the tribe of <b>Benjamin</b> twelve thousand <i>were</i> sealed” (Revelation 7:5-8).</p>
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*Compiled by Janette Andrejowich with much gratitude from all of the resources referenced in this article.*