



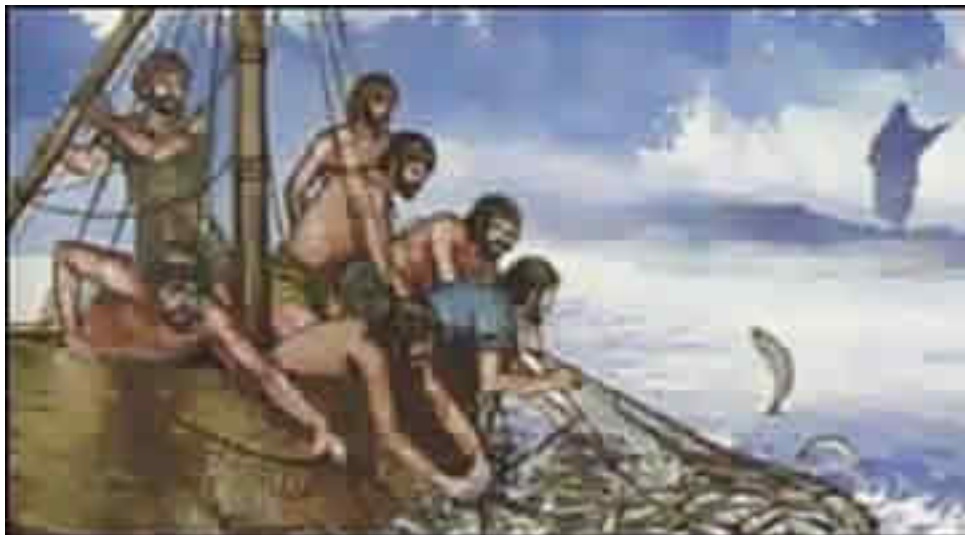
THE STORY IN JOHN 21: Jesus appeared the third time to his disciples by the **Sea of Tiberias (Galilee)**. **Seven disciples** were there. Simon Peter said that he was going to fish and the six followed. **All night, they fished but did not catch anything.** **Early in the morning,** Jesus stood on the shore, but the **disciples did not recognize him.** He called out, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" They replied, "No." Jesus said, "Throw your net on the **right side of the boat** and you will find some." When they did, they caught so many that they could not haul the net in. Then John said, "**It is the Lord.**" As soon as Peter heard John, **he wrapped his outer coat around himself and jumped in the water.** The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish; they were **not far from the shore—100 yards.**

Jesus said to them to bring some fish that they caught. Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore and it was full of **large fish, 153,** and the **net wasn't even torn.**

"Come have breakfast," Jesus said. He had a **coal fire burning with fish cooking and some bread.**

None of the disciples dared ask if he was Jesus. They knew it was the Lord because of the large catch. Jesus took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. After eating, **Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved him more than the others** and he replied, "Yes." Each time Jesus replied by asking him to **feed his lambs, take care of the sheep, and feed the sheep.** Peter was hurt that his love was doubted.

After asking Peter if he loved him, Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted, but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and **someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.**" Jesus was



describing the type of death that Peter would endure. So, Peter asked Jesus, “What about John?” And Jesus replied that it shouldn’t matter; Jesus may choose that he lives until he returns.

Similar to the feeding of the 5,000 and 4,000 people, Jesus performs a miracle for a specific teaching. This story occurs after the resurrection of Christ. He feeds seven disciples cooking fish over hot coals and some bread. In addition, he provides an exceptional catch of fish. Follow the Spirit of God because here lies a story kept hidden and saved only for those who seek the deep things of God.

Events	An Analysis
Jesus appears the third time .	Three is the number for divine completion. The hauling of the 153 large and healthy fish brings to completion a divine event. It is likely describing the resurrection of the saints.
The Sea of Tiberias (Sea of Galilee)	This proximity is mentioned in the feeding of both the 5,000 and the 4,000 people written in the books of the gospels, identifying the great catch of fish from both houses of Israel (Judah and Israel).
Seven disciples were there: Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, sons of Zebedee, and two others.	Five specific disciples + two unnamed = 7 disciples. These seven disciples mirror the seven churches of Revelation. After Christ was resurrected, he established the church. This group of people went out into all the world and preached the gospel. The only two churches of the seven that are rich in the word of God are Smyrna and Philadelphia.
Disciples did not catch fish all night on the left side of the boat.	They were fishing their own way. The seven churches of Revelation are all urged by Christ to overcome. Five of those churches are in trouble teaching traditions of men, Christianizing pagan celebrations, not teaching or keeping the 10 commandments, holy days or God’s Sabbath, and applying their own personal interpretations to scripture.
Early in the morning, Jesus said to them to move their net to the right side of the boat.	Jesus told them to fish his way – the right side of the boat. The disciples listened and through Christ’s instruction, they caught 153 large fish. An amazing catch! When the seven churches of Revelation begin to follow Christ’s instructions, they will be able to produce a congregation fit for God’s kingdom—sons of God.
“It is the Lord”	<p>The disciples did not recognize Jesus until they listened to his instructions and caught an amazing catch. Then, it was John who said, “It is the Lord.”</p> <p>John was the first to recognize the miracle of the catch and that it was Jesus talking to them. John is representative of the group of people who are closest to Christ. He loves them and they love him. They are likely the Philadelphia church who keep the commandments, the holy days and the Sabbath. They do not deny Christ during the Great Tribulation.</p> <p>Even while they were having breakfast with Jesus, they were too afraid to ask, but they knew he was Jesus. Face-to-face with Jesus, they still could not quite recognize him.</p>

	<p>For nearly 2,000 years, Christ has been urging the churches of Revelation to overcome. The people in this story are the 21st century nations of Israel who survive the Great Tribulation, but do not overcome. They are a mixed group, which include all of the 21st century nations of Israel and foreigners, as well, their mixture includes Christians with differing beliefs. Their inability to recognize Christ upon his return, is because they do not understand nor have they been teaching the pure word of God. Some have fallen away, others compromise truth to keep the peace, many have Christianized pagan celebrations and practices, many more have established highly structured organizations that serve themselves and resemble the hierarchical structure of the pagans. The disciple who recognized Christ was the church who loves him; they keep the commandments of God, His holy days and the Sabbath. God is a Hebrew God.</p>
<p>Peter puts on his outer garment and jumps in the water</p>	<p>Peter puts on a suitable outer garment to approach Christ, like a righteous covering knowing to whom he will stand before. The mention of Peter cloaking himself, tells a story of someone who may not have been appropriately dressed, that is, someone who was not behaving appropriately prior to Christ's return. He knows it and quickly covers his nakedness, that is, his unrighteousness and runs to Christ, leaving the hard work for the others, as they struggle to hold onto the net full of strong, large fish flapping and flopping against each other.</p>
<p>The others remain in the boat hauling the fish to the seashore.</p>	<p>The weight of the fish and the inability to haul the net into the boat describes the enormity of their task. They could not let go of the net for they did not want any fish to get away. The six disciples together held with all their might as they made their way to shore. The six disciples recognized their task and held fast.</p>
<p>They were not far from the shore – 100 yards.</p>	<p>The disciples were close to Christ when the fish were caught. This is referring to a time period close to the return of Christ and the resurrection of the saints. They have the large fish (the saints) in their net. These saints are dependant on the churches to keep working—hauling the net, to carry the saints to safety from the waters (the enemy) who are fighting to tear open the net and drag them back into the place of wickedness. The sea is symbolic of the place of wickedness. When the new heaven and new earth is created, there will be no sea, that is, no place for wickedness. "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea" (Revelation 21:1).</p>
<p>Peter was the first to meet Jesus on the seashore, but Jesus sends him back to bring some of the fish that they caught.</p>	<p>Peter returns to the group to haul in the net of large fish. While Peter was the first to meet Jesus, he left his job for a moment leaving the weight of the haul to the other disciples. Could it be that one of the seven churches needs to be reminded to return to carrying God's faithful people to safety?</p>

	This church from the outside may look appropriately dressed, but it leaves for a moment the job that it was given for the remaining churches to bare.
Jesus fed the seven disciples with fish and bread.	Jesus himself will feed the seven churches of Revelation with his Bread of Life—God’s word upon his return. The house of Judah and the house of Israel are the seven churches. They will be taught and brought onto the narrow path of righteousness—one theology, one doctrine. The fish symbolize additional sources that bring understanding of God’s way.
Jesus asks Peter three times whether he loves him.	The church that leaves its job is asked by Christ if they love Him. “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).
Jesus instructs Peter to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed his lambs • Take care of his sheep • Feed his sheep 	This church is reminded to feed the spiritually young and help them grow into mature Christians, take care of the Christians and feed them the rich word of God. Teach them to keep the commandments, the ordinances and judgements of God. Teach them about the deep and hidden things of God. Prepare them to be a holy nation of royal priests.
When Peter is old: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Someone will stretch out his hands • Someone else will dress him • Lead you where you do not want to go 	Like many strong believers, Peter died as a martyr and on the cross. He lived a life like many believers falling, but he got up again. He had to be reminded of his calling—his job and he listened. He denied Christ three times, but went on the preach the gospel of the kingdom to many far and wide. He preserved the word of God in his letters and he remained faithful and true to the end. Most believers do not want to die a martyr, but remember, “For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it” (Matthew 16:25).
“What about John?”	As a Christian, which of the seven churches do you find yourself? Concern yourself with your own spiritual growth and grow to love as John loved. The Philadelphia church do not deny Christ’s name. “I have loved you... I will keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth... I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will write on him my new name” (Revelation 3:8-10, 12). These Christians are kept from the hour of trial. They are part of Christ’s bride who grieve the wicked ways of the world. “Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. ‘They will be mine,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the

	<p>wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not” (Malachi 3:16-18).</p> <p>“The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days” (Revelation 12:6).</p> <p>The bride has entered into a blood covenant with her bridegroom and she is prepared to die for him. “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends” (John 15:13).</p> <p>She says: “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).</p> <p>“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalms 139:23-24).</p> <p>“If you find my Beloved ... tell Him I am lovesick!” (Song 5:8).</p>
<p>The number 153</p>	<p>Brad Scott from wildbranch.org provides this insight. The Hebrew gematria for "Sons of God" - Benay Ha- 'Elohiym equals 153:</p> <p>Benay Ha-'Elohiym</p> <p>Bet (ב) = 2 Nun (נ) = 50 Yod (י) = 10 Hey (ה) = 5 Aleph (א) = 1 Lamed (ל) = 30 Hey (ה) = 5 Yod (י) = 10 Mem (מ) = 40 Total = 153 https://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/lessons/lesson102.html</p> <p>These large healthy 153 fish are a picture of the spiritually strong—“sons of God”. They accepted the Messiah as their Savior.</p> <p>Jesus sent his fishers of men out into the multitudes to first fish for those who are the Kingdom of Israel. “He answered, ‘I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel’” (Matthew 15:24). The residents of the Kingdom of Israel are the sons of God, SCATTERED throughout all the earth, just as the prophets had foretold. https://www.wildbranch.org/teachings/lessons/lesson102.html</p>

	<p>“Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the SONS OF THE LIVING GOD” (Hosea 1:10-11).</p>
<p>The net that did not break.</p>	<p>The net is like being placed in the strong hand of God that can withstand the forces of wickedness and protect His faithful people. The disciples were amazed that the net didn't tear from the weight of the 153 fish and the forces of the water, but they don't yet understand the real power of God to protect His faithful people during the upcoming terrifying and horrific Great Tribulation.</p>

What a miracle! What a wonder! God is at work with Christ transforming people into sons of God. When Christ returns, he will resurrect and transform the saints into sons of God, then what was long hoped for will become a reality and finally, people will begin to see and understand the magnitude of their calling.

The seven churches are the 21st century nations of Israel—all twelve tribes. Upon his return, Christ will gather all twelve tribes and teach them the word of God directly. They will not recognize him initially because they claim to be Christians—the national religion, but they do not know or live God's way. The churches all teach hundreds of different doctrines and interpret scriptures through their own eyes. They are careless handling God's word and do not seek to test and prove their teachings. It was the catch of the saints that was the proof for the Christians that Christ was standing before them. Christ will correct them and the resurrected saints in their glory will be by their side to guide them along the way. The survivors of 21st century Israel will enter a new and exciting chapter in their history. This time, they will obey God and enjoy abundant blessings: no sickness or war, riches and wealth, happiness and peace.



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Compiled by Janette Andrejowich with many thanks to Brad Scott from wildbranch.org referenced in this article.