

# One Hundred and fifty three fish of John Chapter 21

## Jacob blesses Ephraim over Manasseh

**Genesis 48:14-16** And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid *it* on Ephraim's head, though *he was* the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh *was* the firstborn. 15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, O Elohim, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, -- Elohim who shepherds me from my inception until this day. 16 May the Angel who redeems me from all evil, bless the lads; and may my name be declared on them, and the name of my forefathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them **proliferate abundantly like fish within the land**.

Near the end of the book of Genesis, Jacob was near death. He had come to Egypt when he learned that Joseph was still alive. Joseph had been sold into slavery by his brothers and through Elohim's divine plan had ascended to become the Viceroy of Egypt and had saved the world from starvation. Jacob had believed that Joseph was dead, but after twenty two years he was reunited with his son. Seventeen years had past since that reunion and now Jacob wanted to bless Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh. Jacob adopted the sons of Joseph so that they would be counted as his own sons. This would cause them to be heads of their own tribes. This made Joseph receive the birthright because he would now receive the double portion. The meaning of their names is as follows;

**Ephraim** = I shall be doubly fruitful (s# 669 אפרים) (ef-rah'-yim) Elohim has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering)

**Manasseh** = causing to forget (s# 4519 מנשה) (men-ash-sheh' ) Elohim has made me to forget all my hardship and all my father's household

Joseph brought his sons before Jacob so that Jacob's right hand would be on Manasseh's head because he was the first born. Jacob crossed his hands so that Ephraim would be under his **right hand**. Jacob explained to Joseph that Manasseh would be a great nation but that Ephraim would be even greater.

**Jacob** said in **Genesis 48:16**: May the angel who redeems me from all evil, bless the lads, and may my name be declared on them, and the names of my forefathers Abraham and Isaac, and **may they proliferate abundantly like FISH in the midst of the Earth.**

Most English bibles do not translate this verse correctly because fish **do not multiply in the midst of the earth**. Fish multiply in the midst of the sea, however the Hebrew says "**multiply like fish in the midst of the earth.**" This is a prophecy of the future descendants of the Ten tribes of Israel who would turn away from following the commandments and who would **forget their father's house**. They would forget that they were descendants of Jacob when they were cast out of the land of Israel. They would multiply greatly thinking they were gentiles. I believe they are like **fish** because this is the symbol of Christianity. Christianity in general does not feel connected to the Hebrew people or the Torah (first five books of the Bible).

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**Genesis 48:19b** ...yet his younger brother (Ephraim) shall become greater than he, and his **offspring will fill the nations**. The phrase "**fill the nations**" in Hebrew is ( מלא-הגוים ) (melo ha Goem) this means the **fullness of the nations** or the **fullness of the gentiles**. Nations and gentiles is the same word in Hebrew. This reminds us of what Paul said in the book of Romans;

**Related Scripture: Gentiles will be blinded to who they are**

**Romans 11:25-29** For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that **blindness** in part is happened to Israel, until the **fullness of the Gentiles is come in**. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this [is] My Covenant to them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, [they are] (those of Israel who don't believe) enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, [they are] beloved for the Fathers' sakes. For the gifts and calling of Elohim [are] without repentance.

What blindness was Paul talking about?

## Look at the History of Israel and Judah:

**King Solomon** turned away from following **יהוה** during his last years. (The LORD) **יהוה** told him that He would divide the kingdom when his son Rehoboam reigned. The nation was split into two countries the tribes of Judah and Benjamin became the nation of **Judah** and the other ten tribes became the nation of **Israel**. Jeroboam became king of Israel. He was from the tribe of **Ephraim**. He soon turned the people away from (The LORD) **יהוה** by making two golden calves and placing one in Bethel and one in the city of Dan. Israel was conquered by Assyria and taken into captivity in 721 BC. Since they were not keeping the Torah (instructions of **יהוה**) they soon became as gentiles. These ten tribes never returned from captivity, they were scattered to the ends of the earth. They no longer knew that they were descendants of Jacob. They forgot their father's house.

This tells us that the blindness that has happened to the descendants of Joseph (Ephraim & Manasseh) would continue until the nations were filled with their descendants. When that number was reached, and only (The LORD) **יהוה** would know when, then the blindness would be taken away and they would understand that they are descendants of Jacob. This would imply that they would realize that they are connected to the Hebrew people and the Torah. I believe that time has come. I see more and more people coming back to Torah, and they are keeping the Festivals that (The LORD) **יהוה** has ordained in Leviticus chapter 23. They want to know about the Hebraic roots of Christianity.

## What does this have to do with 153 fish?

You may remember the story in John chapter 21 about some of the disciples going fishing after Yeshua (Jesus) had been crucified;

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## **Related Scripture: The disciples go fishing after Messiah's death**

**John 21:1-11** After these things Yeshua showed Himself again to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and on this way he showed himself. 2 There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of His disciples. 3 Simon Peter said to them, I am going fishing. They said to him, We also will go with you. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. 4 But when the **morning** came, Yeshua stood on the shore: but the disciples did not know that it was Yeshua. 5 Then Yeshua said to them, Children, have you any meat (Fish)? They answered Him, No. 6 And He said to them, **Cast the NET on the right side of the ship**, and you shall find. They therefore cast, and now they were not able to draw it for the **multitude of fish**. 7 Therefore that disciple who Yeshua loved said to Peter, It is Adonai (Lord). Now when Simon Peter heard that it was Adonai, he put his fisher's coat on him, (for he was not fully dressed,) and jumped into the sea. 8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were **two hundred cubits**,) dragging the net with the fish. 9 As soon as they came to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. 10 Yeshua said to them, Bring of the fish which you have now caught. 11 **Simon Peter** went up, and drew the net **to land** full of great fish, an **hundred and fifty and three**: and for all there were so many, yet was **not** the net broken.

**We need to think about some of this story.** We believe that this catch of fish was the work of (The LORD) יהוה because they had fished all night and caught nothing. When they put the **net** on the **right** side of the boat they caught a great number of **fish**. We need also to understand why they always fished on the Sea of Galilee at night. The water is so clear that the fish can see the net in the day time because the rope is larger than the string in fish nets today. We also have to remember that the fish are unseen, the disciples could not see them even though they were right there. Notice in the story it was morning. Casting the net on the right side of the boat was something that no one did at this time in history. The rudder of the ship was on the right side of the boat, so the net was not cast on the right side of the boat because it would get tangled up with the rudder. Having the rudder at the back of the ship was not done until many years later. This should have been a time when they could not catch anything, but they did. There seems to be three things that stand out in this story, the **right side**, the **net** and **One hundred and fifty three fish**. Lets look at them one at a time;

## **Related Scripture: Blessing on the right hand-Cursing on the left hand**

**Matthew 25:31-34-41** When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He shall sit on the throne of His glory: 32 And before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats: 33 And He shall set the **sheep on his right hand**, but the **goats on the left**. 34 Then shall the King say to them on His right hand, Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ....41 Then He shall say also to them **on the left hand**, Depart from Me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

**The Right side:** We can see from the story of the blessing of Ephraim that the right side is the side of mercy and blessing. Ephraim would be blessed even though יהוה knew that his tribe

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would lead Israel into (The LORD) Idol worship but would in the end times turn back to following the commandments and love (The LORD) יהוה. That is mercy and blessing.

### Side of Blessing = Right side

**The Net:** To understand this we need to look into the Hebrew word for net. The word for net in Hebrew is **Rashet** ( **רשת** ). It is composed of three letters, Resh ( **ר** ), Shen ( **ש** ) and Tav ( **ת** ). These letters are the **20th**, **21st** and **22nd** letters of the Hebrew alphabet. These are the last three letters of the alphabet. If we look in the book of Genesis we see that Abraham was the **20th** generation from Adam, Isaac was the **21th** generation from Adam and Jacob was the **22nd** generation from Adam. This is saying that **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob form a net to gather fish**. The blessing that was given to Abraham was passed on to Isaac and later passed on to Jacob and then passed on to Jacob's children and they formed the nation of Israel. The Covenant that יהוה made with them is the only Covenant with this blessing. All people in the world can turn away from sin and be joined with Israel in this Covenant. The NET is our safety net to bring us to our Savior.

( **ר** ) = the 20th letter in the Hebrew alphabet -- Abram was the 20th generation from Adam

( **ש** ) = the 21st letter in the Hebrew alphabet -- Isaac was the 21st generation from Adam

( **ת** ) = the 22nd letter in the Hebrew alphabet -- Jacob was the 22nd generation from Adam

The 20th, 21st and 22nd letters of the Hebrew alphabet forms the Hebrew word for **Net**

**Net** = a net (as catching animals) (s# 7568 **רשת**) (reh'-sheth)

**The Hundred Fifty Three Fish:** To understand this number we need to know a little more about the Hebrew Alphabet. The Hebrew language does not have a separate number system. They use letters for numbers, much in the same way that the Greeks and Romans did in their day. Each letter is assigned a number. The first ten letters are one through ten. The next nine letters are twenty through one hundred, and the last three letters are two hundred to four hundred. This was the only number system used at the time the Scriptures were written. You may not have thought about it but this means that every word in Hebrew has a numerical value, equal to the simple sum of all the letters. The study of these numerical values in the Hebrew Scriptures is known as Gamatra. It has been discovered that many different words and phrases that have the same meaning often have the same numerical value even though they are formed of different letters. In order to understand what the number one hundred fifty three means we need to look at words or phrases that have a Gamatra of 153. The name Bezaleel is found in Exodus 31:2. Bezaleel was the craftsman who (The LORD) יהוה called to build the Tabernacle.

**Related Scripture: Bezaleel is filled with the Spirit of יהוה**

**Exodus 31:1-5** And (LORD) יהוה spoke to Moses, saying, See, I have called by name

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Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of יהוה, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship, To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, And in cutting of stones, to set [them], and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.

**The name Bezaleel means - in the image of El (Elohim) (strong's # 1212 בצלאל)**

(The word God in Hebrew is the word "Elohim)

**Gamatra of Bezaleel ( ל=30, א= 1, ל=30, צ=90, ב =2 ) = 153**

**"in the image of El"** The beth (ב) on the beginning (Hebrew reads right to left) means "in." The Tzaddi (צ) and Lamed (ל) mean "image", and the Aleph (א) and Lamed (ל) mean "El" or Elohim. This reminds us of the Scripture in Romans

### **Related Scripture: We are to be conformed to the Image of Yeshua**

**Romans 8:29** For who He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the **IMAGE** of **HIS SON**, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover who He did Predestine, them He also called: and who He called, those He also justified: those He justified, those He also glorified.

**Comment:** Those who (The LORD) יהוה foreknew He would transform them into the Image of His Son. He foreknew Israel and those who would join Israel so He will transform many of them into the image of His Son, That is Blessing and Mercy.

### **Related Scripture: The Blessing given to Abram**

**Genesis 12:1-3** Now יהוה had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family and from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. **I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse (a) him who curses (b) you** (lightly esteems you); And **in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

**Bless** = to bless, adoration, congratulate, praise, salute, thank (s# 1288 ברך) (baw-rak')

**curse (a)** = a primitive root; to execrate, bitter curse (s# 779 ארר) (aw-rar')

**curse (b)** = causatively make light, lightly esteem (s# 7043 קלל) (kaw-lal')

**Comment:** The first word for **curse** is a different Hebrew word from the second word for **curse**. The first word means a **bitter curse**, the second word means anyone who lightly esteems you. יהוה is saying I will place a **bitter curse** on anyone who does not honor Abraham and his descendants.

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We can see how יהוה cast his NET on the world when the nation of Israel was scattered to the four corners of the earth. The blessing of Abraham was ingrafted on the world of those who would bless Abraham and his descendants. The book of Hosea shows this in the first chapter. Elohim told Hosea to take a wife of harlotry because the land has committed great harlotry. Elohim told him to name his first son Jezreel which means **Elohim sows or Elohim scatters**. The next child that was born, Elohim said to name Lo-Ruhamah which means **no mercy**, because Elohim will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel. The last daughter, Elohim said to name Lo-Ammi which means you are **not my people**. **Elohim had cast the nation of Israel (10 Tribes) to the ends of the earth** and they are scattered even to this day. But then יהוה speaks of the future saying "**In the place where it was said to them "you are not My people," There it shall be said to them, You are sons of the Living Elohim."** This is referring to the future when the **net** would be drawn in and the **fish** would be gathered and יהוה's mercy would be shown to those who honored Abraham.

## Meaning of each thing in the story

**7 Disciples** - The time the net will be brought in; beginning of the seventh millenium  
**2 disciples** - 2 disciples not named; the number of years after Messiah's death; 2,000 years?  
**Morning** - The time after the long night of the Great Tribulation  
**Net** - the plan of Elohim to gather those righteous of the nations who honor Abraham  
**Right side** - The side of blessing  
**Fish** - Great numbers of people who would be in the NET (receiving the blessings of Abraham)  
**200 cubits** - 2,000 years after Messiah paid the price for our redemption  
**The Land** - Return to the land of Israel  
**153 fish** - Those who are conformed to the image of Yeshua (related to their spiritual condition)

## Let's put it all together; The story in John 21 & Genesis 48 tells us that:

- 1. When** the Fullness of the Gentiles is come in (**Melo ha Goyem**) (**the multitude of fish is full/the nations are filled with the offspring of Abraham and those who join Abraham**) The blindness will be taken away and they will know that they are of Abraham. **Galatians 3:29**
- 2. Then** Elohim will **harvest the multitude of fish (Israel/and those who join Israel)** using the NET (**The blessing of those who blessed Abraham, Isaac and Jacob** ) Those who curse Abraham or who lightly esteem him will not be in the NET. Gen 12, Matt 28:19-20
- 3. They** will be on the Right side of the boat (**Side of Mercy and Blessing/Elohim will say you are the sons of the living Elohim**) they come back obedient to His commands and live in the Land of Israel.
- 4. They** will be conformed to the **image of El (Elohim/Son) (Bezaleel/153)** and be brought to the land (**land of Israel**).

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**5. Then** the Tabernacle of David (The House of David, Judah and Israel) will be restored (**The kingdom will be united under King David and the world will be ruled by Yeshua**). No longer will there be two countries of Judah and Israel. Jeremiah 3:18

### **Related Scripture: יהוה Tells His plan to save mankind through Abraham**

**Amos 9:8-15** Behold, the eyes of Adonai Elohim (Lord God) [are] on the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from off the face of the earth; saving that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob, says יהוה (The LORD). 9 For, behold, I will command, and **I will sift the house of Israel among all nations**, like as [grain] is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall on the earth. 10 **All the sinners of My people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.** 11 In that day will **I raise up the Tabernacle of David** that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: 12 That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and **of all the heathen, which are called by My name**, says יהוה (The LORD) that does this. 13 Behold, the days come, says (The LORD) יהוה , that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that sows seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. 14 And I will bring again the captivity of My people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit [them]; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. 15 And **I will plant them on their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them**, says יהוה (The LORD) your Elohim (God).

**Comment:** Verse 10 says that those of the people of יהוה (The LORD) who say that the evil will not overtake them, will die. This could be those who still believe that the rapture will take them out of harms way, will actually be the ones who are killed.

**May יהוה bless you and conform you to His image and may you be in the NET.**

**References:** Avi Ben Mordachai audio teaching & Eddie Chumney of Hebraic Heritage

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