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THE LESSON OF THE 153 FISHES

Every word of Scripture, every event in Scripture has some important lesson to teach. The fishing expedition of the disciples after the death and resurrection is one of the most important and deepest lessons that we can learn from Scripture. Let's see that this event can teach us about spiritual things.

By Jerry Healan

Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John and two other disciples didn't seem to have anything better to do after Yahshua was slain and resurrected than to go fishing (Jn. 21:1-3). After all, Peter's, James's and John's occupation prior to their calling was fishermen. As fishing can go so many, many times, they labored, fishing all night and caught nothing. In the morning Yahshua stood on the shore and called out to them if they had caught anything and they replied no. So he instructed them to cast the net on the right side of the ship and upon following His instructions, they filled the net with a multitude of fish. (v.v. 4-6). John immediately knew that the one calling out to them was Yahshua and told the others so. When Peter heard that it was Yahshua, he girded himself with his fisher's coat and jumped into the water swimming to shore. The others followed dragging the cumbersome net with the fishes. (v.v. 7-8). When they got to shore, Yahshua already had a fire of coals going with fish upon it. But they pulled the net to the shore and counted the fishes that they had caught and they numbered 153. (v.v. 9-11).

We live in a world that is governed by law. This world came into existence by the power of the Word of Yahweh and it stands fast based upon that same power. (Jn. 1:1-3; 10:14; Heb. 1:1-3; Psa. 33:6, 9, etc.) Scientists, mathematicians and others utilize many means to try to come to understand the essence of the creation. Many of those means have to do with the use of formulas, chemical, numerical, etc. There are

those who seek to understand the Scriptures through the use of numbers. If we can do that with the physical creation, then can we not do that with some of the spiritually significant numbers that Yahweh provides in His own word? After all, it is His word that created all things and in reality it is His word that they are seeking to search out, even if they don't understand this or realize it. Of course, the Hebrew letters themselves not only represent letters for words, language, but also represent numbers and even hieroglyphics.

MYSTERY

In the above account, there are so many, many things to consider, but many of those things will have to be left to other articles. Yahweh's word is so mighty and powerful, it is eternal and we can eternally search into it and learn so much about our wondrous, marvelous, awesome and majestic Creator Elohim. But what we want to make the primary focus of this article to be on the number of the fishes (153). One of the reasons we want to do this is to show you that the Scriptures are written in metaphors, types, and parables, and mysteries which few people have ever studied into or even understood even though they might have been considered to be highly Scripturally intelligent by the world (just as the scientists and mathematicians are). But neither is this article being written to put anyone down or to exalt anyone other than the Word of Yahweh Who is Yahshua the Messiah.



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BEZALEEL

The Apostle Paul writes, “Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of Yahweh in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which Yahweh ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Sovereign of glory. But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which Yahweh hath prepared for them that love him. But Yahweh hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of Yahweh. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of Yahweh knoweth no man, but the Spirit of Yahweh. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of Yahweh; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of Yahweh. **Which things also we speak**, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but **which the Holy Spirit teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual**,” 1 Cor. 2:6-13.

Hopefully you are beginning to understand that Yahweh has hidden deep things in the Scriptures that the natural, carnal, physical mind of man simply can't understand, even the princes, the great leaders of this world. They are brought forth by the power of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit is utilized to search out the deep things of Yahweh. Previously, in chapter one of 1 Corinthians and also in chapter two, he reveals that the things of Yahweh are considered to be foolish by the natural mind of man, while the things that the natural mind of man considers to be important are considered to be foolish by Yahweh. Therefore, there are those who will read this article and dispute it and there are those who will read it and rejoice.

One of the most important occurrences of this number appears in the name Bezaleel. The Hebrew letters for Bezaleel are בְּצַלְעֵל / Bezalel. The beit (ב) = 2, tsadi (צ) = 90, lamed (ל) = 30, aleph (א) = 1, and lamed (ל) = 30. 2 + 90 + 30 + 1 + 30 = 153.

Bezaleel was the one chosen by Yahweh to build the tabernacle with all its appurtenances in the wilderness, “And Yahweh spake unto Moshe saying, ‘See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur of the tribe of Yudah: and I have filled him with the spirit of Elohim, 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,’ Ex. 31:1-5.

Notice these three important elements for He gave him (1) wisdom, (2) understanding, and (3) knowledge. The tabernacle that Bezaleel was to build was a microcosm, a type of the heavens and the earth. In Proverbs Yahweh says, “Yahweh by ¹wisdom hath founded the earth; by ²understanding hath He established the heavens, by His ³knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew,” 3:19-20. All things, including the deep things, have been made by the Spirit of Yahweh, the Spirit of Elohim and Yahweh gave the Spirit to Bezaleel so that he could be most skillful in constructing the tabernacle and everything that pertained to it including the things that the priesthood was to wear.

The tabernacle with its Levitical priesthood was a type of the true heavenly tabernacle wherein Yahweh dwells and the Melchizedek Priesthood that serves that tabernacle! The very name Bezaleel means “In the shadow of El!” The tabernacle and priesthood of old were only



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types, examples and shadows of the true heavenly tabernacle wherein Yahweh dwells, “Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; **A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which Yahweh pitched, and not man.** For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. For if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law: **Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things**, as Moses was admonished of Yahweh when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises,” Heb. 8:1-6.

Notice that it says that if he were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the law. That statement no longer applies because there is no longer a physical manmade, handmade temple built to the honor of Yahweh’s name on the earth. But there is a movement afoot to build a temple or at least tabernacle and to restore the Levitical priesthood in Jerusalem. Could this be taking place in order to thwart Yahshua from returning as the High Priest and those who are His at the resurrection serving as kings and priests with Him? (Rev. 14:1-5; 20:1-6)

Bezaleel not only means “in the shadow of El,” but he is the son of Uri. Uri (בָּרְיָה / אַרְיָה [note: I have given both the original Paleo Hebrew and the modern day Hebrew here]) has to do with light or specifically with the Hebrew letter yod (י) at the end of the word, it means “my light.” He was also the son of Hur. Hur means “white linen.” White Linen is utilized, spiritual-

ly speaking, for righteousness. Finally, He is of the tribe of Yudah/Judah. Judah means “Praise Yahweh.”

Bezaleel, therefore, is a type, a shadow, of Yahshua in that, according to the Scriptures, the Father made all things through His Son, “Yahweh, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds;** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they,” Heb. 1:1-4.

The Father not only utilized Yahshua to create the heavens (His present dwelling place which the Prophet Isaiah is inspired to declare that they are like a curtain and spread out like a tent to dwell in [Isa. 40:22]), and earth, but He is also utilizing Him to bring forth the new heavens and new earth wherein dwells righteousness (Rev. 21:1-5).

MORE SHADOWS

I hear so many, many people in various meetings shouting Torah! But the problem is that they aren’t utilizing the Torah for its original intended purposes. The Torah was given to bring us to Yahshua the Messiah! They should be shouting Yahshua! So many people seek to apply the Torah in their lives, but in so many, many cases they are only going about establishing their own righteousness, rather than the righteousness of Yahweh, which is Yahshua in us.

Here is what the book of Hebrews declares about the law, which can also be translated as



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the Torah, or the ten commandments, “For **the Messiah is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true**; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of Yahweh for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So **the Messiah was once offered to bear the sins of many**; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation. **For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things**, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O Yahweh. Above when **he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;** Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O Yahweh. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Yahshua the Messiah once for all. And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had

offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of Yahweh; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. **For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified,**” Heb. 9:24-28; 10:1-14.

Bezaleel, whose name means “in the shadow of El,” made the tabernacle and all things that pertained to it and its priesthood by his own hands. The things that he made were simply shadows, examples, types of the true. The true tabernacle is the one that Yahweh has made through His own Son Yahshua of Whom Bezaleel is simply a shadow or type. Notice that it says that holy places made with hands (of man) are only figures of the true. The law, or the Torah was also a shadow of good things to come, but they were simply not the very (exact?) image of the true things because they couldn’t make anyone perfect. We are made perfect through Yahshua the Messiah Who has the power to create in us the spirit and heart we need to be able to please the Father with.

The first lesson that we learn about the 153 fish is that they direct us to Bezaleel, who was a type, a shadow of Yahshua. Bezaleel made the tabernacle in the wilderness, but Yahshua is the One Who has made the true heavenly tabernacle wherein Yahweh truly dwells.

SONS OF ELOHIM

Another term that equals to 153 is the Hebrew term for sons of Elohim or beni ha Elohim (בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים). Beit (ב) = 2, nun (נ) = 50, yod (י) = 10, hei (ה) = 5, aleph (א) = 1, lamed (ל) = 30, hei (ה) = 5, yod (י) = 10, mem (מ) = 40. $2 + 50 + 10 + 5 + 1 + 30 + 5 + 10 + 40 = 153$.

Sons of Elohim is a term that is utilized throughout Scripture. We find that there were “sons of Elohim” who were present when the earth was made, “Where wast thou when I laid



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the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; When the morning stars sang together, and all the **sons of Elohim** shouted for joy?" 38:4-7.

The sons of Elohim were called before the throne of Yahweh and Satan was among them, "Now there was a day when the sons of Elohim came to present themselves before Yahweh, and Satan came also among them....Again there was a day when the **sons of Elohim** came to present themselves before Yahweh, and Satan came also among them to present himself before Yahweh," Job. 1:6; 2:1.

If Satan is able to appear among the sons of Elohim, then he also is a son of Elohim. In other places he is called an angel or messenger. His message, of course, is contrary to Yahweh's message, but he is subtle enough to be able to take the truth, surround it with lies and cleverly deceive the natural man. He is the serpent who appeared in the Garden of Eden to deceive the first woman, Eve. He is still around deceiving the world in the book of Revelation, "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him," Rev. 12:7-9.

Jude speaks of the angels that left their first estate, "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day," v. 6.

The book of Genesis speaks of the sons of Elo-

him who co-habited with the daughters of men (Adam), "And it came to pass, when men (Adam) began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of Elohim saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And Yahweh said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of Elohim came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. And Yahweh saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented Yahweh that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart," Gen. 6:2-6.

Obviously, these sons of Elohim had the ability to co-habit with the daughters of Adam and they then bore children to them. The term "giants" is very interesting because it comes from the Hebrew word nephiyl (נְפִילָה), which also means "fallen." Yahshua, Himself, said that He had seen Satan fall from heaven, "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven," Lk. 10:18.

Mythology, itself, abounds with stories of these rebellious fallen ones who became great and mighty ones in the earth. Yahweh has now reserved these rebellious fallen ones in the chains of darkness until the day of judgment. Peter confirms Jude's statement concerning these fallen angels, "For if Yahweh spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment," 2 Pt. 2:4.

He says that they are cast down to "hell," but this word for hell is Tartaroo, which can also mean a state of torment. Both say that they have



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been delivered into chains of darkness. Darkness has to do with a spiritual condition. They are tormented in the chains of spiritual darkness because they turned from the true light that shines forever, that is the Father Yahweh and His beloved Son Yahshua the Messiah. They follow the prince of darkness who seeks to take the true things of Yahweh and twist, corrupt and pollute them so that their light can't shine through to enlighten the minds of those who follow after their deceptive practices.

These fallen angels/spirits do have various and certain powers over the natural mind of man as is revealed in the evangel accounts wherein Yahshua and then the apostles faced them. Yahshua first had to face the ring leader Satan to obtain the victory over him which He did do as is recorded in Matthew chapter four, Mark chapter one, and Luke chapter four.

One of the great problems is that men, themselves, love darkness more than light, "For Yahweh so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For Yahweh sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of Elohim. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in Elohim," Jn. 3:16-21.

Yahshua overcame, got the victory and now those who believe in and follow after Him, loving His light and truth, become the SONS OF ELOHIM. The Apostle John writes, "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed

upon us, that we should be called the sons of Elohim **בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים** [=153]): therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of Elohim, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of Elohim was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of Elohim doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of Elohim. In this the children of Elohim are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of Elohim, neither he that loveth not his brother," 1 Jn. 3:1-10.

Yahshua primarily called fishermen to be his disciples and apostles, and they were to fish for men, fishing them out of this world and converting them to become sons of Elohim **בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים** [=153]).

HILLKIAH

There is one other place that we would like to train our focus upon concerning this number 153; that is we want to focus on the name Hillkiah as it is revealed in the book of Isaiah chapter 22. Isaiah writes, "Thus saith Yahweh Elohim of hosts, Go, get thee unto this treasurer, even unto Shebna, which is over the house, and say, What hast thou here? and whom hast



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thou here, that thou hast hewed thee out a sepulchre here, as he that heweth him out a sepulchre on high, and that graveth an habitation for himself in a rock? Behold, Yahweh will carry thee away with a mighty captivity, and will surely cover thee. He will surely violently turn and toss thee like a ball into a large country: there shalt thou die, and there the chariots of thy glory shall be the shame of thy Master's house. And I will drive thee from thy station, and from thy state shall he pull thee down. And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah: And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house. And they shall hang upon him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, all vessels of small quantity, from the vessels of cups, even to all the vessels of flagons. In that day, saith Yahweh of hosts, shall the nail that is fastened in the sure place be removed, and be cut down, and fall; and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off: for Yahweh hath spoken it," vv. 15-25.

What is being said here? Shebna is one who is seemingly a nail driven in a sure place today. He is a treasurer or minister over the house, but the Hebrew word for house is *bayith*, which can also be translated as "temple." He has hewn himself a sepulchre on high. He has graven an habitation for himself in a rock. Yahweh is called a "rock" in so many, many places in Scripture.

When it says that he has hewn out a sepulchre "on high", the Hebrew term is "marowm" (מָרוּם), which can mean "from Rome." Rome is Roma in the ancient Latin lan-

guage, which is akin to the Hebrew term Ramah, meaning a height (as a seat of idolatry) [Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #7413].

There is one in today's world who had been driven as a nail in a sure place. His sepulchre has been carved or graven in the rock (the world calls Him God, but in reality, His name is Yahweh). He was supposedly dead and is yet alive. This is none other than the Roman imposter Jesus Christ who has been raised up in the place of the true Messiah Yahshua.

Notice that the key of the house of David will be laid upon His shoulder and he shall open and none can shut and he will shut and none can open. This is none other than Yahshua the Messiah as revealed in Rev. 3:8.

The name Eliakim son of Hilkiah has a very important meaning. Eliakim means "El of raising" or "Raising again of El" (also had to do with resurrection). Hilkiah has to do with the portion or inheritance of Yahweh. So Eliakim son of Hilkiah is the Son of El who will again raise up the portion or inheritance of Yahweh. This is none other than Yahshua the Messiah Who has the power to deliver from the grave and to restore Yahweh's children, Israel, to their portion or inheritance.

CONCLUSION

The incident of the 153 fishes leads us to the fact that as Bezaleel was a builder of the tabernacle in the wilderness for a habitation for Yahweh, even so Yahshua is the One Who is the builder of the heavens and earth that now are and is also the builder of the new heavens and new earth.

It teaches us that we can become the children, the sons of Elohim through the Son of Elohim, Yahshua the Messiah.

And it teaches us the Yahshua is the One Who has the power to cast down the current idola-



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trous worldly system and again raise up the inheritance of Yahweh.

Yahweh's plan continues to march on and is being fulfilled in Yahshua the Messiah, His most precious firstborn son, HalleluYah!!!!!!

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