

The 154th Fish of Jesus

**St. Peter's
big fish catch**

Timo Vilo

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FOREWORD

This book talks about the event written in the Bible. The incident is written towards the end of the Gospel of John. The events take place in time at the stage when Jesus had been crucified and risen from the dead but had not yet ascended to heaven. That is between Easter and Ascension Day. The geographical location of the event is Israel's Galilee, and more precisely on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

In the incident, Peter was with a few other disciples on the beach and said he was going fishing. He was a fisherman by profession.

They were uncertain about their future, after all, Jesus, whom they had followed and from whom they expected much, had just been crucified. They expected Jesus to be the future unifier and king of Israel. Now all expectations had collapsed. Perhaps Peter was thinking of returning to the profession of a fisherman, and what had happened with Jesus was now in the past.

Others said they would go along. A total of seven men went fishing in a boat. Although they had been fishing all night, they did not catch a single fish in their nets. Is fishing no longer as successful as it used to be? Very embarrassing for a professional fisherman.

Then at dawn they saw a man on the beach whom they did not yet recognize. The man asked if they had caught any fish. They had to admit that they had failed completely. The man told them to throw the net to the right side of the boat. Although they did not recognize the man as Jesus, they acted as instructed. They had nothing to lose. Soon

the net was full of fish. Then they also recognized the person giving the instructions. He was Jesus.

For those who believe in the word of the Bible, this is a description of something that happened historically. However, many others consider the story to be some form of religious propaganda. But the details of the narrative also divide the opinions of believers. John tells, among other things, that the exact number of fish in the catch was 153 fish. This has been discussed and even argued about the meaning of the matter. For some, the number doesn't mean anything. It just tells you that there were a lot of fish. According to some, the Bible does not contain meaningless words or numbers. The number 153 would therefore contain some meaning or metaphor.

We should remember that numbers and figures were important to the Jews. Every letter had and has a numerical value, and therefore every word and sentence also had and has a numerical value. John, who told the story in his Gospel, was a Jewish young man. The number 153 mattered to him. If he didn't immediately understand the meaning of the message, he was surely left wondering what it could have been. Otherwise, those fish would not have been counted accurately and still written in the last paragraph of the Gospels.

Many believers also shun everything referring to numbers and especially numerology. That is, that the numerical values of words or sentences have some supernatural or important message or meaning. This is special because the Bible is full of different meanings related to the numbers.

The Bible even tells us to calculate the information hidden behind the numerical values. For example, chapter 13 of the Book of Revelation tells those who have understanding to study number 666.

Revelation chapter 13: "And it causes all, small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to put a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, so that no one can buy or sell except the one who has the mark: the name of the beast or its name number. Here is the wisdom. He that hath understanding, let him count the number of the beast; for it is the number of man. And its number is six hundred and sixty-six."

The number of fishes is also made interesting by the fact that Jesus also had one fish on the coals. He asked His disciples to join Him in eating the already charred fish. So, there were a total of 154 fish on the beach.

When we talk about the number written in the Bible, we also must deal with the numerology of the Bible, or gematria. We do not treat gematria as encouraging the occult, but quite the opposite. And when we discuss numerology, Ivan Panin also comes up, who studied the Bible specifically with the help of the series of numbers that make up numbers. We will also discuss Kabbalism, which has grown in popularity especially among successful artists.

The starting point of this book is that the 153 fish contained some meaning, which the readers are trying to find out. We are also trying to find out what was the 154th fish on the coals and its meaning.

INTRODUCTION

The Bible is a collection of the scriptures of Judaism and Christianity. The Hebrew Bible or Tanak used by Jews forms the basis of the Old Testament of Christianity. At the time of Jesus and the apostles, there were only the books of the Old Testament. A new part was later added to the Christian Bible, the New Testament, which does not belong to the Jewish faith.

Bible stories were initially passed down from generation to generation in oral form. Parts of the written Bible were written down by many different people over a very long period, more than 1600 years. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, while the original language of the New Testament is Greek. The Old Testament took its current structure in Persia during the exile and then in the Kingdom of Judah, in the 5th century BC. The books of the New Testament were written until 100 AD. after which the entity was officially recognized in the 3rd century AD.

The oldest surviving manuscripts of the Bible are fragments of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The oldest of them date from the 2nd centuries BC. The Bible began to be written hundreds of years earlier. But because they were written on fragile material, papyrus and parchment, the scrolls had to be copied several times. Copying the Bible became an important profession in ancient Israel.

The professional copywriters were extremely precise in their work. Copyists were called by the word *sofer*, which means counting and noting down. They counted what should be the middle letter of the Bible, what should be the middle sentence of each book, and how many times each letter of the Hebrew alphabet appeared in all the scriptures. This ensured that not a single letter was left out of the text of the Bible. The *Sofers* counted not only words, but also all the letters. They kept an accurate count of 815,140 letters of the Tanakh. Copyists were not allowed to write anything from external memory and had to use a properly authenticated copy as their source text. All new manuscripts were carefully reviewed and, if errors were found, the manuscript had to be destroyed.

The Dead Sea Scrolls or Qumran Texts are a library of over 900 manuscripts discovered between 1947 and 1956 in eleven caves near Qumran near the Dead Sea.

Other early pieces of manuscripts have been found near the Dead Sea (e.g. in Wadi Murabba'at, Nahal Hever), so the name Dead Sea Scrolls strictly speaking covers a wider group of writings, but most often it refers specifically to the Qumran texts.

Most of the findings have survived weakly and only as fragments, pieces of Manuscripts. But the manuscripts of ten have been preserved whole or almost whole. Most of the text is written on leather, but there are also some pieces of papyrus. There is also an inscription known as the Copper Scroll, which is engraved on copper plates that are then soldered together.

Among the texts are manuscripts of the Old Testament, Tanakh and apocryphal books, pseudepigraphic texts, i.e. literature whose author may be someone other than the one in whose name the work is recorded, as well as previously unknown religious texts.

When the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, researchers were able to compare whether the Bible had changed over the hundreds of years it had been copied and translated several times. One study compared the 53rd chapter of the book of Isaiah written on the Dead Sea scroll with

the text completed a thousand years later. There are only seventeen doubtful letters in the 166 words of Isaiah 53. In ten cases, the question is solely about the spelling of the letter, which has not affected the meaning in any way.

The writers and copyists of the New Testament were Christians. The New Testament was written mainly in Greek. The copyists of the New Testament were not really professionals in writing copies. But also, about the writings of the New Testament, it can be stated that there have been no changes due to copying or translation over the centuries. Discovered in the 19th century, the Codex Sinaiticus, a Christian Bible manuscript written in the middle 4th century, contains the earliest complete copy of the Christian New Testament. It confirmed the consistency of the Manuscripts of the New Testament made hundreds of years later. Also, the papyrus writing of part of the Gospel of John, which was found in Egypt in the Fayum area and is dated to the first half of the 100th century, was preserved for hundreds of years in dry sand. The text agrees with later Manuscripts.

The Structure of the Bible

The Bible is not just one book, but a collection of books written by different authors in different eras. For example, the Koran is a book written by one person, Muhammad. The Protestant Bible contains sixty-six books, including thirty-nine books of the Old and twenty-seven books of the New Testament. The writings of the Old Testament begin with the creation of the world and end with the prophecy of the coming of John the Baptist. The Old Testament also talks about the stages of the nation of Israel over a period of about 1,500 years. Its books can be divided into history, law, poetry, wisdom, and prophetic books.

The New Testament begins with four gospels about the life of Jesus. The Acts of the Apostles talks about the first Christians and the spread of the gospel. The New Testament also contains twenty-one letters addressed to churches and private Christians, as well as John's revelation about the end times.

The word testament in the Bible means an agreement or a covenant. The Old Testament was a covenant between God and the people of Israel. The New Testament is a covenant between God and people who believe that Christ is the Son of God.

God has guided the entire creation process of the Bible through His Holy Spirit, even though humans wrote it. That is why the Bible is a reliable foundation for faith and life. God's word is present in the scriptures and speaks to people through them. Peter writes: "Not a single prophetic word has come out by the will of men, but men have spoken under the guidance of the Holy Spirit what they have received from God." (2 Peter 1:21)

Before the art of binding, sheets of paper were glued one after the other and rolled into a scroll. The art of printing was only invented in the 16th century. Before that, texts were always copied by hand.

Contents of the Old Testament

1. The five books of Moses, also called the Torah and the Pentateuch
2. Historical books (12 books)
3. Wisdom books, i.e. teaching books (5 books)
4. Prophetic books (17 books)

Contents of the New Testament

1. The Gospels (4 books: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)
2. Historical book, Acts of the Apostles
3. Letters (21 letters. Letters written by apostles, such as Paul.)
4. The Revelation of John is a prophetic book, it is not used in church services. Many church fathers have been critical of the book. The reason is also that they have not understood it.

The canon of the books of the Bible, or the assortment of accepted writings, is different in Judaism and in Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant Christianity. The difference concerns the Old Testament, i.e., the Hebrew Bible, the Tanakh. The number and order of its books is different in different churches, due to both the different grouping of the books and the fact that the Catholic and Orthodox churches also

read the so-called apocryphal books as belonging to the Old Testament. The number of apocryphal books included in the Catholic and Orthodox Bibles is also different.

List of authors of the books of the Bible and estimated time of writing.

Old Testament

Book	author	year
Genesis	Moses	1513 BC
Exodus	Moses	1512 BC
Leviticus	Moses	1512 BC
Numbers	Moses	1473 BC
Deuteronomy	Moses	1473 BC
Joshua	Joshua	1450 BC
Judges	Samuel	1100 BC
Ruut	Samuel	1090 BC
1. Book of Samuel	Samuel, Nathan	1078 BC
2. Book of Samuel	Gad, Nathan	1040 BC
1. Book of Kings	Jeremiah	580 BC
2. Book of Kings	Jeremiah	580 BC
1. Chronicle	Ezra	460 BC
2. Chronicle	Ezra	460 BC
Ezra	Ezra	460 BC
Nehemiah	Nehemiah	443 BC
Esther	Mordecai	475 BC
Job	Moses	1473 BC
Psalms	David, others	1000-460 BC
Proverbs	Solomon	900 BC
Song of Solomon	Solomon	1020 BC
Isaiah	Isaiah	732 BC
Jeremiah	Jeremiah	580 BC
Lamentations	Jeremiah	607 BC
Ezekiel	Ezekiel	591 BC
Daniel	Daniel	536 BC
Hosea	Hosea	745 BC.
Joel	Joel	820 BC

Amos	Amos	804 BC
Obadiah	Obadiah	607 BC
Jonah	Jonah	844 BC
Micah	Micah	717 BC
Nahum	Nahum	632 BC
Habakkuk	Habakkuk	628 BC
Zephaniah	Zephaniah	648 BC
Haggai	Haggai	520 BC
Zechariah	Zechariah	518 BC
Malachi	Malachi	443 BC

New Testament

Book	author	year
Matthew	Matthew	41 AD
Mark	Mark	65 AD
Luke	Luke	58 AD
John	John	98 AD
Acts	Luke	61 AD
Romans	Paul	56 AD
1. Corinthians	Paul	55 AD
2. Corinthians	Paul	55 AD
Galatians	Paul	52 AD
Ephesians	Paul	61 AD
Philippians	Paul	61 AD
Colossians	Paul	61 AD
1. Thessalonians	Paul	50 AD
2. Thessalonians	Paul	51 AD
1. Timothy	Paul	64 AD
2. Timothy	Paul	65 AD
Titus	Paul	64 AD
Philemon	Paul	61 AD
Hebrews	Paul	61 AD
James	James	62 AD
1. Peter	Peter	64 AD
2. Peter	Peter	64 AD
1. John	John	98 AD

3. John	John	98 AD
Jude	Jude	65 AD
Revelation	John	96 AD

The attitude of Christians to the word of the Bible

The attitude varies by denomination. The content of the Bible has varied at different times and by denomination. The basic structure is shared by all, but the attitude towards apocryphal books, for example, has varied. Roman Catholics include several apocryphal books in the Bible, which, for example, are not included in the Lutheran Bible. However, Luther mentioned that even though they are not included, it is useful to read them. Apocrypha does not mean that there is anything bad in the writings, they are just not included in the Bible. There is a lot of Christian literature in the world, but it is not part of the Bible.

The Bible in Catholicism and Orthodoxy

In the Catholic and Orthodox churches, revelation is understood to be of two kinds, that is, that which is recorded in the Bible, and that which appears in other apostolic experience, that is, in holy tradition. Both are considered part of the official teaching of the Church, and a proper understanding of both is needed to understand the faith and scriptures. The interpretation of the creed and scriptures, on the other hand, belongs to the pope and the teaching office, or magisterium, formed by the bishops connected with him.

In Orthodoxy, the interpretation of the Bible's writings belongs to the ecumenical councils.

Protestantism

Protestants follow Martin Luther's formulation of sola scriptura, the scriptures alone doctrine, and believe that the Bible alone is the

supreme guide for faith and biblical interpretation. Tradition only contains things that come from the Bible, so it is not a source of authority. Since the doctrine is based only on the Bible, it is also always open and subject to reinterpretation. This has resulted in the re-evaluation of even the most fundamental doctrines, which has sometimes led to the questioning of the Bible's authority, doctrinal inerrancy, and infallibility. However, interpretations vary according to the Protestant trend.

The theologians of the so-called original Lutheranism in the 17th century considered the Bible to be the only guide for Christian doctrine.

Evangelicalism and fundamentalism

According to conservative tendencies, which can be considered fundamentalists and evangelicals, the scriptures are divine in origin, so that their writing was guided by the Holy Spirit of God, who made sure that nothing contrary to the truth ended up in the scriptures.

Both fundamentalists and evangelicals believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, but a literal interpretation of the Bible has led some fundamentalists to reject some scientific theories, such as evolution, in favor of creationism instead. Evangelical parties, on the other hand, often avoid literal interpretations of the Bible that lead to difficult-to-explain contradictions with generally accepted scientific facts. In their view, the writers of the Bible did not write incorrectly, but instead presented certain things metaphorically and using symbolic narrative, which makes it possible to accept both the growth of human knowledge and the divine origin of the writings.

Liberal Protestantism

The liberal Protestant trend, which includes many Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians, and Anglicans, no longer teaches the inerrancy of the Bible in the same way as more conservative trends. The doctrines of all such trends officially include the authority of the Bible's

writings, but they interpret them entirely according to their own view. Often the new way of interpretation is accompanied by an explanation of the change of times, the development of science and the fact that modern people understand things better than the people who once wrote the Bible. In these trends, the writings of the Bible may also be considered to contain errors or teachings related to the time, culture or writing situation. This has been seen especially in issues related to female priesthood, abortion and homosexuality.

The representatives of the trends often consider that the revelation of the Bible is about wholes, supreme instructions, and its truth does not depend on the truth of every detail. The most liberal think that the Bible is written by ordinary people from their own limited experience as a testimony of their religious views. That's why they also don't consider the Bible to be infallible, it's just texts written by people who lived in different times, which now can and even should be read critically. Sermons are spoken to appease the churchgoers as if the word of the Bible is still taken as true, but often it is just liturgical theater.

One's own Christian and biblical truth and religious content are shy in churches, and they are kept silent and prefer to talk about some that are accepted by the public. Nature conservation or good works. One can even resent people for whom the message of Christianity is important and for whom the Bible is God's revelation to humanity. Many churches do not welcome a speaker who condemns gay marriage or female priesthood at all. If the apostle Paul suddenly appeared in our country, he would not be allowed to speak in many churches. What about Jesus.

Because of the above-mentioned facts, there have been disputes between supporters of the liberal and conservative view of the Bible regarding the interpretation of the Bible.

Occurrence of numbers

A special feature of the writings of the Bible is that the writings contain a lot of numbers and amounts. Some numbers occur

frequently, for example the number seven. The number seven is associated with a consensus that its meaning is descriptive of God's perfection. There are also plenty of other figures and numbers. But there are also exceptions. For example, the number 153 appearing in the Gospel of the Apostle John only appears in this one passage of the Bible. Another book written by John, the Book of Revelation, also contains a rare but well-known number, 666. Its purpose is also stated, but not yet resolved. It is the number of the name of the coming Antichrist. It is also said that wisdom is increasing in the world and sometime in the future its meaning will be understood. So far, there is still no definite information about its meaning. In history, among others, the emperor Nero has been considered the antichrist. Martin Luther considered the Pope to be the antichrist, and the concept remained with minor changes in Protestant churches until the beginning of the 20th century. In the 20th century, the interpretation that the antichrist is a dictator ruling Europe and the Middle East or even the whole world at the end of time became common. During the 20th century, many dictators who ruled at the time were considered antichrists, especially Adolf Hitler or Joseph Stalin. Maybe they were some kind of samples of what was to come.

However, there are quite a lot of disagreements about number 153. The number is related to the number of fish caught by Peter. Peter spent the night fishing with his friends without catching any fish. Until morning dawned, they followed Jesus' instructions and caught a huge catch of fish, a total of 153 large fish. Does it mean anything as a number or does it contain some secret message. Possibly even related to the end times.

Let's look at the Gospel of John

The gospel itself does not mention its author, but according to the consensus of scholars, the fourth gospel was written by the apostle John. There is a preserved writing from the church father Irenaeus, in which he says that the disciple John was the author of the Gospel: "Then John, the Lord's disciple, who also leaned on His breast, wrote his Gospel while staying in Ephesus in Asia." Irenaeus, who died in 200

AD, had been a student of bishop Polykarpos. Polycarp, on the other hand, had been a student of the apostle John, so Irenaeus' information about the author of the gospel can be considered quite reliable. If the Gospel had been written by someone other than John, it would also be difficult to understand why the disciple John is not mentioned by name in the entire Gospel, even though he was one of Jesus' three closest disciples.

John's Gospel differs from other Gospels in that John does not include in his Gospel Jesus' genealogies, birth, baptism, temptation, suffering in Gethsemane or ascension to heaven. John instead focuses on the first year of Jesus' public activity, about which the other gospels tell little, and the events of the resurrection. John emphasizes Jesus' activity in Jerusalem, in the other Gospels the activity is focused on Galilee. In the Gospel of John, the emphasis is on Jesus' conversations with private people and teaching the disciples. John tells only a few, carefully chosen signs. In John's narrative there are more contemplative speeches, but less action.

The most distinctive emphasis of the Gospel of John is the divinity of Jesus. It starts from the very first verses with God becoming man and culminates in Thomas' exclamation: "My Lord and my God!" In the Gospel of John, you can also find the "I am" statements with which Jesus proved that He is the Son of God. God became man and died for our sins on the cross.

The purpose of the Gospel of John is most clearly expressed in the words of John 20:31: "These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life through His name." The purpose of the Gospel of John is to convince the readers of Jesus' messianicity and divinity.

The Gospel of John also describes events longer than the other Gospels. The appearance of Jesus after the crucifixion until the resurrection. One event that John writes about in his Gospel is the so-called Peter's catch of fish.

Chapter 21 states as follows:

"After that, Jesus again appeared to His disciples by the lake of Tiberias; and He appeared thus: Simon Peter, and Thomas, who was called Didymus, and Nathanael, who was from Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them: "I am going fishing". They said to him, "We will also go with you". So, they departed and got into the boat; but that night they got nothing. And when it was already morning, Jesus stood on the shore. However, the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

So, Jesus said to them, "Children, have you anything to eat?" They answered him, "It is not." He said to them, "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will catch". They cast a net but could not pull it up because of the abundance of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter: "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girded his mantle around him, for he was without clothes, and threw himself into the lake. But the other disciples came in a boat, dragging behind them a net with fish, for they were not more than about two hundred cubits from the land.

When they entered the land, they saw there a coal and a fish laid on it, and bread. Jesus said to them: "Bring here the fish that you just caught". So, Simon Peter entered the boat and pulled ashore a net full of large fish, one hundred and fifty-three. And even though there were so many of them, the net didn't break. Jesus said to them: "Come and dine." But none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?", because they knew it was the Lord. So, Jesus went and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish. This was already the third time that Jesus, after rising from the dead, appeared to His disciples.

When they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He answered him: "I love, Lord; you know that you are dear to me". He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him again, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He answered him: "I love, Lord; you know that you are dear to me". He said to him, "Guard my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, am I dear to you?" Peter was grieved that for the

third time He said to him, "Am I dear to thee?" and answered him, "Lord, You know everything; You know that You are dear to me." Jesus said to him: "Feed my sheep. Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you girded yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old, you stretch out your hand, and other girds you and take you where you do not want." But He said this to let us know by what kind of death Peter was to glorify God. And having said this, He uttered to him, "Follow me."

So, Peter turned and saw the disciple following whom Jesus loved and who had also leaned against His chest during the meal and said: "Lord, who is your betrayer?" When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus: "Lord, how is this?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he tarries here until I come, what is that to you? Follow me." Such talk spread among the brothers that that disciple would not die; but Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but "If I will that he tarries here until I come, what is that to thee?"

This is the disciple (John) who testifies to these things and has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true."

The central figure of the event was Peter. And the event was very important. Especially for Peter. During the conversation, Jesus put Peter in charge of the future early church. To a task and a position that was the most important in the whole world. More important than the positions of the Roman emperor, the commander of the Judean region, or the military commanders. Jesus put him in charge of the work of God's kingdom and the spreading of the gospel.

Jesus also gave him powers that have not been given to any other human being:

In Matthew 16:19, Jesus said: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

SIMON PETER

Who was Simon, the fisherman whom Jesus chose for an important position in Christianity and the development of the church. He had some qualities, based on which Jesus considered that he was the right person for the task. Jesus gave him the additional name Peter, which referred to the rock. It said something about his qualities. He was confident and unwavering in his decisions. He was a leader figure who often spoke for all the disciples. Once, when Jesus explained that the Messiah would have to suffer and die, Peter "took him aside and began to rebuke Him." (Mark 8:31) Peter was even ready to advise Jesus.

He was more a man of action than a religious philosopher. This is illustrated by the paucity of his literary activity. Only two letters are included in the New Testament. In his position as the leader of the early church, more pastoral letters could have been prepared. But, as mentioned, his interest was more focused on action. And that's what he was good at. To no one would Jesus have said: "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

The earliest mentions of Peter can be found in Paul's letters. Paul most commonly uses the Aramaic name Cephas for Peter, but also the

Greek name Petros, from which the English name Peter is derived. Both names mean rock.

Among the Gospels, the earliest mention of Peter is in the Gospel of Mark, which scholars generally consider to be the oldest of the four Gospels in the Bible. The Gospel of Mark only briefly talks about the calling of Peter, then still known as Simon, and his brother Andrew to be disciples of Jesus. Peter's calling as a disciple and leaving to follow Jesus is not dealt with very precisely in the Gospel of Mark. Similarly, the calling of the next two disciples, Jacob and John, is also briefly described. Perhaps the reason for the short treatment of the matter may be that the author of the Gospel has assumed that the readers already knew about Peter. It was also suggested that Mark would have been Peter's colleague, so he had therefore written his description of Peter briefly to soon be able to write about more important events.

Peter's family, early life and education

In the fourth chapter of the Gospel of Luke, Jesus' visit to Peter's house is mentioned, when it is also mentioned that Peter lives together with his mother-in-law. In the same chapter, it is also said that Peter lived in the city of Capernaum in Galilee. Peter would then have grown up partly in an area where not many Jews lived. The Gospel of Matthew mentions Peter's father as Jonah.

In 1 Corinthians, Paul mentions Peter's wife who accompanied him on his travels. There is no mention of Peter's children in the Bible, although according to some later writings, it is claimed that his family also included children.

The word "unlearned" is used for Peter in the Acts of the Apostles. According to the interpretation of Christian circles, this term referred to the fact that Peter was not a "scribe" or studied in his youth under Greek or Jewish rabbis. It is believed that Peter could read and write, so he was not completely uneducated.

Peter as a disciple and his position among the other disciples

In the New Testament, a list of Jesus' disciples is presented in four passages, and although the order and name of some disciples in the list varies, Peter is always first in them. In the list of the Gospel of Matthew, it is further said: "the first was Simon, who was called Peter".

Some believe that Peter's placement at the top of the list of disciples may indicate that he was the first to be called a disciple. However, certain arguments speak against this, such as the fact that Andrew was also called a disciple with Peter, so Peter was not the first disciple alone. But Peter was clearly a leading figure, because even in the story of the big catch of fish, he said he was going fishing. And the other six disciples then said that they would go with them. Jesus put him in charge of the church precisely because of this quality. He got the others to go with him.

Although Jesus had twelve disciples according to the Gospels, three or four of them belonged to a smaller inner circle, which is mentioned several times in the Bible. For example, the Gospel of Mark and the Gospel of Luke tell us that when Jesus raised the synagogue leader's daughter from the dead, He allowed only three of His disciples, Peter, John and Jesus' brother James, to enter with him. Similarly, when Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration, it is also said that only the same three disciples were with him.

Paul also confirmed Peter's special position in his writing, where he said that Peter, John and James were "regarded as pillars" and said that they acted after Jesus' death at the head of the church in Jerusalem.

The Bible also tells us that Peter often represented all the other disciples. For example, when Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?", Peter answered on behalf of the entire group of disciples: "You are the Christ." Peter led the disciples' speech in a large part of the New Testament, except for the last supper of Jesus mentioned in the Gospel of John, where the speech was led by "the disciple whom Jesus loved". By this John meant himself.

Simon Peter, The Rock

Peter is called several times in the Bible not only by the original name Simon, but also by the names Peter and Cephas. According to the New Testament, these names were given by Jesus. For example, according to the Gospel of John, Jesus said to Peter when they met for the first time: "Your name will be Cephas." The Gospel of Matthew also talks about the case when Jesus gives Peter a new name:

"And I say to you: You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church. The gates of the dungeon cannot overcome that".

The name "rock" given to Peter refers to Peter's strength and stability. Figuratively, this meant that Peter had to be the support and strength of others, weaker in their faith.

The death of Jesus - Peter denies Jesus three times

According to the Gospels, Jesus annoyed the Jewish high priests and scribes of His time with His actions, which is why they wanted to silence him. The Gospel of John tells us that Roman soldiers arrested Jesus in Gethsemane on the order of the Sanhedrin and the high priest Caiaphas.

The arrest took place at night because Jesus was popular among the people and the authorities wanted to avoid unrest. According to the Gospels, Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples. He pointed to the crowd of men who had come to arrest Jesus by kissing him. Some disciples tried to resist the soldiers, but Jesus forbade them. After Jesus' arrest, the disciples fled and scattered.

Before His arrest, according to the Gospel, Jesus said to His disciples: "tonight you all offended me", which meant that the disciples would reject him. To this Peter replied according to the Gospel of Matthew: "Even if everyone is offended by you, I will never be offended." To this, the gospel says that Jesus answered: "I tell you the

truth: tonight, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." Similarly, the Gospel says that Peter continued: "Even if I should die with you, I will not deny you."

In the garden of Gethsemane, according to the Gospel of John, Peter defended Jesus from the men who came to arrest him. Peter is also said to have knocked off a soldier's ear. However, Jesus forbade Peter to make armed resistance, after which Jesus was captured and taken away.

Luke's Gospel chapter 22:

»And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them. But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, this man was also with him. And he denied Him, saying, woman, I know Him not. And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. And about the space of one hour after another, confidently affirmed, saying, of a truth this fellow also was with Him: for he is a Galilean. And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And Peter went out and wept bitterly."

Jesus invited Peter to follow him

After the crucifixion of Jesus, Peter returned to his home on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Three years earlier, when all this had begun, Peter had been in this same place. Then Jesus had invited them to follow Him. Now not knowing his future, Peter as a leader decided to go fishing. He was obviously tired of being idle. The other six disciples who were with him also said they would go with him. They took the nets and other fishing gear out of the dust again and pushed the boat into the water. They would know how to fish, although otherwise the future was uncertain, and nothing would come of it otherwise. But they got nothing that night. A group of fishing professionals and the best

possible fishing time, but no fish. Night was the best time for fishing. Then the fish moved and caught better than during the day. It must have hurt them. Jesus had been crucified, their belief about the new coming of the State of Israel had been shattered, and now even fishing was not successful.

However, Jesus intervened in the events and with His advice the disciples caught a big 153 fish in the catch. In the conversation on the beach, Jesus appointed Peter as the leader of the future church. And at the same time it showed that now was the time to start fishing for people, evangelizing, and leave the fishing work to others.

In this story too, numbers familiar from the Bible are on display. Jesus appeared to them a third time, and there were seven disciples who went fishing. Jesus asked Peter three times if He loved Peter.

Only the number 153 was new. The strange thing was that the number of fish was reported so accurately, but the names of all the disciples who participated in the fishing were not reported. It was said that there were Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael and the sons of Zebedee, John and James, and two more of His disciples. This is a clear indication of the importance of number 153. It was more important to tell the number of fish that matched the number 153 than to tell the names of all the disciples who participated.

Apostle Peter

In the earliest years of church, Peter was the self-righteous leader of the church. According to the Acts of the Apostles, Peter's first initiative concerned choosing a successor for Judas Iscariot, who had committed suicide after betraying Jesus. They understood that the correct number of disciples had to be twelve. Otherwise, they wouldn't have had to choose a new member to replace Judas Iscariot. The number twelve has been a functional number for organized activity in Israel's history. After all, there were twelve tribes of Israel, and the original number of disciples was chosen by Jesus.

According to the Acts of the Apostles, ten days after Jesus ascended to heaven, Peter and the other apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, when, according to the Bible, the Holy Spirit was poured out on them. The Acts of the Apostles describe how the apostles received the gift of speaking in tongues through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. At the same time, the apostles began to preach Christianity to the Jews gathered there. In the Acts of the Apostles, it is also said that it was Peter who began to speak to the people and announce to them the deeds of Jesus.

In the Acts of the Apostles, it is said that Peter worked in the first years after Jesus' death in the leadership of the early church in Jerusalem. However, the apostles' activities in Jerusalem did not go smoothly, because the high priest and the Sadducees imprisoned the apostles. They were released from prison by an angel who also told them to continue teaching. The apostles returned to teaching again, because of which they were subjected to further interrogations. However, they continued to teach about Jesus and the Kingdom of God despite all the threats posed by the Jews.

Around the year 40, Peter traveled to Rome and was the founder of the Roman Catholic Church. At that time, you couldn't really talk about Roman Catholicism, but it was a kind of church of martyrs. However, Catholics consider Peter to be the first Pope of the Roman Catholic Church. This is how they want to raise the authority of later popes, so that they would be Peter's successors in their mission. After all, Jesus promised Peter the key to the gate of heaven. This is the basis of the Roman Catholics' understanding of the pope's special status and infallibility. So, the first pope was a Jew. It is special when you consider the later attitude of the Roman Catholic Church towards the Jews, their desire to completely separate themselves from Jewish customs, feast times and also the Sabbath. Their attitude towards the persecution of Jews and, for example, the Holocaust was also weak.

Peter's death

During the persecution of Christians, Peter was executed in the so-called Circus of Nero, which was in the area of the present-day Vatican near the Vatican hill in Rome. According to tradition, Peter was nailed to the cross upside down because he thought he was not worthy enough to die the same way as his Lord Jesus.

This is how the fisherman of the Sea of Galilee became a follower of Jesus, the leader of the early church, who traveled to Rome and founded the Roman church and met his martyrdom on the cross.

THE SEA OF GALILEE

The beautiful sea or lake of Galilee is significantly associated with Jesus' earthly journey. It was also known as the "Sea of Tiberias" because Herod Antipas had built his capital Tiberias on its shores in honor of Emperor Tiberius. During the time of Moses, it was called the "Sea of Kinneret". The Maccabees changed its name to the "Sea of Gennesaret" after the very fertile plain of the same name on its western shore. The learned physician and evangelist Luke does not refer to it in his writings as a sea, but simply as a lake, which it was, "the lake of Gennesaret".

The Sea of Galilee is in northeastern Israel, in the depression between the Golan Heights and the Galilee region, formed between the African and Arabian plates. As a result, the area is prone to earthquakes. There have also been volcanic eruptions in the past. This is evident in the abundance of basalt and other igneous rocks that define the geology of the Galilee.

The Sea of Galilee is geographically elongated, about 20 kilometers long and about 12 kilometers wide. The province of Galilee, where many New Testament events took place, lies to the west and north of it, and Perea to the east across the Jordan and to the south. Its surface is about 208 meters below the surface of the Mediterranean Sea and its depth is about 60 meters at its greatest. The lake is the lowest freshwater

lake in the world. The Jordan flows through it from the mountains of Lebanon in the north to its destination at the Dead Sea. The mountains surrounding the Sea of Galilee on the east and west sides cause strong winds that come from the mountains in the north and raise violent storms there.

The lake is often called the "Blue Lake" because of its color. The Jews of Jesus' time also called it the "entrance to paradise", while the Talmud calls it "the crown of Galilee". Thanks to the low location, the weather conditions are mild all year round. The climate of its coast is perfect for agriculture; spring comes early, and frost is unknown. It was once a favorite summer resort of the Romans.

In the days of Jesus, the Sea of Galilee was a profitable fishing area, the fish catches were good both in terms of quantity and quality of fish. The fish stood out from the others both in terms of appearance and taste.

Many important cities were also located on its shores. Among them were Capernaum, which was the largest city in Galilee and the hometown of Jesus after He began His public ministry, where several healing miracles took place, Tiberias, which was the capital of the region, Migdale and Bethsaida.

Fishing in the Sea of Galilee

The best days were at the mouth of the Jordan River. Schools of fish came to the place where the Jordan river flows into the lake. There were three common methods of fishing on the lake.

One of them was the easiest way and preferred by the lazy man. All that was needed was some kind of wooden stick as a rod, some string as a fishing line and a hook equipped with baits at the end of the fishing line. Fully corresponds to modern angling. When there were a lot of fish, this was enough to feed the family.

Another way to fish was with a net thrown from the beach. Such a net was shaped like a bag with a long rope attached to it. The net had a mouth about a meter in diameter, around which there were weights. The weights kept the mouth of the net open when cast and closed it when the net sank into the water. Sometimes this was also used from a boat. The method was also used by professional fishermen. The catches could be so large that there were enough fish to sell. Even today, you can see a fishing method like this being used in some countries.

The third common form of fishing, sometimes from shore but more often from boats, was a long seine, or so-called trawl net, with floats on top and weights below. The net was lowered from the boat into the lake. With such a net, the great miracle of catching fish in the Gospel of John was performed. The fishing method was especially popular with professional fishermen. However, as initial capital, a boat, a net and helpers were needed to pull the net into the boat.

This was the only way to fish outside the beach and it could only be done at night. At night, the fish were not afraid of the boat and swam away. Night was the best possible time to fish. If the fishing luck was not favorable at night, then never.

This led to the chagrin of Peter, an experienced Galilean fisherman who worked all night and caught nothing until Jesus came to help. But apparently it was Peter who needed this kind of experience before taking the lead of the early church.

Jesus' activity by the Sea of Galilee

On the shores of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus began His ministry and took His first four disciples, Simon (Peter), Andrew, John and James. In at least two cases, Jesus calmed the violent storms that churned up the waters of the lake. On this lake, Jesus taught about the boat because of the persecution of large crowds of people and then presented parables, among other things.

Among the parables about the kingdom of heaven that He preached from the shores of the Sea of Galilee; Jesus explains one easily understood by the fishermen of the lake:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up to the shore. Then they sat down and gathered the good fish into baskets but threw away the bad ones. This will be the case at the end of the age. Angels come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace with weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matthew 13:47–50)

In this parable, recorded only by St. Matthew, Jesus speaks of a net that catches "all kinds of fish."

On the shores of the Sea of Galilee and nearby, Jesus performed many miracles, which were healing people, fishing miracles, calming a storm and many others.

Mary Magdalene

The events of the fishbowl miracle take place on the northwestern shore of the Sea of Galilee, near the town of Migdale, which was once the home of Mary Magdalene. Mary Magdalene was an important person in the Gospels and a follower of Jesus. In the Bible, it is said that Jesus cast seven evil spirits out of Mary that troubled her. After this, Mary Magdalene joined the followers of Jesus until the end. Mary was following the crucifixion of Jesus and watched how Jesus was lowered into the tomb.

After the crucifixion, one Joseph asked Pilate to take Jesus' body from the cross. He was also a disciple of Jesus, albeit secretly because he was afraid of the Jews. Pilate agreed to the request, and Joseph came and took the body down. The men took Jesus' body and wrapped it in shrouds, adding spices, as the Jews do when they bury their dead. There was a garden where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had yet been buried. They put Jesus in it because

it was the preparation day of the Jewish festival, and that tomb was nearby.

None of His original disciples attended Jesus' funeral, except for Mary Magdalene. Others were apparently frightened by the intensity of the Jews' hatred and the brutality of the judgment.

After the Sabbath, the women were on their way to the tomb to do their last service to Jesus. There was no doubt in their minds that Jesus' body was in the tomb. They wanted to anoint Jesus' body with ointments.

What a surprise it was for the women when they arrived at the tomb and saw the stone that blocked the mouth of the tomb rolled aside. However, the amazement quickly turned to fear when they noticed two men dressed in shimmering white clothes. Where was Jesus' body? What had happened at Jesus' tomb?

Fear not, was the greeting of the angels in white to the startled women. Why do you seek living among the dead? He's not here, he's risen! The angels reminded the women of how Jesus himself had explained that He would suffer and die but rise from the dead on the third day.

After rising from the grave, Jesus himself appeared first to Mary and sent her to take the joyful message to the other disciples, who at first were skeptical about the message. The basis of the word apostle is the Greek word *apostolos* (he who was sent), meaning primarily the disciples sent by Jesus into the world, whose purpose was to proclaim the gospel. The apostles' task was to tell about Christ and that He has saved us with His resurrection. Mary was therefore really the apostle of the apostles.

The men thought that Maria had only seen visions when she was sensitized. However, the men ran to the grave to see that it was indeed empty. Later, Jesus also appeared to them.

Mary Magdalene is mentioned in all the Gospels. He was an important and close person in Jesus' life, friend and disciple.

Pope Gregory the Great of the Catholic Church branded Mary as a former prostitute in 590. After this, the church used the repentant and forgiven former prostitute Mary as a moral example for 1400 years. The Pope's most profound thought was apparently to reduce Mary's value as a follower of Jesus.

It wasn't until the end of the 20th century that the idea of Maria as a prostitute was abandoned. Nowadays, Mary is seen as a close ally and faithful disciple of Jesus, as well as a role model for all Christian women.

In the tradition of the Orthodox Church, Mary was a wealthy virgin who sought to live in fear of the Lord, obeying His commandments. However, in time she discovered that she was possessed by seven evil spirits. When Jesus fed the 4,000 men near Migdale, Mary is said to have come to Him. Maria is also thought to have been the woman who cried out to Jesus: "Blessed is the womb that bore you! Blessed are the breasts that you have sucked!".

In any case, whatever Mary's life was before meeting Jesus, after meeting Jesus she was one of the most conscientious followers of Jesus.

THE FISHING BOAT HAS BEEN FOUND

In 1986, there was a severe drought on the Sea of Galilee. Two fishermen, brothers Moshe and Yuval Lufan were keen amateur archaeologists and explored the beaches and surrounding areas to find something historically significant. When the water levels dropped significantly, their enthusiasm increased, because things could be found under the surface of the water that would not normally have been visible. They found something remarkable, old-fashioned and valuable on the beach. First, they found some old-looking parts, nails and wooden dowels. They concluded that there may have been something larger nearby that parts of it had dislodged. In the end, the discovery turned out to be the remains of a fishing boat buried in the beach sand. The brothers were mostly interested in finding artifacts from Israel's past. Now there seemed to be something that was of interest to a much wider audience. They immediately realized that the remains of the boat could be of interest not only in Jewish history but also in Christian history.

The burial site of the boat was on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, about 1.5 kilometers north of Migdal, the former home of Mary Magdalene.

Saving the boat

Brothers Moshe and Yuval Lufan reported their discovery to the authorities, who sent a team of archaeologists to investigate. The group immediately realized that the remains of the boat had enormous historical significance and interest for both Jews and Christians. It turned out that the find could be a fishing boat from the first century. An archaeological dig followed, carried out by residents of Kibbutz Ginosar, members of the Israel Antiquities Authority and numerous volunteers.

There were also rumors that gold coins or other valuables might have been found near the boat. For this reason, a 24-hour armed guard had to be placed in the area to ensure the safe rescue of the boat.

Getting the boat out of the mud quickly enough without damaging it and moving it out before the water rose again was a difficult process. The boat was threatened both by the rising water and by exposure to the air of parts exposed during the excavations. The excavations lasted 12 days and nights. The ancient wood was extremely fragile from the effects of the atmosphere, and the boat had to be rescued from the discovery site by wrapping it in a sheath of fiberglass and insulating foam, which helped both to hold it together and to float it to a new location.

After days of digging and careful handling, the 27-foot (8.2-meter) long, 7.5-foot (2.3-meter) wide boat was brought indoors for processing. The water in the wood material was replaced with plastic filling. The conservation took 11 years and finally the boat was revealed to the world. The boat had already been old and used for a long time. Several types of wood have been used in it, which tells about patches and repairs. Various wooden pegs for attaching the planks have also been found, which also indicates more repairs.

Age of the boat

The boat is estimated by scientific research to date from 40 BC, 80 years in either direction, based on radiocarbon dating, and 50 BC to 50 AD. based on pottery (including a cooking pot and a lamp) and nails found in the boat, as well as hull construction techniques. Evidence of repeated repairs indicates that the boat was in use for several decades, perhaps nearly a century. The frame, unused, eventually sank to the bottom of the lake and was covered with mud, which prevented decomposition by bacteria. [1]

But is this exactly Peter's boat?

Seeing this ancient boat inevitably raises the question: Was this the boat owned by Peter? Did Jesus just board this boat? Is this the boat where the fishing miracle of John's Gospel took place? It is impossible to know who the boat belonged to. We have no evidence to attribute it to Jesus or Peter. But we also have no evidence that it was not Peter's boat. However, its discovery is incredibly important to both Jews and Christians because it opens a view of life in first-century Israel and perfectly matches the New Testament description of the ancient life of fishermen.

In any case, the boat must be like the one owned by Peter. There was perhaps one boat builder in the area who made a mostly similar and well-proven boat for all the customers. Or if there was another one, he probably also made a similar looking product for his customers. The customers were professional fishermen who were skeptical about all the new solutions. The most important feature of the boat was that you could move on the lake with it and you could lift fish catch into it. Appearance and shiny surfaces were not such important features. They wanted a safe and well-recognized boat for themselves.

One thing would support the theory that it is precisely Peter's boat. The Bible tells us that Jesus called Peter to leave his everyday job and start to become a fisher of men. Peter immediately left his fishing job and went to follow Jesus. The boat then remained unused on the shore.

According to the Gospel of John, after the crucifixion of Jesus, Peter returned to fishing for a while. The boat was still available to Peter on the shore, waiting for his master. The boat was apparently old and in need of maintenance, so it was not of interest to other fishermen. No one made an offer to buy the boat. After the baptism of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, when the church really began to function, Peter no longer had time for fishing. In accordance with the will of Jesus, Peter began to fish for people, i.e. the mission of an evangelist. It is safe to believe that the boat was left unused, gradually buried in the beach sand and has now been found.

The boat is historically important to the Jews as an example of the types of boats their ancestors used in the first century and earlier for both fishing and transportation across the lake. Previously, only the accounts of Roman writers, the Bible and mosaics had given archaeologists an idea of the construction of this type of vessel.

The boat is also very important to Christians because it was used by Jesus and His disciples, several of whom were fishermen. Boats like this one played a big role in the life and ministry of Jesus and are mentioned 50 times in the Gospels.

For example, the Gospel of Matthew talks about a storm on the lake as follows: "Jesus got into the boat, and the disciples followed him. A severe storm suddenly arose on the lake. The waves beat over the boat, but Jesus slept. Then the disciples woke him up and said, "Lord, save us! We are drowning." "Why are you so afraid, you of little faith?" Jesus said. Then He got up and rebuked the wind and the waves and came to the very bottom".

In the Gospel of Mark, it is said: "Once again Jesus was teaching by the lake. So many people gathered around him that He transferred to the boat. He was sitting on the lake in a boat, and the crowd was on the shore".

There are stories about a boat in many other passages of the Bible. Jesus did not want relics made or preserved of Himself. I wasn't even allowed to take pictures. Jesus could have easily left different memories

of himself in the world, but this did not happen. But, if this boat was the boat of Peter, it was thus associated with both Jewish and Christian history. And it is quite possible that it is exactly that boat.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS IN THE BIBLE

There are many different numbers and amounts in the Bible, some of which seem to be particularly important.

Readers often do not pay attention to the symbolism of Bible numbers. There is absolute richness in the numbers of the Bible, as shown by EW Bullinger's classic book: *Number in Scripture* or Martin van der Merwe's *Number Dictionary*. Individual numbers such as 3, 7, 12, 30, 40, 666 and others are better known symbolically, but a number such as 153 is meaningless to most believers.

1

Number 1 describes the oneness of God. Eph 4:4–6 Paul used the number one 17 times: "one body and one spirit, just as you were called to the same hope in which you were called, one Lord, one baptism, one faith, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

The number 1 is mentioned in the Bible 1898 times.

2

Number 2 represents union, division, responsibility, testimony. God's testimony is divided into two testaments (Old and New Testament). His covenant with humanity is divided into the Old and New Covenants. In the Old Testament, the testimony of at least two people was needed to convict someone of a crime or sin. In the time of the end, two witnesses will appear on the world stage to testify and defend God's truth and oppose the beast and the false prophet. And I will give authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophecy one thousand two hundred and sixty days clothed in sackcloth.

The number 2 appears in the Bible 808 times.

3

The number 3 describes the perfection of God, the Trinity, the resurrection.

Perfection: Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

The Trinity of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The number 3 expresses the meaning of perfection, although to a lesser extent than 7. The three righteous patriarchs before the flood were Abel, Enoch and Noah. After the flood there were three righteous "fathers" Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (later named Israel).

Jesus prayed three times in the Garden of Gethsemane before His arrest. He was put on the cross at the 3rd hour of the day (9:00 AM) and died at the 9th hour. There were 3 hours of darkness that covered the earth when Jesus suffered on the cross from the 6th hour to the 9th hour. Christ had been dead for three full days and nights.

The number 3 appears in the Bible 467 times.

4

The number 4 describes creation and the world. God ended the material creation of the world on the 4th day.

Nebuchadnezzar's dream explained by Daniel predicted 4 future great world powers: Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome. Daniel's own vision of the 4 beasts was also about world powers.

Rev. 7:1 tells of four angels standing at the 4 corners of the earth, holding the 4 winds of the earth.

The number 4 is mentioned in the Bible 305 times.

5

The number 5 describes God's mercy, goodness and favor towards people. The word "five" is written 345 times in the Bible. The Ten Commandments contain two sets of five commandments. The first five commandments are related to our treatment and relationship with God, and the remaining commandments are related to our relationship with other people.

6

Number 6 describes man, sin, Satan's influence, lack of relationship with God. God created the world in 6 days. God told man to work 6 days a week. Slaves had to serve their masters for 6 years. The 6th commandment is 'thou shalt not kill'.

Cain's family is traced in Genesis only up to the sixth generation (Genesis 4:17–22). In the original numbering of the Ten Commandments, the sixth commandment deals with murder, which many consider the worst crime among humans.

Goliath is said to have been 6 cubits tall, and the tip of his mask is said to have weighed 600 shekels. Goliath's family is said to have inherited six fingers from six toes.

In the Book of Revelation, the number of man, or the mark of the beast, is 666.

There are six references in the New Testament to people who practiced magic. Witchcraft is defined as divination by means of evil spirits.

The six people who found Jesus innocent of the charges against him were Pontius Pilate, Herod, Judas (after the devil had left him), Pontius Pilate's wife, one of the thieves on the cross next to Jesus, and a Roman centurion who was involved in the crucifixion.

The number 6 appears in the Bible 199 times.

7

The number 7 is the most important number in the Bible. Seven appears in the Bible in many places and in many different situations. In the more popular English Bible, for example, there are 77 words in total, i.e. $7 \times 7 \times 7 \times 7 \times 7 \times 7 \times 7$, i.e. 823,543 (King James Version Bible).

Number 7 represents spiritual perfection, sanctification and purification.

The number 7 is indeed the basic number of the Bible:

There are seven days a week. God rested on the 7th day and made it holy. God's work of creation ended on the seventh day of the week, and that has brought the seven-day week to Judaism and Christianity. Every 7th year was a sabbatical year. Every 7 years they came to free the slaves and give absolution from debts. In honor of the Lord, 7 different annual festivals were to be celebrated: Easter, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Lent the Feast of Fruit, Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets, the Great Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Seven is considered the number of perfections anyway. According to the Jewish way of counting, it is the sum of the number of the deity (3) and the number of the world (4). Seven is mentioned in the Bible more often than any other number. The Bible also talks about seven gifts, which are wisdom, understanding, skill, strength, knowledge, fear of the Lord and piety (Isaiah 11).

Jesus taught that you must forgive 70 x 7 times.

The number 7 is mentioned 54 times in Revelation alone, for example:

7 churches, 7 stars, 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 plagues, 7 bowls and 7 angels.

There are seven deadly sins. According to Catholics, the seven deadly sinful attitudes are anger, gluttony, lust, pride, envy, sloth and greed.

Jesus performed 7 miracles on God's holy rest day.

1) Jesus healed the withered hand of a man attending a synagogue service (Matthew 12:9).

2) In the Capernaum synagogue, He casts out an unclean spirit that has possessed a person (Mark 1:21).

3) Immediately after the above miracle, Jesus heals Peter's wife from her mother's fever (Mark 1:29).

4) A woman in the synagogue who was afflicted by a demon for eighteen years is freed from her slavery (Luke 13:11).

5) In the Pharisee's house, where Jesus eats a meal with his master and several lawyers, heals a man with dropsy (Luke 14:2).

6) A man who is disabled and unable to walk is healed at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:8–9).

7) Jesus heals a man born blind at the Pool of Siloam (John 9:14).

Etymology also confirms the matter. The verb שבע (shava') to swear is connected to the word שבע (sheva') seven and therefore means to act according to the number seven.

The number seven marked all the lives of the Israelites. That was the case with both the time and the party. Easter and the Feast of Tabernacles lasted seven days. Pentecost is seven weeks after Easter, so there were seven times seven full days between them. A seven-branched lamp illuminated the sanctuary, blood was sprinkled seven times, seven lambs were sacrificed on the first day of the new moon, the same at Pentecost.

Those who gave birth to a boy had to purify themselves for seven days, and those who gave birth to a girl twice seven days. According to the law of Moses, it was necessary to purify the deceased on the third and seventh days.

Cain's murderer had to be avenged "sevenfold", Methuselah's son Lamech's murderer had to be avenged seventy-seven times, Genesis 4:15,24).

Noah had to take into the ark all the clean animals and the birds of the sky, seven pairs each. One pair of each of the unclean animals was saved. Before the flood, Noah and his family were in the ark for seven days. After the flood, God placed a rainbow with seven colors in the sky as a sign of the covenant (Genesis 9:12–17).

Abraham proved his right to the well he had dug by giving Abimelech seven young lambs. The place where the story takes place was named Beersheba (= oath well, seven wells) because of the oath they swore to each other there.

Balaam built seven altars and procured seven bulls and seven rams as a burnt offering for them (Numbers 23:1).

When the Israelites began to conquer Jericho, seven priests went around it for six days before the ark of the covenant and blew seven ram's horn trumpets. On the seventh day, they went around the city seven times blowing the trumpets, after which the city wall fell (Josh. 6).

The prophet Elijah prayed for rain seven times, after which it came (1 Kings 18:41–46). When the prophet Elisha brought the son of a Shunammite woman back to life, the boy sneezed seven times and then opened his eyes (2 Kings 4:35).

Naaman, a Syrian general who was sick with leprosy, had to wash himself seven times in the Jordan to get rid of his disease (2 Kings 5:1–19).

Jesus instructed Peter to forgive his neighbor who had sinned against him "not seven times, but seventy times seven" (70×7 ; Matt 18:22).

Jesus cast out seven evil spirits or demons from Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2).

When the unclean spirit that left the person returns, it takes with it "seven worse spirits, and so the state of that person is worse at the end than at the beginning" (Matthew 12:45; Luke 11:26).

Jesus fed 4,000 men with seven loaves of bread and a few fish, and the leftover pieces were collected in seven baskets (Mark 8:6–9).

The early church chose seven men to "provide table service" (Acts 6:1–6).

Below, in its own paragraph, we look at a mathematician named Ivan Panin, who dedicated his life to the study of numerology in the Bible, and especially to the study of numerology in the New Testament.

According to Ivan Panini, the number seven represents God's perfection and perfect order. Number seven appears in the Old Testament 287 times ($41 \times 7 = 287$), while "seventh" appears 98 times ($14 \times 7 = 98$). "Seventy" on the other hand 56 times ($8 \times 7 = 56$).

The number 7 appears in the Bible 735 ($7 \times 7 \times 15$) times and the ordinal number 7 appears 119 (7×17) times.

8

Number 8 represents resurrection, new life, new beginning, order. 8 people were saved in the flood.

The circumcision had to be performed on the 8th day.

The New Testament was written by only 8 men (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, James, Peter, Judas, Paul).

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared alive 8 times just before He ascended to heaven.

9

The number 9 describes the finality of God and the fruit of the spirit.

In Galatians, Paul mentions 9 fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

In the letter to the Corinthians, Paul lists 9 gifts of the Spirit: words of wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, healing, mighty works, prophesying, discerning of spirits, speaking in tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

The number 9 appears in the Bible 49 (7x7) times.

10

Number 10 describes the law and responsibility. There are 10 commandments in the law given by God.

The 10 plagues that God sent to ancient Egypt to deliver His people represented His complete and utter judgment on the Gentile kingdom.

Pharaoh's heart hardened 10 times.

Noah, during which the flood wiped out corrupt life from the earth, was the 10th generation from Adam.

The number 10 appears in the Bible 242 times and the ordinal number 10. 79 times.

11

Number 11 describes disorder and judgment. It is a violation of law and responsibility (number 10).

One of the greatest events in the New Testament is Jesus' last Passover in 30 AD. Only 11 of the Lord's disciples took the bread and wine, which symbolize the body and blood of Jesus. Before the disciples

took these symbols, Judas had left the gathering to betray Christ to the Jewish religious leaders.

12

Number 12 is the number of divine rules and its perfection.

Jesus was 12 years old when He talked with the teachers in the sanctuary. Luke 2

Rev. 21 talks about the new Jerusalem: It has 12 gates, 12 angels at the gates, names of 12 families, 12 foundations, 12 precious stones and the names of 12 apostles. The measure of the city is 12,000 furlongs and the measure of the wall is $144 = 12 \times 12$ cubits.

Jacob (Israel) had 12 sons, each of whom represented the tribe of Israel. The sons were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph and Benjamin.

Ishmael, who was born to Abraham through Hagar, also gave birth to twelve tribes or princes.

The high priest's breastplate, also called the decision breastplate, had 12 precious stones embedded in it. Each stone represented a tribe of Israel.

There were 12 apostles.

Number 12 appears in the Bible 187 (11x17) times.

13

Number 13 is the number of evil, fear and superstition. Number 13 is the 6th prime number, i.e. a number that cannot be divided by other numbers, showing man's rebellion and sin.

In the Gospel of Mark, chapter 7, Jesus mentions 13 things that come from the hearts of people: "evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, greed, lewdness, deceit, lasciviousness, lewdness, blasphemy, pride and folly".

Number 13 symbolizes rebellion and lawlessness in the Bible. Nimrod was the 13th generation from Adam. He was a mighty hunter who stood "before the Lord" (meaning he tried to take God's place, Genesis 10:9). He was of the bloodline of Ham. Ham was one of Noah's three sons who survived the flood.

According to the Hebrew apocryphal books, Nimrod was given miraculous powers by means of the magical clothes worn by Adam and Eve. It was said that God had given these leather garments as a gift to the couple, and they contained a miraculous power that gave the wearer victory in battle, and the animals recognized the prestige of the wearer. Because Nimrod possessed these clothes, he prospered and was even considered a god by the people. Still, he was not satisfied with the adulation he received and decided that only worldwide adulation would be enough for him. Therefore, he ordered that a tower be built so high that one could attack the sky directly from it. God thwarted Nimrod's plans by confusing the languages spoken by the people. When people's understanding of each other ended, so did the building of the tower.

In Persian Empire Haman has a decree signed on the 13th of the month of Nisan (Nisan is the first month of the Hebrew calendar) that on the 13th of the month of Adar (the last month of the year) all Jews in the Persian Empire must be killed (Esth. 3:7–9). However, Queen Esther and Mordecai foil his plan.

Number 13 relates to the destruction of Jericho, for the city was marched around for six consecutive days, and on the seventh day it marched seven times, thirteen in all. After that, the walls of Jericho were broken, and the city was destroyed.

King Solomon spent a little over seven years building the temple in Jerusalem, God's house of prayer for the nations (1 Kings 6:38). However, he spent thirteen years building own home.

14

The number 14 and its meaning participate in the meaning of seven because it is one of its multiples. It can mean a double measure of spiritual perfection or symbolizing liberation and salvation. For example, the Gospel of Matthew reveals that there are three sets of 14 generations between Abraham and Joseph (Mary's husband and Jesus' earthly father).

The first 14 generations listed in Jesus' genealogy are Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Perez, Hezron, Ram, Amminadab, Nahshon, Lehi, Boaz, Obed, Jesse and David.

The other 14 generations are King David, Solomon, Rehoboam, Abijah, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh, Amon, and Josiah.

The third and last 14 generations in the line of Jesus through Joseph are Josiah, Jeconiah, Sheltie, Zerubbabel, Abiud, Eliakim, Asor, Zadok, Akim, Eliud, Eleazar, Mattan, Jacob and Joseph.

The patriarch Jacob (later named Israel) served Laban for 14 years (7 years each) to get Laban's daughters Leah and Rachel as wives (Genesis 31:41).

The apostle Paul wrote fourteen writings that were included in the canon of the New Testament. He himself was the fourteenth apostle. The original twelve, of which Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus and committed suicide. Mattias was drawn to replace him. Jesus chose Paul on the fourteenth day after his ascension.

17

The meaning of number 17 is "overcoming the enemy" and "complete victory".

God overcame the sins of the rebellious people when He sent floods of water upon the earth through rain and the depths of the earth on the 17th day of the second Hebrew month. Noah's ark and its eight passengers landed on the mountains of Ararat on the 17th day of Tisri, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. A new and better time began for the world.

Jacob served his uncle Laban for a total of 17 years before he left Laban.

Joseph, while still 17 years old, received his famous "coat of many colors" from his father Jacob, which distinguished him from his brothers (Genesis 37:2–3). His brothers hated him, jealous of the special treatment he received (Genesis 37:4–5, 11). They threw Josef into a dry well. Then they got a chance to get rid of him when they sold him to Ishmaelite merchants for 20 pieces of silver. The merchants took Joseph to Egypt to be sold in the slave market. To Jakob, they lied to the beast about Josef. As proof, they presented Josef's coat dipped in sheep's blood. However, this became a saving event for the entire tribe of Israel, because Jacob's tribe faced a bad famine, but there had been good harvests and plenty of grain in Egypt. Joseph later rose to a high position in Egypt after being able to interpret Pharaoh's dreams of seven fat cows and seven lean cows and after inventing the storage of grain in grain silos in good years. The whole tribe of Jacob followed Joseph to Egypt to get food.

After leaving Egypt, the people of Israel crossed the Red Sea led by Moses on the 17th day of the 7th month. This is how they got to safety after being chased by the Egyptian army.

Jesus rose from the dead on the 17th day of the month. A real victory over death and at the same time gave people a completely new chance to be saved into the kingdom of God.

The name of Jerusalem is mentioned 17 times in the Psalms. In the Acts of the Apostles, 17 languages are mentioned in connection with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Paul mentions 17 things in Romans that cannot separate us from God's love, but in which we gain a noble victory. "Not pain or distress, persecution or hunger, nakedness, danger or sword. Neither death nor life, neither angels, nor spirits, neither present nor future nor powers, nor height nor depth, nothing created can separate us from the love of God".

Number 17 is therefore a strong profit number. Number 17 is the 7th prime number, i.e. a number that cannot be divided by other numbers.

22

The number 22 does not appear as such very often, but its amount appears in many cases.

Several judges and kings also had ties to number 22. The meanings are not immediately apparent, but they are interesting to note. Here are some facts related to the rulers of Israel and Judah:

Jair judged Israel from 1079 to 1057 BC, a total of 22 years.

Jeroboam I officially ruled Israel for 22 years after its division in 930 BC.

Abijah, the grandson of King Solomon, had 22 sons (2 Chron. 13:21).

King Ahaziah of Judah began his reign at the age of 22. He reigned for three months before Jehu usurped the throne (2 Kings 8:26).

King Ahab, known as Israel's worst ruler, ruled for 22 years.

Amon, another notoriously wicked king, began his reign at age 22 (2 Kings 21:19).

The Hebrew alphabet consists of 22 letters used to write God's word. God's word is called a lamp (Psalms 119:105), so it is the light by which we should live.

The meaning of number 30 comes in part from the fact that it symbolizes dedication to a certain task or calling. Aaronic priests were originally ordained to serve at the age of thirty (Numbers 4:3). God probably chose the age of 30 because that is when a person reached both physical and mental maturity and was thus able to handle great responsibilities.

John the Baptist, who was of priestly descent (his mother was a descendant of Aaron's daughters, and his father was a priest), began his ministry at the age of 30. In the fall of 26 AD, at the age of 30, Christ began to preach the gospel publicly. His ministry lasted three and a half years.

This number can also represent the sacrificial blood of Jesus because Judas betrayed him with 30 pieces of silver. This act was the fulfillment of prophecy.

And I said to them, "If it is good, give me my price; and if not, let it go." So, they weighed my price - thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12).

"Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said to them: what will you give me, and I will deliver Him (Jesus) into your hands? And they made a covenant with him for thirty pieces of silver" (Matthew 26:14–15, KJV).

When Judas threw the "blood money" back into the temple that was paid to him, the priests did not accept it as an offering and decided to buy the potter's field. Although they were not aware of it, what they were doing also fulfilled the prophecy (Zech. 11:13).

Jesus in 30 AD. suffered and shed his precious blood as God's sacrificial lamb for the sins of the world.

Joseph, the type of Jesus, was 30 years old when the Pharaoh of Egypt put him in charge of all that he ruled. King David, when he began to rule Israel, was also of this age (2 Sam. 5:4).

The people of Israel mourned the death of both Aaron and Moses for 30 days (Numbers 20:29, Deuteronomy 34:8).

40

Number 40 describes a trial or a trial period. The rule of King Saul, David and Solomon lasted 40 years. Similarly, the rule of many other kings lasted 40 years.

The first 40 years of Moses' life are spent growing up in Pharaoh's family and living in Egypt until he kills a man and must flee to Midian. The second part of his life is spent as a shepherd in the desert until God calls him at the age of 80 to save His people. During the last third of his life, he leads the Israelites out of Egypt and wanders in the wilderness until he dies at the age of 120.

Moses also spent 40 days and 40 nights on the mountain waiting for the tablets of God's law.

Jesus spent 40 days in the desert being tempted. Jesus spent 40 days on earth after His resurrection.

The Bible was written by 40 different people. There were 32 authors of the Old Testament and only 8 authors of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, James, Peter, Judas, Paul).

Number 40 appears in the Bible 146 times.

50

Number 50 describes the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost, which was 50 days after Easter.

The 50th year is a jubilant year for the Jews.

Number 50 appears in the Bible 154 ($7 \times 7 + 7 \times 7 + 7 \times 7 + 7$) times.

153

In John 21:11 the disciples caught 153 fish.

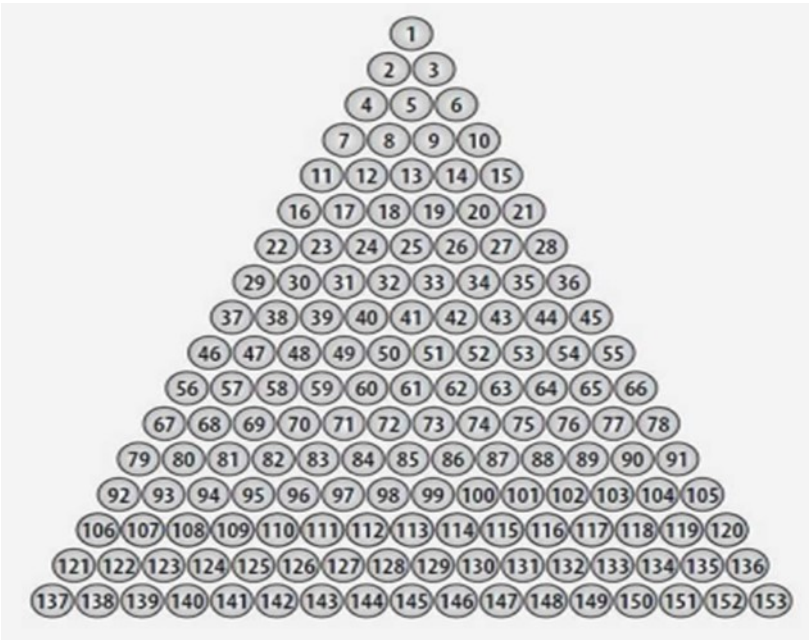
Number 153 describes bearing fruit. It appears only once in the Bible as the number of fish in Peter's catch.

$153 = 17 \times 9 = (\text{profit}) \times (\text{fruit of the spirit})$

The number 153 is obtained by adding the numbers 1–17 together.
Or

$1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+11+12+13+14+15+16+17$
 $= 153$

The number 153 is therefore the triangular number of 17:



Many numerological values of words related to fishing are divisible by 153. As:

The numerical value of 'fish' (in Greek 'ichthues') is $1.224 = 8 \times 153$.
'network' (in Greek 'to dictuon') has a numerical value of $1.224 = 8 \times 153$,

the numerical value of 'a lot of fish' is $2.448 = 153 \times 8 \times 2$,

'Fishers of men' $2142 = 153 \times 2 \times 7$.

Of particular note is product 1224 of 8×153 , which corresponds to also, Bible sayings Lord God: o curioj o qtheoj,
and God's creation: krisij qtheu and Planting h futeia.

In the Hebrew language, the numerical value of the expression 'children of God' is 153.

The value of the corresponding Greek expression is $3,213 = 3 \times 7 \times 153$.

The numerical value of the names of the twelve disciples is $9,629 = 7 \times 9 \times 153$.

The account of fishing in the 21st chapter of the Gospel of John contains 153 words.

The mathematical peculiarities of number 153 are discussed in more detail in the section "Number 153 mathematically".

276

Luke mentions, in Acts 27:37, that 276 people were saved from a shipwreck. As such, the number 276 is not a number commonly found in the Bible. But it is worth noting that this is the third largest number in the New Testament, and it is also a triangular number like 153 and 666. When 153 is a triangular number of 17 and 666 is a triangular number of 36, then 276 is a triangular number of 23. Triangle numbers are discussed in more detail in the section "Number 153 mathematically"

666

The number 666 is mentioned in the Bible as the number of the beast. Rev. 13 says the number 666 is the number of the man and the beast. Usually, the number 666 is associated with the Antichrist and his rule of the World age.

The word 'charagma' or 'sign' used in verse 17 is the 666th word in the Book of Revelation.

There are only 5 words in the New Testament with a numerical value of 666:

In Matthew 8:25, where the storm on the Sea of Galilee is told, the same word 'apollumetha', i.e. 'we perish', which has a numerical value of 666, appears in all of them.

'Paradosis', or 'traditional rule', also has a numerical value of 666. This word is mentioned 13 times in the New Testament.

In John 18:34, where the soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear, the word 'pleuran' or 'side' = 666.

Apt. 19:25 'euphoria' or 'prosperity' = 666.

1Pet 1:1 'diasporas' i.e. 'scattered' = 666.

Number 666 is also mentioned in King Solomon's biography. In Chronicles 9:13. "The weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred and sixty-six talents of gold." During the Old Testament, a talent weighed 60 minas, or 3,000 shekels, or about 30–40 kg. So, the amount of gold Salomon received during the year was more than 26,000 kilos of gold. This is an interesting connection, because the book of Revelation tells us that a person who does not take the mark of the Beast, 666, on his right hand or on his forehead, cannot buy or sell anything. So, the number 666 is somehow related to money or monetary values. It is understandable that the Antichrist's quest for power is connected to the world's economy and commerce.

In the 13th chapter of the Book of Revelation it says: "Here wisdom is required. Let him who has understanding count the number of the name of the beast: it is the number of a man, and that number is six hundred and sixty-six."

Many have interpreted the "number of the beast" to mean that 666 would be a special number of the devil. Many graffiti artists and rock band members seem to think so. But 666 is a special number in many other ways.

For example, 666 is a so-called triangular number, as is 153. It becomes a sum when the numbers $1 + 2 + 3 \dots + 36$ are added together, i.e. it is the triangular number of the number 36. It is also the largest triangular number with all the same numbers.

666 becomes the sum when the squares of the first seven prime numbers are added together.

$$\begin{aligned} 2^2 + 3^2 + 5^2 + 7^2 + 11^2 + 13^2 + 17^2 = \\ 4 + 9 + 25 + 49 + 121 + 169 + 289 = 666. \end{aligned}$$

Written in Roman numerals, 666 is DCLXVI, which means that all letters smaller than M are used once.

It is therefore understandable that people interested in numerology at the time of John's revelation felt an interest in this number. But none of these mathematical wonders of the number provide an answer as to why it is the number of the beast.

The passage in John's revelation clearly states that 666 is the number of man, not of the devil. However, it is specifically the number of the Antichrist's name. This riddle has fascinated the minds of Christians for two millennia. Who could that person whose name number is 666 be? But the time will come when it is known. The financial temptation to accept the sign is apparently so great that many accept it regardless of the warnings. It makes trading easier and possibly has some benefits attached to it. Paying with a token gives you, for example, discounts. Warnings are then considered the blathering of religious zealots.

888

The number 888 is the number of Jesus. The numerical value of the word 'Iesous' or 'Jesus' is 888. There are 888 Greek words in the book of Revelation.

1000

The number 1000 describes God's glory and perfection. For example, a 1000-year kingdom.

BIBLE NUMEROLOGY

Biblical numerology deals with numbers appearing in the Bible. The four most frequent numbers in the Bible are 3, 7, 12 and 40. The number 7 signifies fulfillment or perfection. It is often called God's number because He alone is perfect (Rev. 4:5; 5:1, 5-6). The number 3 is also believed to reflect the perfection of God: the trinity consists of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The number 12 represents divine order and organization. Jacob's 12 sons formed the 12 tribes of Israel. There were also 12 disciples. The number 40 is considered the number of trials. Examples include e.g. the following cases: the Israelites wandered for 40 years in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 8:2–5); Moses was on the mountain 40 days (Exodus 24:18); Jonah warned Nineveh that it would face its judgment in 40 days (Jonah 3:4); Jesus was tempted for 40 days in the wilderness (Matthew 4:2); The time between Jesus' resurrection from the grave and his ascension was 40 days (Acts 1:3).

The number 4 also appears frequently in the Bible. It is considered the number of the creation of the world, depicting creation such as the winds, north, south, east, west and the four seasons. The number 6 is believed to be the number of man: man was created on the sixth day; a person works six days a week. Chapter 13 of the Book of Revelation

also contains an example of biblical numerology. It says that the number of the Antichrist's name is 666.

The numerological system included in the text of the Bible is undoubtedly also one proof of the divinity of the Holy Scriptures. Both in history and modern times, numerology has been associated with very questionable mysticism of the occult sciences and Kabbalah occultism and divination from numbers. But numerology itself exists without any false occult science. But of course, it may be that the numerical narrative communicated by God in the Bible has led some to the mystical gematria of occult science.

The letters of the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek languages of the Bible also have numerical values, e.g. the first letter of the alphabet, the Hebrew Alef and the Greek Alpha, have a numerical value of 1, the second letter, Beit and Beta, have a corresponding numerical value of 2, and so on.

What makes it unique is that when the numerical values of the letters (numbers) are added together, in words, sentences and sentences, numbers that are divisible by 7 are often created, as if mathematical patterns, which can be nested many times over and continue throughout the Bible. In practice, the possibility of chance is excluded in this case. A similar phenomenon has not been found in any other literature, not even in the so-called Apocrypha books, which are attached to some versions of the Bible, for example the Catholic Bible and in Finland, for example, old large family Bibles.

So, what are the books of the Bible? Bible researcher and mathematician Ivan Panin discovered a number system that consists of patterns formed by different numbers in the texts of the Bible. Ivan Panin did not only study the texts of the Bible, but he also studied the Bible as a whole. These studies again brought out a lot of new phenomena formed by numbers, from the occurrence of which only one conclusion can be drawn: the shape of the Bible, i.e. the books that belong to it, is ensured by a number system, a divine seal so that only the books that are in it now can belong to the Bible.

The fact that numbers have such symbolic meanings in the Bible does not have to be related to magical or mystical gematria, which includes searching for magical meanings and secret messages from numbers and their combinations and sums. For example, Kabbalistic Jews have analyzed the Hebrew writings of the Bible and utilized research called mystical gematria, in which hidden messages are sought from the numerical values given to letters. Such may be one form of prophecy, and the Bible forbids such.

The fact that this book deals with numerological issues may well be too much for some Christians. They may fear that they are guilty of investigating secret things that the Bible forbids. But there is truth loaded into numbers in the Bible. It is and will remain regardless of whether anyone agrees to study them or not. The presence of numbers and numerical values in the Bible does not disappear by closing one's eyes and ears. On the contrary, the word of the Bible urges those who understand to study the meaning of the number 666, for example. It hasn't been solved yet, because humanity doesn't need that information yet.

The table shows the numerical values of the Hebrew alphabet and the Greek alphabet

1	Alef	א	Α α	1	Αλφα
2	Beit	ב	Β β	2	Βητα
3	Gimel	ג	Γ γ	3	Γαμμα
4	Dalet	ד	Δ δ	4	Δελτα
5	He	ה	Ε ε	5	Εψιλον
6	Vav	ו	Ζ ζ	6	Διγαμμα
7	Zajin	ז	Ζ ζ	7	Ζητα
8	Chet	ח	Η η	8	Ητα
9	Tet	ט	Θ θ	9	Θητα
10	Jod	י	Ι ι	10	Ιωτα
20	Kaf	כ, ך	Κ κ	20	Καππα
30	Lamed	ל	Λ λ	30	Λαμδα
40	Mem	מ, ם	Μ μ	40	Μυ
50	Nun	נ, ן	Ν ν	50	Νυ

60	Samekh ם	Ξ ξ 60	Ξι
70	Ajin ע	Ο ο 70	Ο
80	Pe פ, ף	Π π 80	Πι
90	Tsade צ, ץ		
100	Quf ק	Ρ ρ 100	Ρω
200	Resh ר	Σ σ ς 200	Σι γμ
300	Shin ש	Τ τ 300	Ταυ
400	Tav ת	Υ υ 400	Υψιλον
500	Kaf כ	Φ φ 500	Φι
600	Mem מ	Χ χ 600	Χι
700	Nun נ	Ψ ψ 700	Ψι
800	Pe פ	Ω ω 800	Ω μεγα
900	Tsade ץ		

General Numerology

The basis of numerology is that in the Hebrew and Greek languages, each letter of the alphabet has a numerical value. In this way, every word and sentence have a specific numerical or numerical value. For example, the number of the Beast in the Book of Revelation has been connected to various historical figures, such as the emperor Nero, whose Greek name would have been transcribed into Hebrew and the numerical values corresponding to the letters added together and obtained the sum of 666.

One of the claims based on the methods of numerology is that the authors of the Bible knew and hid in the text, among other things, such mathematical concepts that according to current knowledge they could not have had. Such studies approach mystical numerology, i.e. mystical gematria, which is part of the interest of researchers specializing in Kabbalah.

Mystical gematria

Mystical gematria is a Hebrew coded form of numerology used in Kabbalah to discover the coded meanings of words.

Kabbalah is the most well-known doctrine of Jewish mysticism, whose birth was influenced by the mystical and philosophical schools that preceded it, and whose doctrines were later adopted by more developed tendencies.

According to Kabbalah, the initiated have knowledge of what is taught in the religion. The most central normative source of the Jewish faith is the Torah, which includes the actual or written Torah (the books of Moses) as well as the oral Torah, which is recorded in the Talmud. But Kabbalists nevertheless emphasize that they should not be read literally but should be understood; must be the key that unlocks the secrets of the holy books. Then you can notice that there are no useless words in them, but they are written in such a way that they have a deep, mystical meaning. The Zohar, an explanatory work of the Torah, is intended to help in the mystical interpretation of the Torah.

The knowledge of numbers is inherited from distant times. Even the ancient Chinese, Indians, Babylonians and Egyptians were masters as experts in the secret sciences. They possessed the knowledge of names, dates of birth, and other mysteries of human life, and this they obtained through the secret knowledge of numbers.

In addition to general numerology, several Kabbalah works explain mysteries related to numbers and letters. Likewise, Greek writers tell of the great master and interpreter of numbers, Pythagoras, of extensive knowledge in this area. H. P. Blavatsky explains in her "Secret Doctrine" the numerical key of both the wise men of the East and Pythagoras. In the last century, the number of numerology enthusiasts and researchers is estimated to have increased considerably. The latter included e.g. the Englishman "Cheiro" (Count Louis Hamon), who says in his works that he spent several years in India learning the secret sciences of the East. He gave lectures on numerology and palmistry in England and some other countries. It predicts based on the

characteristics of the hand. Palmistry has been practiced in various variations all over the world.

Pythagoras

The actual "father" of numerology in the West was Pythagoras. He learned the universal meaning of numbers from the hierophants of Egypt, India and Greece, i.e. the high priests of the ancient mystery cults. The Hierophant is card number 5 on the tarot deck. It represents learning, knowledge and tradition. He considered the science of numbers to be a divine science that solves all riddles. He said that there is a mystical connection between numbers and the gods, upon which the mystical meaning of numbers is based. The movements of the stars, the shifts of the earth's axis and poles, the long and short time periods of the universe, the solar system and the earth can all be explained with the help of numbers. According to Pythagoras, number theory alone reconciles two relations. The secret numbers of the universe in combination can alone unravel the development of material and immaterial worlds.

The wise men of the East

According to the Gospel of Matthew, the wise men came from eastern countries to Jerusalem to honor the newborn Messiah, the King of the Jews, because they had seen a star in the sky, which they took as a sign of the birth of this promised king. When the wise men inquired of King Herod about the whereabouts of the child, he called together the chief priests and scribes and asked them where the Messiah was expected to be born. These responded by reading the passage from the book of the prophet Micah, where the Messiah was prophesied to be born in Bethlehem. Herod asked the wise men to find out about the matter and tell him what they had found when they returned. The scientists found the baby Jesus by following the same star that they had already seen in their homeland, and which had started to be called the star of Bethlehem. When they got there, they bowed down to the newborn child and gave him precious gifts: gold, myrrh, and

frankincense. In a dream, God warned them that they should not go back to Herod, so they returned another way back to their own country. Worried about this and p when he saw a rival coming to threaten his position, he ordered the killing of all male children under the age of two in Bethlehem.

Who were these wise men from the east? They were probably Jews who had been forced to stay in Persia. Not all Jews returned to Palestine when they had the opportunity, so they read the Holy Scriptures, i.e. the writings of the Bible, and found in them hints of the future.

Wise men gained knowledge about things that others did not have. Otherwise, would they have gone to just follow some star. They probably also knew that the time was ripe for some big event. It is possible that they have studied the messages of the Bible texts, which can also be considered secret.

IVAN PANIN

How can we be sure that the Bible is really God's message to man, or is it just an old myth told by the Jews? But when God also foreknows everything, He must have seen that throughout the ages many kinds of doubts will be raised about His word. Has God reserved evidence in the Bible that indisputably shows the reliability of the Bible's message.

Since God wanted to give us the Bible and with it his own instructions on how we should live our lives, wouldn't God also make sure that his words remain unchanged and unfalsifiable over time? For many believers in the Bible, the text of the Bible as it is enough. But it is a completely understandable view that God's Holy Spirit would have also put a numerical formula in the text to prove the uniqueness of the writings.

Ivan Panin began to investigate the matter

Ivan Panin was born in Russia on December 12, 1855. In his youth, he was an active dissident and participated in conspiracies against the Tsar and his regime. This kind of activity became common among intellectuals in the late 19th century. So, he was expelled from Russia

and after being in exile in Germany for some years, he completed his studies and then moved to the United States. In the United States, Ivan Panin enrolled at Harvard University, where he became acquainted with both Professor William James and the university's president, Eliot.

Literary critic

Ivan Panin graduated from university with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He was a brilliant scientist and a great lecturer. He toured the United States lecturing on literature. The topics included Carlyle, Emerson, Tolstoy and Russian literature in general. He received large fees for his lectures. Copies of his lectures were distributed at universities and in front of many literary clubs in several cities in the USA and Canada. Around that time, Ivan Panin became known as a staunch agnostic, even so famous that when he renounced agnosticism and accepted the Christian faith, many newspapers reported the conversion with the biggest headlines. Professor William James, reputed to be the greatest metaphysician of his time, remarked: "What a pity that Mr. Panin should meddle with religion. A great philosopher in him gone to waste." Before his conversion to Christianity, Ivan Panin wrote thousands of aphorisms and many essays, which are now a memory of his time as a lecturer. He was a gifted writer and a fluent speaker.

An expert in the early languages of the Bible

In 1890, one day Ivan Panin happened to be reading the first verse of the Gospel of John from a Greek manuscript. The verse reads: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." When he read this sentence, his curiosity was piqued by the fact that the word God was preceded by a definite article the first time, but not the second. Why was this? To explain this apparent discrepancy, he drew up a table, in one column of which he put all the verses of the New Testament in which the word "God" is with the article, and in the second column the verses in which the word was without the article. When he then compared the resulting columns with

each other, his attention was drawn to the mathematical relationship between the sums of the columns. Next, he used the same method to study the word "Christ" and other words and found amazing mathematical sequences.

A dedicated researcher

From 1890, when Ivan Panin discovered the first mathematical phenomena in the Bible, he devoted himself completely for the rest of his life to only one thing, the study of the Bible. For the next 50 years, he worked long hours counting letters, words and their numerical values, sketching connections and solving mathematical problems. Under mental pressure and physical strain, his health often failed. Nevertheless, he did this work he loved without pay, trusting that God would give him what he needed. Ivan Panin didn't let anything stop him from fulfilling his mission in life. At one time, he was offered an attractive position as the principal of a college, but he turned it down. He preferred to work without pay to demonstrate the divine origin of the Bible's writings.

A burning Christian

He lived a quiet and modest life with his wife on a small Canadian farm far from the hustle and bustle of the cities. He became an ardent Christian who did not want information about him or his life to be published in the newspapers. He pleaded that even the apostles left little or no information about their lives, instead exalting Christ. Ivan Panin died at the age of 86 in Aldershot, Ontario, Canada on October 30, 1942. He left behind a manuscript of millions of carefully written numbers on about 40,000 pages.

Discoverer of the Bible's number seal

Ivan Panin discovered a code based on the numerical values of the Hebrew and Greek letters, with which the entire texts of the Bible are

sealed so that not a single letter can be changed without breaking it. This code is included in the entire Bible, which has had 33 authors over the course of approximately 1,600 years. The seal also works the other way around. It can be used to check whether the copyist of the manuscript has made any mistakes. In his work, Ivan Panin studied the Bible manuscript compiled by Westcott & Hort. From the alternative words that Westcott & Hort left in the manuscript, Ivan Panin was able to use the number seal to choose the one that kept the seal intact, i.e. implemented the numerical system God had placed in the text. This revised Greek manuscript was published by Ivan Panin as the "Numeric Greek New Testament" of 514 pages and published by Oxford University Press. He also translated it into English "Numeric English New Testament". It is apparently the most accurate translation of the New Testament available.

The entire Bible runs through a similar, complex, multi-level and consistent mathematical code that would have been impossible to produce by human means.

It has not been possible to find a similar feature in any other existing book. Nor has it been possible to dispute the code presented by Panini. However, reviewers have claimed that the numerical values of words can be calculated from any book. This is probably the case, but no other book consists of a seal of numbers like the Bible.

It must be emphasized that Ivan Panin did not try to predict anything with his codes. So, it is not a doctrine based on secret mysticism, like, for example, Kabbalah. His central message is simply that God's Holy Spirit Himself wrote the Bible, even though dozens of different writers over the course of about 1,600 years have held the writing instrument in their hands.

How could it be possible that the 33 different writers of the Bible over the course of 1600 years would even have even theoretically been aware of the code of the Bible, let alone that everyone would have been able to write in such a way that the code remains unchanged from book to book. Only God has made it possible.

He said: "When I had made this observation, I was, of course, extremely excited, as was Archimedes, who, after solving a great mathematical problem while in the bath, rushed into the street naked, shouting 'I invented it'. "I thought that people would be happy about my new observation, but I found that human nature has not changed. So I quietly continued my work alone."

In both the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New Testament, even a single letter mistake can completely change the meaning of a sentence. By looking at two different translations based on their numerical value, the correct translation can be chosen. This can also be done with the Greek text. For example, about the last word of the Book of Revelation: should the sentence end with the word Amen, or with the word Saints, as does the respected Wescott and Hort? Using a numerical analysis, the matter is resolved, and it can be stated that the word Amen does not belong at the end of the sentence.

An example of Panini's findings

The first 17 verses of the Gospel of Matthew are a logical whole that deals with one main topic: the genealogy of Christ. It contains 72 Greek words in these 17 verses. (Divisions of verses are divisions added by people in the 13th century.)

The number of noun words is exactly 56, i.e. 7×8 .

The Greek word "the" appears the most often in the song: exactly 56 times, i.e. 7×8 .

The passage has two main sections: verses 1–11 and 12–17. The Greek vocabulary words used in the first main section are 49, i.e. 7×7 .

Of these 49 words, there are 28 that start with a vowel, i.e. 7×4 . There are 21 words that start with a consonant, i.e. 7×3 .

The total number of letters in these 49 words is 266, or 7×38 . The number of vowels among these 266 letters is 140, or 7×20 . The number of consonants is 126, or 7×18 .

Out of 49 words, the number of words that occur more than once is 35, i.e. 7×5 . The number of words that occur only once is 14, i.e. 7×2 . The number of words that occur only in one form is exactly 42, i.e. 7×6 . The number of words that occur in more than one form is also 7.

The number of the 49 Greek vocabulary words that are nouns, there are 42, i.e. 7×6 . The number of words that are not nouns is 7. Of the nouns, 35 are proper names, i.e. 7×5 . These 35 names are used 63 times, i.e. 7×9 . There are exactly 28, i.e. 7×4 , names for men. These male names occur 56 times, i.e. 7×8 .

Three women are mentioned – Tamar, Rahab and Ruth. The number of Greek letters in these three names is 14, or 7×2 .

Only one city is named in this passage, Babylon, which contains exactly 7 letters in Greek. [2]

Jesus said significantly: "For truly I say to you: until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter, not one jot, will not pass from the law until all is fulfilled". (Mat. 5:18)

KABBALISM

The birth of Kabbalah can be placed in the 12th and 13th centuries in Provence and Catalonia during the heyday of Jewish culture.

Kabbalah is a mystical interpretation of the Torah. The kabbalistic interpretation of the Torah differs from the literal or philosophical interpretation in that, according to the kabbalistic interpretation, the holy scriptures speak in different inflections, e.g. Of God's Ten Attributes.

Kabbalah is a special doctrine, according to which only the initiated have knowledge of what is taught in religion. The central sources of the Jewish faith are the Torah, which contains the actual or written Torah (the books of Moses) and the Talmud, in which the oral tradition is written. However, Kabbalists emphasize that "they (the written and oral Torah) should not be read literally but must be understood. There must be a key that unlocks the secrets of the holy books. Then you will see that there are no idle words in them, but they are written so that they have a deep, mystical meaning." The Zohar, an explanatory work of the Torah, is intended to help in the mystical interpretation of the Torah.

In the 2000s, several public figures such as Madonna, Britney Spears, Demi Moore, Ashton Kutcher, Harry Styles, Ariana Grande, and Mick Jagger have been seen wearing or have spoken about the importance of Kabbalah to them. The Kabbalah Center is mostly behind these cases.

It was founded in Tel Aviv in 1922. The cult is best known for selling "pure water" and red wristbands, but their true meaning is left unmentioned. According to the Kabbalah Centre, water of original pure properties can improve the chances of surviving even severe diseases. In accordance with the rule of cause and effect, according to them, diseases are also self-inflicted in some way. The Holocaust was also a self-inflicted calamity of the Jews, which resulted from the decline in popularity of Kabbalah in Europe. Other accidents are also the result of man's own fault, and thus they also give the opportunity for corrective measures.

The Kabbalah Center teaches Kabbalah general life wisdom suitable for everyone, which does not have to be related to any particular religion or outlook on life.

The cult's activities have been strongly criticized by various parties, and it has been compared to Scientology, among other things. According to Jewish Kabbalah scholars, the sect distorts Kabbalah, and its teachings violate the Jewish faith. According to doctors, water has no healing properties. In addition, the names of pop stars who study Kabbalah, such as Madonna and Demi Moore, were previously mentioned suspiciously often at the sect's events where wisdom was presented, according to critics. The public figures in question do not want their studies to be discussed in public. Nowadays, when talking about Kabbalah, already deceased scientists such as Isaac Newton and Thomas Edison are more commonly used as examples.

Kabbalah, the core of Jewish doctrine, is generally considered to be a secret science practiced by Spanish Jews and alchemists in the Middle Ages, and at best it would only be part of rabbinic Judaism and at worst only a 14th-century religious hoax. When it was still believed to be essentially based on some kind of magic and sorcery, it is no wonder that almost everyone within the Christian Church avoided it and still shuns it today.

Kabbalistic traditions were, however, well known to all Jews as well as to the pre-Christian Essenes even before the beginning of our era. The Essenes were a Jewish sect during the Second Temple period. The Essenes are mentioned in several sources, and Qumran is usually

considered to be the territory of the Essenes. Qumran, on the other hand, is known as the place where the Dead Sea scrolls were found, and the scrolls are considered to have been written by the Essenes.

Literally, the word Qabalah is related to the concept of tradition, i.e. traditional knowledge, and the content of the word comes from the Hebrew verb *lbq qibel*, to receive. Kabbalism meant orally received secret knowledge about the nature of the earth and the universe and the ways of interpreting that information from the writings of the Old Testament of the Bible.

According to some legends, already in Eden, the 'secret angel' Raziel had given Adam and Eve deep information about man, the earth and the universe, engraved in a sapphire cube. What laws prevail in the world and what forces guide us and what is man's part in this huge cosmic play. The information was engraved on the stone by the mysterious Shamir, and the most enlightened creature in Paradise, the snake, had first 'reduced' the information to Eve and then to her son Cain, who, based on the divine knowledge and skill he received, was then able to build the world's first city, which, as the Bible says, he named Heenok according to his first son.

The case of Eve

According to the Bible, Satan's first influence on man happened already in Paradise, where Satan tempted Eve to taste the good and forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge. Satan used Eve's curiosity as a lure, the desire to make some changes to the prevailing situation, or even to get her interested in expanding her consciousness to supernatural things. Eve was the most perfect woman who ever lived on earth. Eve was just created by God, and she had all the qualities that God wanted a woman to have.

Why couldn't you eat from that tree? With the fruit of the tree came awareness of things that God did not want people to know yet. Even today, many people strive for a similar expansion of consciousness. We want to get in touch with the spirit world or angels and thereby gain an expansion of consciousness. Today, something similar occurs in new

spirituality, one wants to find divine powers within oneself. Another attraction of drug use is the expansion of consciousness. Satan increased Eve's willingness to taste the fruit by questioning God's word saying that "has God really said so" and "you will not die if you eat of it" and "you will have the same understanding as God has". So, Eve then took the fruit and ate.

Kabbalah is a religious doctrine

Kabbalists seem to have been years ahead of their contemporaries and the contents of their tradition have strongly influenced the spiritual and material development of our last centuries. Kepler, Galilei, Newton, Voltaire and later Einstein were inspired by the legacy of this ancient wisdom. In general, the light of the Zohar, the main work of the Kabbalah, also shines in the world of ideas of the Renaissance and Enlightenment. While the theologians of the church, destroyed by the persecution of their intellectuals, were afraid of falling off the edge of their pancake world, the Kabbalists sat in their chambers and pondered the essence of the earth and the universe, matter and energy, soul and body. On what principles is everything built? What laws govern the universe? What is man's relationship to it? What is its past, present and future? Indefatigably they study their genetics and seek from their surroundings and the Bible for knowledge and a system that would open to them the deepest secrets of the divine nature and show them the true bonds that form and unite the world.

Studying nature and the scriptures, they finally concluded that a nameless deity above everything had formed everything in the world according to weight, measure and number. During the seven days of creation, 22 holy letters (Hebrew alphabet) were drawn on God's desk, through which God had pronounced the world to be born.

But the Kabbalists did not seek and capture knowledge per se, they also admired the spiritual growth through knowledge to which they were led. They wanted to be perfected, i.e. integrated into the paradise-like initial state of man.

Kabbalah is considered magic

Practical, everyday Kabbalah contains magic practiced through talismans and ceremonies, which causes the entire Kabbalah to be branded as witchcraft, which was not the issue. People have superstitions regardless of religion. Christians also practice all kinds of superstitions, there are tarot cards, reading horoscopes and so on. There are even Christian churches where tarot card interpretation is practiced.

There were also objects in the Bible that could be used to find out God's will for a difficult-to-assess matter or problem. Urim and thummim were the tools with which the Levitical high priest interpreted and received revelation of God's will. They were apparently cast like lots, and this is how God gave the answer. The question was simple, to which you could expect a yes or no answer. Usually, confirmation was sought for a selection situation. The Urim and Thummim were apparently flat stones, one side white and the other black. The stones were thrown on the ground while waiting for an answer, and if the stones were on the ground with the white side up, the answer was "yes". If the stones were black side up, the answer was "no". If one stone was white side up and the other stone was black side up, no answer was received, i.e. no confirmation was received. The high priest wore urim and tummim on the breastplate of his ceremonial dress. Urim is English for "light", "brightness" or "revelation", and tummim is "perfection", "truth" or "righteousness"

The Gematria of Kabbalah is specifically because in Hebrew, Greek and Latin, letters are also numbers and so every ko. A word in a language is also a series of numbers, the sum of which is called the word's gematric numerical value. [3]

NUMBER 153 MATHEMATICALLY

So, the number of fish in St. Petersburg's great and wonderful catch was 153 fish. The fish had been counted accurately and the result was the mentioned total.

Number 153 is a special number. It has many special features. However, many Bible scholars consider it to be just an ordinary number, telling only the great number of fish. However, the fishermen were Jews, and for Jews, numbers and figures are important. For them, every letter has a numerical value and thus every word also has a numerical value.

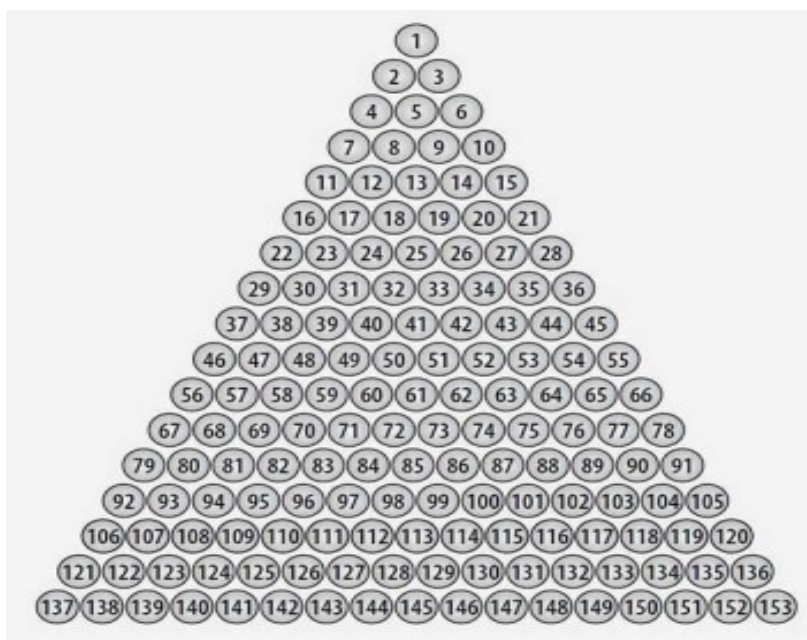
However, the number 153 in the Bible is unusual in many ways. There are many things related to seven in the Bible, as well as three and twelve. Forty also occurs in many situations.

But 153 is only mentioned once. It's not your typical biblical number. Mathematically, however, it is special and has many special features. The number seven is also associated with the fishing event. When Peter decided to go fishing in the evening, according to him, six other disciples of Jesus also went. So there were seven of them in total. According to John, they were Peter and Thomas, who was called Didymus, and Nathanael, who was from Cana of Galilee, Jacob and John, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples of Jesus.

Isn't it strange that John writes in his Gospel the exact number of fish, but not the names of all the disciples who went with them? The number of fish must have played an important role. Otherwise, it wouldn't have been written down.

Number 153 specials

153 is a so-called triangular number. It is the sum of the first 17 whole numbers, i.e. $1+2+3+4+\dots+17=153$.



The number 153 is therefore the 17th triangular number. Some of those who study the Bible believe that the number 17 is important because it is made up of ten and seven. Ten represents law and seven grace.

Another such more well-known triangular number appearing in the Bible is 666, which is the sum of the first 36 integers. The meaning of the number is completely opposite, being, among other things, the number of the Antichrist's name.

The number 153 is also the sum of the first five positive factors, i.e. presented mathematically

$$1! + 2! + 3! + 4! + 5! = 153.$$

This can also be expressed in the form

$$1 \times 1 + 1 \times 2 + 1 \times 2 \times 3 + 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 + 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5$$

or

$$1 + 2 + 6 + 24 + 120 = 153.$$

The number 153 is also the smallest three-digit so-called narcissistic number that can be expressed as the sum of the cubes of its digits. Only five other numbers can be expressed as the sum of the cubes of their digits: 0, 1, 370, 371, and 407. For number 153, this means that

$$1^3 + 5^3 + 3^3$$

or

$$1 + 125 + 27 = 153.$$

The number 153 also has such a special feature that if you take any random positive integer that is divisible by three and raise the numbers that make up to the third power and add the results together, when repeated enough times, you always end up with the number 153.

For example, even if the number 1221 is an integer divisible by three. Let's raise the numbers that make it up to the power of three and calculate their sum, i.e.

$$1^3 + 2^3 + 2^3 + 1^3 = 1 + 8 + 8 + 1 = 18$$

Let's continue now with number 18

$$1^3 + 8^3 = 1 + 512 = 513$$

continue in the same way with number 513

$$5^3 + 1^3 + 3^3 = 125 + 1 + 27 = 153$$

After this, the number would no longer change, but the result would always be 153 again.

The New Testament does not mention very many great numbers. The other two are when Luke mentions 276 people being saved from shipwreck in Acts 27:37, and the number of the beast in Revelation 13:18 is 666. It is striking mathematically that all three are "triangular" numbers.

The squares of the prime numbers in the series 1+2+3...+17 make a total of 666, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned} 2^2 + 3^2 + 5^2 + 7^2 + 11^2 + 13^2 + 17^2 = \\ 4 + 9 + 25 + 49 + 121 + 169 + 289 = 666. \end{aligned}$$

The middle number in number 153 is 77. If the fish in Peter's catch had been lined up, the middle fish would have been the 77th fish. There would have been 76 fish on either side of it.

Conclusions

First, we must recognize that the number 153 is strange in some important way, so we must come to understand the content of the narrative.

Second, there is a good argument, supported in many ways, that 153 has both a real and a symbolic meaning. This is the case with many stories in the Bible. There is no reason to doubt that the fishermen counted the number of fish accurately. Professional fishermen certainly tend to do that because they catch fish for sale. but like many other things in this gospel, besides the reality, there is also a symbolic meaning.

Thirdly, the connections to the number 17 at Pentecost, when the people who were in the square during the outpouring of the Holy Spirit heard the speech from the upper hall in their own languages. The speech was heard in 17 languages. This is the hidden meaning. 153 is the seventeenth triangular number and 9×17 .

THE CASE OF THE BIG FISH CATCH RELIGIOUSLY

When the fishing miracle happened by the lake of Gennesaret, there was Jesus, seven disciples, five of whom were named, 153 fish as a catch, one fish with Jesus, embers, a boat and a net. A total of seven different things. What did this mean?

Long ago influential researchers discovered that 153 is a triangular number. It is equal to the sum of the first seventeen digits. This brings 153 to 17. It suggests that 153 could have something like the number 17.

Duration of Noah's Flood

Seventeen means victory, which many Bible scholars have accepted. In the first book of Moses, or Genesis, passage 7:11 says that Noah's flood began on the seventeenth day of the second month. That was the beginning of God's victory over the evil of the pre-Flood world. Then Genesis 8:4 tells us that the ark rested on the seventeenth day of the seventh month. Thus, number seventeen relates to both the beginning

and the end of the flood. And it means victory over evil, the beginning of a new and better time.

Other winnings related to the number 17

The people of Israel crossed the Red Sea on the 17th day of the 7th month when they escaped from Egypt.

Jesus rose from the dead on the 17th day of the month.

Paul mentions 17 things in Romans that cannot separate us from God's love, but in which we gain a noble victory. Not pain or distress, persecution or hunger, nakedness, danger or sword. Neither death nor life, neither angels, nor spirits, neither present nor future nor powers, nor height nor depth, nothing created can separate us from the love of God.

Descent of the Holy Spirit on the first Pentecost

The disciples spent their time in the upper hall in Jerusalem feeling timid and afraid. They were afraid of the followers of Judaism and did not dare to proclaim Jesus publicly. As the Holy Spirit descended upon the followers of Jesus, a loud voice was heard. The sound surprised people, who gathered in large numbers. This was not yet the whole miracle. Because people heard their own language being spoken in the upper hall. And there were listeners from a total of seventeen nations.

Acts 2:9 says:

“They asked in amazement, 'Are not those who are speaking all Galileans? How then do we each hear the language of our own country of birth? We are here Parthians, Medes and Elamites, we are from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt and Libya from the region of Cyrene, we have come from Rome, some of us are native Jews, others converts to

our faith, we are Cretans and the Arabs—and we all hear them proclaim in our own language the great deeds of God.»"

Number of fish

The accuracy of the number of fish in this account has long been considered curious, and many scholars have argued that 153 has some deeper meaning. Many also think that the number of fish does not have any special meaning. At least not that the number contains some secret meaning for the end times, for example.

Timothy James Wiarda, professor of New Testament studies, stated that "Suffice it to say that the text gives the reader no hint of any symbolism in the miraculous catch of fish." Theologian DA Carson considers this and other interpretations and concludes that "if the evangelist has any symbolism in mind related to number 153, he has hidden it well."

According to some, it just reflects the detail with which the disciples describe the steps of Jesus, and thus it points to the reportage and authenticity of the text.

Meaning: a large catch of fish

If the number of fish had no special meaning or any hidden message, then at least it has the meaning that the catch of fish was indeed miraculously large. If John had written, for example, that they caught a huge catch of fish by following Jesus' instructions, that too would have been a strong message for posterity. The lesson may be that by following Jesus' instructions, the result will be successful and great. On the other hand, also that when Jesus is involved in the activity, for example through His Holy Spirit, the result is successful and great.

In the morning, a man on the beach (they didn't know it was Jesus) calls out to them and asks if they got anything. They answer no. They are then told to drop their nets on the starboard side of the ship. When

you try to lift the net out of the water, it is so full of fish that you must drag it to the shore! The disciples now realize that it was Jesus speaking to them. On the beach, Pietari counts the fish caught in the net: a total of 153 "big fish".

153 symbolizes abundance, 153 can even represent an overwhelming blessing from God. The Bible says that the disciples marveled at the fact that their net remained intact even though it contained so many large fish (John 21:11)

In addition, 153 fish were caught that year after Jesus was involved in the action. This is a reminder that without Jesus, the disciples', and all believers', attempts to achieve something great alone without Jesus will fail, but with Jesus everything is possible (John 15:5).

Also, the catch of 153 fish reminds Peter of when they were first called to follow Christ and become fishers of men. Given that he was trying to return to his former job when the miracle happened, it probably reminded them that they were now working for God, whose will was still that they fish for men and not fish.

Jesus said to them: "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Mark 1:17. The fish therefore describes a person who is caught in the net of God's kingdom.

153 in the Bible

The 17th word of the Hebrew Bible is God, the 153rd word is "good", which in turn corresponds to the gematria value of 17. In addition, 17 is the sum of 7, perfection and the work of the Holy Spirit, and 10, the number of rules and laws (10 commandments) .

In the Old Testament the word "preaching" is used 153 times, in the New Testament the word "Peter" appears 153 times.

Many biblical expressions about fishing or fish are divisible by 153 (in Greek):
fish = 153,

grid = 1224 (153 x 8),
fisher of men = 2142 (153 x 14),
amount of fish = 2448 (153 x 16),
throwing the net = 3060 (153 x 20).

Tetragrammaton

The so-called Tetragrammaton, YHWH, appears 153 times in the Book of Genesis.

In the Hebrew language, the name of God is written with four consonants YHWH, יהוה. The original pronunciation of the name was most probably Yahwa. However, God's name was not pronounced aloud, in order to avoid saying it in vain (the 2nd commandment), but it was replaced with, for example, the word Adonai ('my lord/lord'). It was only in the Middle Ages that Jewish scholars (the so-called Masoretes) began to mark the Old Testament with vowel marks to ensure correct pronunciation.

Number 153 and Personal Blessings

We find something quite interesting in 153 when we look at how many people Jesus personally blessed. The book of Mark tells us that Christ personally blessed three people three times. These events were the healing of a man from an unclean spirit (Mark 1:23), the healing of a deaf man (Mark 7:32), and the healing of a blind man (Mark 8:22).

However, Matthew writes that Jesus blessed a total of 47 people 23 times. Some of those whom He blessed were the leper (Matthew 8:2), the Gentile woman and her daughter (Matthew 15:22), Mary Magdalene (Matthew 27:56), and Joseph of Arimathea (Matthew 27:57).

Luke writes that 14 times 94 people were blessed. They include the seventy disciples sent to preach and heal (Luke 10:1), the ten lepers cleansed at the same time (Luke 17:12), and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:2).

Finally, the apostle John records eight incidents in which Jesus helped nine people. Three of these people were Nicodemus (John 3:1), the woman accused of adultery (John 8:11), and Lazarus (John 11). In total, Jesus directly blessed 153 people in 48 separate events!

Following Jesus' instructions brings good harvest

After years of hiatus, the disciples' first day of work on the water was long and frustrating. Although they had fished all night, no fish had come. They were only a hundred meters from the beach when they noticed a man standing on the beach. Maybe they were about to give up when the morning started to break. The hurt to the professional pride of the unsuccessful fishermen only increased when they had to answer the question of the man on the beach in the negative if they had anything to eat.

Jesus had taught them that the secret of success was that they obeyed His words.

The work of God's kingdom is not done by human strength

In St. Petersburg's fishing trip, we have a story about seven toilers who work all night hard, but without results. In the kingdom of God, nothing can be accomplished with human strength, not even with the greatest energy, not even with the best human expertise. The catch in the seine of God's kingdom comes only with the instructions and power of Jesus, when we act according to His word, when He blesses our work.

Peter acted independently, independent of others. But others went with him on their own accord. Peter was left without a catch and so were the others. Peter's personality and his skills as a fisherman didn't help with that. Man is powerless in supernatural matters. Millennia has not changed the situation. Humans are deficient, fallible, fallible, powerless and unskilled. Peter did later become an apostle, and he preached the word of truth; but even that he did not in his own power and wisdom, but in the power of Christ's Holy Spirit. And when he wrote his letters, he wrote them under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, so that they are worthy to be included in the Holy Bible and are reliable guides, the infallible word of God like all the rest of the Bible.

"Man can do nothing unless it is given to him from heaven," John the Baptist said. The kingdom of God includes such legality that man must decrease, and Christ must increase. This is what Jesus taught His disciples when, despite their diligent efforts, they did not catch any fish.

We should not do the work of God's kingdom by our own strength and based on our own wisdom. We must trust God's guidance and word.

In recent years, there have been demands in the churches for a more liberal interpretation of the Bible, and there has been a transition from evangelistic work to a social vision of work.

Christianity and the message of the Bible are often seen as a reactionary remnant of the old world. The people of our time do not want to accept authorities greater than themselves. In this atmosphere, the Bible is the first to be in the firing line. It is seen as a product of the worldview of its time, perhaps a good and moral one, but in the end as a human documentary with a lot to reform. Fewer and fewer recognize it as God's word, which should be considered the truth.

The influx of new spirituality into the traditional Christian world has intensified recently. Many churches have begun to approach things that do not belong to traditional Christianity.

There are angel healers, fortune tellers from various cards, automatic writing enthusiasts, meditation groups, occultism, witchcraft, shamanism and so on. Yoga has become very popular in the western world. Yoga has even been included in the program of some churches. When someone has doubted whether yoga is a suitable program for the Christian church, the name "Christian yoga" has been chosen. So, anything could be practiced in the church, as long as it is called something Christian. In fact, compared to the population, yoga is practiced the most in Finland in the world. New-Age beliefs, yoga, etc. are all based on the spiritual teachings of old pagan religions.

The net had to be thrown to the right side of the boat

The work must be done precisely according to Jesus' command. Jesus gave a detailed command. The net had to be thrown to the right

side of the boat. You wouldn't have thought it would make a difference where you threw it from the boat. The same lake water was everywhere. It could just as well have been caught from any side of the boat. But Jesus' command was precise and following that the disciples caught a giant catch. In the work of spreading the Gospel, He has instructed us just as accurately in His word. He has not left the content of the gospel and the method of proclamation to our discretion. He has said, "If ye abide in my word, ye are truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31–32. And in another place in the Bible, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you every day until the end of the world." Matt. 28:19–20. Only action that adheres to the word of Jesus will receive His blessing.

The work of God's kingdom is tried to be done in many ways. It is also clear that not everyone even tries to teach according to the Holy Bible, and that many take the liberty to deviate from it. It has two kinds of consequences. Churches are emptying of parishioners who love God's word. On the other hand, churches can gather people who have no idea what the Christian faith entails. And in the end, maybe people who have no other meaning for the church than to have fun will get tired of all the spiritual activities. For rock concerts and carnivals in churches. To the raptures of celebrity priests and so on. The essential thing should not be what kind of crowds any declaration gets behind, but what is declared and what happens to the souls. It is more important if one received the grace of Jesus, than that hundred received an entertaining rock concert. The true gospel is the power of God for salvation to the believer. When it is proclaimed, even some are saved. Not everyone is saved because many reject the gospel and for many this world is dearer than Jesus. The false truth offered by Satan can resemble the Christian faith. However, it won't save anyone. And the mixture of truth and false doctrine is always dangerous to the soul. Truth draws to God, false doctrine draws away from God. The situation is very much in accordance with the word of the Bible. It is said in the Bible that the path to salvation is narrow and only a few choose it, but the road to perdition is broad and many take it.

Comparing Christianity to Socialism and Communism

"The net had to be thrown to the right side of the boat".

Some have said that Christianity and socialism are closely related because believers sold their houses and possessions, and the money was used according to the needs of each member. However, handing over the funds to the church was voluntary. They are completely opposites of each other. Christianity believes in a saving God, while socialism believes in developing humanism. Communism taken further is again based on complete and forced atheism. In Christianity, believers voluntarily shared their own property for the common good, while in communism, other people's property is forcibly distributed for the benefit of the political elite. In communism, churches were closed and turned into movie theaters or swimming pools. Believers were persecuted, except for a small church group that bowed to the government's program.

The communist idea was completely anti-Christian, i.e. against Christianity. Communists dreamed of a godless world. Communism tried to ban Christianity completely, for example the celebration of Christmas: in Stalin's Russia, the celebration of Christmas was banned.

In Russia, communism was born out of the workers' bitterness caused by the inhumane conditions. Lenin and Stalin wanted to destroy the monarchy of the Romanov family and replace it with the dictatorship of their own party, the so-called proletariat. Communists would like to ban private property, ban religion and ban the family based on marriage between a man and a woman. The "neo-leftism" that developed in the 1960s is not really a question of profound philosophy or a humane vision, but of the narcissistic desire for power of middle-class people, which gets its drive from the flaws and failures of the existing system and talks about solutions that sound lofty.

The radical left directly applies the theories of Marxism and communism. In Finland, they were once represented especially by the so-called combatants, i.e. Stalinists. They uncritically admired the Soviet Union, aware of many blatant human rights violations and not caring

about them. This kind of bias was amazingly strong in Finnish cultural life, information transmission and universities. A few decades ago, leftism was very common among actors, television journalists and other public figures. For example, you can still detect influences from the old days in YLE's broadcasts. For example, the activities of certain democratic parties are criticized almost daily. Criticizing Israel is also included in the program. When reporting on the war in Gaza, the announcements of the Gaza Ministry of Health are taken as true, and the numbers announced by Israel are often not reported at all. There are quite a few programs and documentaries about gender minorities. Transsexuality is presented as if it were completely normal, and those warning about its negative phenomena are somehow wrong. If someone says there are only two sexes, they are considered some kind of old curmudgeon.

Today's widespread and constantly expanding woke culture is popular with the left. It is said to be based on concern about the status of various ethnic minorities, gender minorities and women. While, for example, the anti-racism represented by Martin Luther King aimed for a world where innate characteristics such as skin color, sexual orientation or gender are of no importance in terms of the realization of equality, in woke culture skin color, social status, sexual orientation or gender are given a particularly weighty meaning. Those who belong to the minority should be allowed to speak freely and those who belong to the majority should keep quiet and listen. The fewest opinions are allowed from straight men. Their opinion is suppressed by talking disparagingly about uncles or boomers. In Woke culture, the bad sides of the world are caused by a Caucasian straight man who values family bonding, Christian values, hard work and following the law. Talk about toxic masculinity. Whiteness is a great sin regardless of doing something racist. Just being white is a bad thing. Christianity is particularly reprehensible. The Bible is a completely patriarchal book. The best person is seen as a black-skinned homosexual or lesbian, who in the best case is poor and even better if he is unemployed.

Woke culture is full cancel culture. Woke people define the words that can be used. For example, the culture of the US military was reformed under Obama to conform to the ideals of the woke ideology.

An army chaplain was then forbidden to mention Jesus in his speech so that the speech would not offend anyone. A public campaign of disapproval is directed at a person or company deemed guilty of wrong opinions or discriminatory attitudes, with the aim of causing damage, to have a company boycotted or a person dismissed from their job, for example. And this has happened. It is not enough that you have not committed any wrongdoing, but you must also do the right deeds to be a good citizen. For example, participating in the pride parade or putting rainbow flags in the window of your shop during pride month.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, known for its lawsuits against white supremacist groups, classification of hate groups and other extremist organizations, and promotion of tolerance programs, has declared many Christian organizations as hate organizations. For example, The Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), which supported the opinions of Päivi Räsänen, which is an American conservative Christian legal support group aiming to protect the traditional religious rights and practices of Christians in public, tax-funded schools, has been declared a hate organization. Of course, this was reported in the Finnish media, that the American hate organization is supporting Päivi Räsänen.

Another new doctrine is the so-called intersectionalism. The idea of intersectionalism was developed by Professor Kimberle Crenshaw in 1989. It examines differences in people's group identities, such as gender, social class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. The identities that have traditionally been in power are bad, i.e. the male gender, especially the straight man, whiteness and the so-called cisgender, i.e. a person feels he is in his birth gender. Good identities are femininity, transgender and homosexuality.

In intersectionalism, all the "oppressed" are on the same side, for example the oppressed workforce, women, black-skinned people and Palestinians are featured in the programs of left-wing parties. And because the left believes that the Palestinians are being oppressed, it even supports completely reactionary extremist Islamic organizations, such as Hamas and Hezbollah, against democratic Israel. For example, the feminist movement may oppose the actions of egalitarian Israel and support the very patriarchal Palestinian terrorist organization and states

where women have no rights whatsoever. What is written in the Koran is not enough to undermine the position of women, but the text is interpreted completely to minimize the position and rights of women.

The pie prepared by the Finnish Ministry of Justice has 12 characteristics, according to which the relationship of a group of people to power is evaluated. In the center of the power pie are the power-hungry, who must remain silent in front of those on the outside of the pie. Examples:

in the core of power	the middle	little power
must be silent		have right to speak
citizen	residence with permit	paperless
skinny	average	fat
homeowners	live in rented	homeless
white	visible ethnicity	black
straight man	gay man	lesbian

According to the intersectional theory, a person belongs to the group of racists already since his skin color is white. He didn't have to do or say anything racist, but because he is white, that already makes him racist. According to the theory, those at the core of power are morally worse than those with less power. Intersectional theory may come up, for example, in recruitment. Especially in the public sector. The person with more intersectional points is easily selected. A black homosexual beats a white heterosexual regardless of qualifications. Finland's previous left-wing government included intersectional feminism in its government program. Fortunately, they were not able to take the program very far.

In social media, there is a clash of cultures between the so-called red green "tolerance", which really does not tolerate anyone but themselves and their own opinions, and conservatives, for whom Christian values are important. Many Christians have similar attitudes to the right-wing and therefore sympathize with and support the politics of the right-wing or right-wing populism. For example, in the United States, a populist presidential candidate can hold a Bible in his hand and thus get Christian circles as his supporters.

In the Woke culture, we want to appear tolerant but act completely intolerant of ourselves. We want to give a voice to one, but silence those with another position. We want to give opportunities for participation to different margins, but on the other hand isolate those with a different position to the margins. We require a safe space for ourselves, which practically means cleaning the space completely of those on the other side. At one equality event, there was a sign on the door that read "if you're a man, be quiet". We criticize others for the use of power, but we like to use power ourselves.

According to the Bible, Christians should take care of orphans, widows, foreigners and other vulnerable people and work for a more just world. Because of this, left-wing accents may easily enter the church. However, a clear distinction must be made between proclaiming the gospel according to the Christian Bible and left-wing thinking. But, when in the churches the word of the Bible no longer has the same weight as before and preaching the gospel is not interesting, it is easy to start doing social work and thus consider the church to be an important part of society. Floorball matches and other hobby clubs are organized for young people.

The truth of the Bible is not accepted for the left and woke people

A revolutionary leftist is disappointed by the teaching of Jesus, because He refused the revolution, taught instead of violence to give up the demand for one's own rights and urged to suffer persecution. He also redeemed this teaching with His own example.

An environmental activist who considers eating beef an ecological mistake also must condemn Jesus, who ate meat and said that meat is eaten in heaven too. The prodigal son's father celebrates his son's return by slaughtering a suckling calf. In the parable of the wedding of the king's son, at the feast of the kingdom of heaven, "oxen and fattened calves" await us (Matthew 22:4).

Those who support absolutism will be disappointed by Jesus, who drank wine and turned 600 liters of water into real wine at the wedding in Cana. Some holier-than-Jesus believers try to explain that Jesus only turned water into grape juice. But it was not grape juice, but good wine, as the Bible says. Jesus was not a supporter of the prohibition law.

The social reform program was not part of Jesus' teaching. Jesus didn't even oppose slavery, but He didn't support anarchy either, which is why He can be considered mostly a reactionary bourgeois. Yes, Jesus spoke for all the discriminated, but without anarchist solutions.

Jesus spoke of marriage only as between a man and a woman, and therefore it is difficult to get support from him for the goals of sexual minorities for ordinations in churches than for other teachings of the rainbow people.

Jesus showed respect for women and children, so it is impossible for him, even if He was a man, to notice any kind of undervaluation or hatred towards women or girls. The first witnesses of the resurrection were women, and in many stories of the Bible, women appear as heroes.

There were twelve male apostles whom Jesus chose as His official ambassadors. The selection of such a group would cause feminist organizations to boycott the whole group in modern times. What kind of team would be suitable according to the intersectional theory?

It is therefore difficult to connect Jesus Christ directly to any current program of a political movement. Therefore, all attempts to attach Jesus to the program of one's own political preferences must be treated with extreme suspicion. However, one thing is certain. Left-wing politics and Christianity according to the Bible obviously does not fit. There is a kind of socialist modified religiosity. But not according to the Bible.

THE EVANGELIZATION OF JESUS WAS DIRECTED TO THE JEWS

Matthew 15 says:

"And behold, a Canaanite woman came from those regions and cried out, saying, 'Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me. A demon is terribly afflicting my daughter.' But He didn't answer her a word. So, His disciples came and begged him, saying, "Let him go, for she is crying after us." He answered and said, "I am not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But the wife came and bowed down to him and said, "Lord, help me".

But He answered and said, "It is not proper to take the children's bread and throw it at the little ones." But the wife said: "Yes, Lord; but the pennies also eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered and said to her: "O woman, great is your faith, let it be done to you as you wish". And her daughter was healthy from that moment."

Acts 3 says:

"You are the children of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham: 'And in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' For you first, God has raised up

His Son and sent him to bless you, when each of you turns away from your wickedness."

Israel is a theme that runs throughout the Bible. God chose the nation of Israel born through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as His own nation, to whom He made promises and covenants, and through whom He has expressed himself and given us His Word, the Bible, and His Son, Messiah Jesus. God chose to speak to humanity through the nation of Israel. God has an unchanging plan throughout the Bible. It can be said that the Bible and Israel are one.

Jesus focused His work on the Jews

God had chosen one particular people, the descendants of Abraham, and set them apart from the rest so that they could serve the one and only God. The theology of election both divided and united Judaism. Between different factions, it often led to arguments about who really represented God's people, who were the true Israel.

The special nature of the Jews was self-evident even to Jesus. Among other things, He spoke about Abraham's daughter and Abraham's son. These situations mentioned by Luke are interesting because the purpose of mentioning the origin of the persons in them is not to create a contrast with non-Jews, but to justify the salvation of the persons. Still, the difference between Jews and other nations also comes to the fore in Jesus. He compares the ethical standards required of God's people to the much more basic virtue of the pagans. In common parlance, pagans are often allowed to represent the wicked. Jesus also focused His activities specifically on the Jews and sometimes made it clear that it was not His job to proclaim His message to others.

Jesus chose His twelve closest disciples from among His Jewish brothers, who clearly in His message formed the beginning of a new Israel. In the eschatological feast they would come to rule over the "houses of Israel". The reference that can be seen in the symbolism to the promises of the Jewish tradition about how God in the end times will reassemble His people, who have already been lost in many ways,

is now interpreted from the actions of Jesus. Jesus gathers the people, and you belong to it specifically by joining Jesus, by becoming a follower of Jesus. This symbolic act also expressed Jesus' understanding of the Jews as God's chosen people. With that, however, a considerable tension is revealed in the concept. The question worth paying attention to is how the people of God, starting anew in the Jews who became followers of Jesus, relate to the Jews and Judaism in general.

The mission of the apostles was to take the gospel to other people

The word apostle is based on the Greek word Apostolos (sent, messenger, literally 'he who was sent'), from which it was taken almost as is in most languages to mean primarily the disciples sent by our Lord Jesus Christ into the world, whose purpose was to proclaim the gospel, to tell about the kingdom of heaven and to take Christianity to different peoples of the world. The apostles' task was to tell about Christ and that He has saved us with His resurrection. Originally, this military term referred in some way to those who were sent against enemies.

Apostle in the Christian context refers to a missionary who carries forward the gospel of Christ. The word apostle appears in the Gospels of the Bible only twice. The second time in the Gospel of Mark (Mark 3:16–19) and the second time in the Gospel of Matthew. Here is the latter (Matthew 10:2–4) quoted:

"When the day dawned, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them as apostles."

According to tradition and the Bible, our Lord Jesus Christ chose and named twelve apostles to the original community of His disciples, whose task and mandate was to share the faith. A new apostle, Matthias, was later chosen to replace Judas, who betrayed Christ. (Acts 1:23–26)

"Two men were nominated: Joseph, who was called Justus, and Matthias. Then they all prayed: "Lord, You who know the hearts of all, declare which of these two You have chosen to enter this ministry and the office of apostle, which Judas gave up to go where was heard." After that they cast lots for the men, and the lot fell on Matthias. Thus, he was chosen and joined as the twelfth among the apostles."

The Bible says this about the mission of the apostles (Matthew 10:5–8):

"These twelve Jesus sent on their way after giving them instructions: "Do not go among the foreign tribes and not into any city of Samaria. Instead, go to the lost sheep of the nation of Israel and proclaim, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers and cast out evil spirits. You have received as a gift, give as a gift."

In Matthew's Gospel it is also said (Matthew 28:19–20):

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations: baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you to observe."

In addition to the above, Paul of Tarsus is also appointed as an apostle, although he never acted together with Jesus during Jesus' earthly journey. After Jesus Himself ascended to heaven, he also called Saul, who at first was a fierce defender of Jewish doctrine and an opponent of Christianity. Saul encountered Jesus on his way to arrest Christians in Damascus. While riding, he fell off his horse and became blind. Jesus asked him "why are you persecuting me". Saul realized that he had been wrong to oppose the Christians. He was escorted to Damascus, where a believer named Ananias prayed for him and he regained his sight. Later he was named Paul. He became a strong promoter of Christianity. Most of the New Testament was written by him. God called him to the apostleship, and he was the first to preach the gospel among the Gentiles. In the beginning, he was not considered a full-fledged apostle, and he often had to defend his authority. He defends his own apostleship to the Corinthians after evangelizing them (1 Cor.9:1–2):

"Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen our Lord Jesus? Aren't you yourselves the result of my work in the Lord's service? Even if others do not consider me an apostle, at least I am your apostle. You are the seal that confirms that I am the Lord's apostle."

However, he also considered himself the least of the apostles because he had previously persecuted Christians. Apostle Paul spent his life talking about Christ's sufferings and mission, founding and organizing churches everywhere he moved. He is also called the apostle of the Gentiles for this reason. Even Paul himself called himself by that name when he said in his letter to the Romans (Romans 1:1):

"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called an apostle and chosen to proclaim the gospel of God, greets all who are in Rome who are beloved of God and the saints whom he has called."

SO, WHAT DOES 153 MEAN?

The disciples caught 153 big fish. The number of fish has been explained in many ways. Some are ready to argue that the number 153 does not specifically tell anything special. But of course, it means something.

Fishermen increase their catch

Fishermen are sometimes prone to exaggeration. John in his gospel tells us the exact amount of the catch so that we can believe that it was a miraculously large catch of fish and not just dismiss it as Peter's exaggerated claim, some kind of religious propaganda. But such a claim would mean that John would be lying in his gospel. No one who believes in the truthfulness of the word of the Bible can accept such an interpretation.

The fish catch was amazingly large, that's all

This interpretation is at least partly true. The catch of fish was truly amazingly large. The size of the catch speaks of Jesus' power over nature. He had tamed a storm on the same lake just by telling the storm to subside. The case also shows that following Jesus' instructions the

result is miraculously great. But the words of the Bible often have many layers. In addition to the fact that there were a lot of fish in the catch, there can be several messages associated with it. This is the way of the scriptures. By studying the writings in more detail, new meanings can be found.

153 different fish species

Ancient zoology knew 153 species of fish. Jerome, a Christian priest, theologian and historian (347-420 AD), recorded that Greek zoologists believed that 153 different species of fish were known at that time.

This explanation does not seem plausible or reasonable. Why would such a biological untruth be put in the Bible in the last chapter of the Gospels. At least it couldn't refer to the fish in the fish catch, because the fish in Peter's catch were all big. Apparently, all the same species of fish.

The fish catch miracle was an act of God. Yes, God already knew then that there were many more species of fish. People might have thought that there were only 153 species of fish. But the miracle was not created by human power or human wisdom.

153 nations

It was believed that 153 nations were known at that time.

Even this is not convincing, because Jesus had called the disciples to be fishers of men. Not nations. The Christianization of nations has been the idea of priests seeking power, sometimes even forced. Europe is or has been full of state churches, to which people have even been forced to become members. Of course, the gospel was to be proclaimed to all nations, but receiving the word is intended for individual people.

The historical development of Christianity has also been greatly influenced by the introduction of infant baptism into the church's activities. Infant baptism removed the baptism meant for believing

people, and thus changed the original purpose and biblical meaning of baptism. Infant baptism in the form in which it appears in the churches gradually came along with various other heresies and later established its position in the Roman Catholic Church, from where it spread to many other denominations that arose from it as the church split.

The number 153 cannot possibly mean ethnic groups of people either. It has been calculated that there are thousands of ethnic groups in the world, depending on how the division is made. The division can be done linguistically, culturally, religiously, geographically or in some other way. But there are always thousands of different groups.

153 states

It has also been said that at one point the number of states in the UN was 153. It has been thought that the gospel would be spread to 153 states. This doesn't seem like a reasonable explanation either. Now there are almost 200 states. What would happen to approximately 50 states that would not be among the 153 states. Even in this case, God did know that one day there would be many more states. And states cannot be evangelized. The Gospel is received by individuals. And those who have accepted the gospel are in all nations, nations and ethnic groups.

After the end of World War II, the UN counted how many nations existed at that time. There were indeed 153 countries in the world at the time on the UN lists. At that time, not all states were accepted as members for political reasons.

Currently, there are many more states. The UN currently recognizes 191 countries. Again, political changes and mergers affect the number. For example, Yugoslavia was once a single nation. After the fall of Yugoslavia's communism, the country has been divided into five UN-recognized states: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia and Montenegro, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Now many countries want to recognize Palestine as their own state.

China, on the other hand, would like to annex Taiwan, etc. So, the situation is in a constant state of change.

Of course, it is not impossible that there could be 153 countries again someday. But the number of fish catch still cannot mean countries. State borders are political systems and have nothing to do with Christianity.

Number of parishes

The number 153 cannot describe the number of churches founded by the apostles either. The apostles founded about 40 congregations or churches.

It would be tempting to say that because Jesus had one fish on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and the apostles caught 153 fish, that Jesus' fish would be the Jerusalem church and the apostles' 153 fish would be the churches founded by the apostles. After all, Jesus focused on evangelizing the Jews and left other peoples to the apostles. This would mean that the goal of the apostles is to establish 153 churches. However, this did not happen.

Jesus' goal for the apostles

Jesus' work was aimed at the Jews and He sometimes made it clear that His mission was not to proclaim His message to others.

Instead, the apostles' task was to take the gospel to other people. The apostles' purpose was to proclaim the gospel, to tell about the kingdom of heaven and to take Christianity to different peoples of the world.

The apostles went to proclaim the gospel and to give birth to churches in different parts of the world. They did not remain in the service of the church, but were founding new churches, encouraging and doctrinally guiding the already existing churches. Jesus did know that His followers, i.e. His disciples would not be able to evangelize all

the peoples of the world. But as He Himself had evangelized the Jews; He gave a hint of the greatness of the apostles' work. The next generation would continue from here. According to researchers, about 40 congregations or churches were born because of the work of the apostles. But the word "church" means "called out" from the world. All those who were called out did not establish a church or belong to any congregation. As individuals or as families, they formed a group of believers around Palestine and the Mediterranean.

The Bible does not provide precise information about the results of the apostles' work. Jesus knew exactly the magnitude of the work of evangelization. Jesus gave information about future events in chapter 24 of the Gospel of Matthew. What will happen before the gospel has been proclaimed to the whole world. In the Bible, Jesus tells the events of the end times in chapter 24 of the Gospel of Matthew. The Followers of Jesus asked Jesus to tell them, "Tell us: when will it be, and what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the world?" Jesus answered: "You may hear the clamor of wars and reports of wars; see that you are not frightened. For this must happen, but this is not the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in many places. But all this is the beginning of labor pains. Then you will be afflicted, and you will be killed, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. And then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise, and they will deceive many. And because lawlessness gains power, the love of most people grows cold. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world, for a witness unto all nations; and then the end will come".

Jesus did not set a goal for the apostles to evangelize the whole world, but to start evangelization not only among the Jews but also among other peoples.

Meaning of 153 fish

The number 153 obviously means a large number and a great success in following Jesus' instructions. Despite its wonderful mathematical structure, it does not itself contain secret meanings.

However, the hidden meaning is in how the number 153 is formed. It is the triangular number of 17. And 17 means final victory. For some reason, triangular figures are popular in the Bible, and especially in the parts written by John.

The meaning of number 17 is "overcoming the enemy" and "complete victory". God overcame the sins of the rebellious people when He sent floods of water upon the earth through rain and the depths of the earth.

Noah

According to the genealogy of the Bible, Noah was the son of Lamech and a descendant of Adam in the tenth generation.

According to the Bible, during the time of Noah, humanity had sunk deep into spiritual error and bad habits, and the world was full of violence. God saw that Noah was walking a life according to God's will. God told Noah that He would destroy the life of the earth because of its wickedness and told Noah to build an arc of cypress wood according to the detailed instructions given by God, where he and his family could take shelter.

It rained heavily on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and all the underground springs of the deep burst forth. The surface of the water rose until all the highest mountains were covered and all living things on earth were destroyed. The land was under water for one hundred and fifty days.

The rain began on the 17th day of the second Hebrew month. Noah's ark and its eight passengers landed on the mountains of Ararat on the 17th day of Tishri, the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar.

From this 17th day of the seventh moon, a completely new phase began in the life of the earth, its animals and people. It was a day of victory over evil.

The number of 153 fish in the fish catch refers to number 17

The number 17, indicating victory, also appears in the catch of fish. Jesus' work to establish the first Christian church was finished. Jesus had chosen 12 apostles and appointed Peter as their leader and caretaker. Demonstrated by His own actions divine grace. In the Gospels, Jesus has called Himself the good shepherd who gives his life for the sheep. Paul writes about Jesus: "Who, though He had the form of God, did not consider it His prey to be like God, but emptied Himself and took the form of a slave, and became in the likeness of men, and was found to be in the nature of a man; He humbled Himself and was obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

Jesus assured them of life after the end of earthly life and resurrection. Although the disciples felt that Jesus and their expectations had suffered defeat, the truth was quite the opposite. Jesus had conquered death. Jesus atoned for the sins of the world on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day after His death, after which Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and later to the disciples. Even after His resurrection, Jesus again gave the mission command to the disciples.

Jesus' mission command: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Jesus also promised to come back to fulfill the prophecies. According to the Gospels of Mark and Luke, Jesus ascended to heaven before the eyes of His disciples, which according to the Acts of the Apostles happened on the fortieth day after Easter.

Other profits related to number 17

The people of Israel crossed the Red Sea on the 17th day of the 7th month when they escaped from Egypt.

Jesus rose from the dead on the 17th day of the month.

In the Acts of the Apostles, 17 languages are mentioned in connection with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Paul mentions 17 things in Romans that cannot separate us from God's love, but in which we gain a noble victory. Not pain or distress, persecution or hunger, nakedness, danger or sword. Neither death nor life, neither angels, nor spirits, neither present nor future nor powers, nor height nor depth, nothing created can separate us from the love of God.

Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

The disciples spent their time in the upper hall in Jerusalem feeling timid and afraid. They were afraid of the followers of Judaism and did not dare to proclaim Jesus publicly. As the Holy Spirit descended upon the followers of Jesus, a loud voice was heard. The sound surprised people, who gathered in large numbers. This was not yet the whole miracle. Because people heard their own language being spoken in the upper hall. And there were listeners from a total of seventeen nations.

Acts 2:9

They asked in amazement: »Are not those who are speaking all Galileans? How then do we each hear the language of our own country of birth? We are here Parthians, Medes and Elamites, we are from Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt and Libya from the region of Cyrene, we have come from Rome, some of us are native Jews, others converts to our faith, we are Cretans and Arabs - and we all hear them proclaim in our own language the great deeds of God.»

When the Holy Spirit had descended on the followers of Jesus on the first Christian Pentecost in Jerusalem, they gained the courage and skill to speak for the gospel.

Peter went out and boldly announced what had happened. About Jesus' resurrection and ascension to heaven. As a result of the incident, thousands of people joined the ranks of believers in Jesus.

THERE WERE A TOTAL OF 154 FISH

Number 154 does not appear in the Bible, but in the Gospel of John, which tells about Peter's catch of fish, in chapter 21, the disciples caught 153 fish with the help of Jesus' advice. 153 is a special number, but when the disciples were able to pull their catch of fish to the shore, there were a total of 154 fish on the shore. Because Jesus also had one fish getting charred. He asked His disciples to eat fish with Him.

If the number 153 does not have a Biblical structure, i.e. it is not divisible by seven, for example, then the number 154 really is.

154 is a biblical number in the sense that it consists of seven and is divisible by seven. The number can be represented as $154 = 22 \times 7 = (7 \times 7 + 7 \times 7 + 7 \times 7 + 7)$. That is, seven sevens appear in it.

154 divided by seven is 22

The number 22, which is 154 divided by seven, is double eleven, which symbolizes disorder and chaos.

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The Hebrew Bible canon also has 22 books that contain the law, the prophets, and the writings that reveal God's covenant relationship with His people.

The Hebrew alphabet consists of 22 letters used to write God's word. God's word is called a lamp (Psalms 119:105), so it is the light by which we should live.

In Jewish tradition, these 22 letters are seen as the building blocks of creation itself. The *Sefer Yetzirah*, an ancient Jewish mystical text, teaches that God created the world through these 22 letters. Although we must approach such mystical interpretations with caution, this tradition emphasizes the strong connection between language and creation in Jewish and Christian thought.

The 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet are also closely related to the structure of certain biblical texts. For example, the book of Psalms contains several acrostic poems where each verse begins with a consecutive letter of the alphabet. Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, is the most detailed example of this. It consists of 22 sections with 8 verses each, each corresponding to a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This intricate design emphasizes the perfection of God's law and the all-encompassing nature of His wisdom.

Lamentations contains four chapters, which are acrostic poems, each containing 22 verses corresponding to 22 Hebrew letters. This structure not only serves as an aid to memory, but also symbolizes the totality of grief expressed due to the destruction of Jerusalem and the completeness of God's judgment and mercy.

As Christians, we can understand how this rich symbolism surrounding the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet ultimately points to Christ, the Word made flesh. Just as these 22 letters can express all human language and divine truth, so Jesus, the Alpha and Omega, embodies the fullness of God's revelation to mankind.

Abraham's name is mentioned in the Bible for the 22nd time, when he offers Isaac on Mount Moriah as a sacrifice. This is a powerful

example of the sacrifice of God's own Son. This connection between the 22 and sacrifice is further emphasized by the fact that there are 22 animals listed as acceptable sacrifices in Genesis.

Number 22 plays a significant role in the Bible's creation story. According to the numerology of creation, God created 22 things during the six days of Genesis. This interpretation suggests divine order and perfection, which reinforces the spiritual meaning of the number. It is essential to approach these insights with faith and remember that God's word is the ultimate source of wisdom and understanding.

The rulers of Israel and Judah

Several judges and kings also had ties to number 22. The meanings are not immediately apparent, but interesting to note. Here are some facts related to the rulers of Israel and Judah:

Jair judged Israel from 1079 to 1057 BC, a total of 22 years.

Jeroboam I officially ruled Israel for 22 years after its division in 930 BC.

Abijah, the grandson of King Solomon, had 22 sons (2 Chron. 13:21).

King Ahaziah of Judah began his reign at the age of 22. He reigned for three months before Jehu usurped the throne (2 Kings 8:26).

King Ahab, known as Israel's worst ruler, ruled for 22 years.

Amon, another notoriously wicked king, began his reign at age 22 (2 Kings 21:19).

Number 154 in the Bible

The possible meaning of number 154 is derived from the number of occurrences of certain words in the original languages of the Bible. The following words appear 154 times in the Bible: "poreuomai" which means to leave, "tsiyon" which is sion and "basileia" which can be translated as kingdom.

Poreuomai

The Greek word "poreuomai" is found 154 times in 147 (7x7x3) Greek New Testament verses. It is found the most in the Gospel of Luke (50 times), followed by the Acts of the Apostles (38 times) and then the Gospel of John (16 times). The word meaning "pass" is usually translated "go" or "depart" in the New Testament of the King James Bible.

"For I myself am under the authority of another, and I have soldiers under my command, and I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does." (Matthew 8:9).

For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and departed (poreuomai) to Thessalonica. Crescens to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia (2 Tim. 4:10).

Tzion

The Hebrew word tzion is recorded 154 times in 154 Hebrew verses of the Old Testament. It is found the most in Isaiah (47 times), followed by Psalms (38 times) and then Jeremiah (17 times). The word meaning "parched place" is translated as "Zion" in the King James Bible.

When David conquered Jebus and renamed it Jerusalem, the term Zion referred to the entire area he conquered (the original City of David). Zion was later used as a general reference to Jerusalem regardless of its size (Isaiah 2:3). It was also used as a synonym for the entire nation of Israel (Isaiah 1:27, Rom. 11:26).

"Then Solomon gathered the elders of Israel and all the leaders of the families, the heads of families of the Israelites, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord from the city of David, that is from Zion". (tzion) (1 Kings 8:1).

And many will go and say: come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. and He will teach us His ways, and we will walk in His paths; for from Zion (tzion) proceeds the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem (Isa. 2:3, KJV).

Basileia

The Greek word "basileia" is recorded in 154 Greek verses of the New Testament. It is recorded the most in Matthew (56 times), followed by Luke (46 times) and then Mark (21 times). The word meaning power, royalty, kingdom, or dominion is usually translated "kingdom" in the King James Bible (KJV).

The kingdom of God, which Matthew calls the kingdom of heaven, is the rule and rule of the Godhead over all. The devil is currently allowed to deceive the whole world and rule it like a prince (Eph. 2:1–2, 6:12, 2 Cor 4:3–4).

However, at the second coming of Christ, the Lord will completely remove Satan's influence from the earth. Jesus will take the throne of the earth as "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Revelation 19:16), beginning His millennial reign.

Therefore, whoever breaks one of these least commandments and teaches people so will be called least in the kingdom of heaven (basileia), but whoever does and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven (basileia) (Matthew 5:19).

And I heard a great voice saying in heaven: Now is come salvation and power, and the kingdom (basileia) of our God, and the power of His Christ; for the accuser of our brethren has been cast down, who accused them before us (Rev. 12:10, KJV).

The religious meaning of the number 154

The words "leave", "Zion" (Jerusalem) and "kingdom" appear in the Bible 154 times. There was a total of 154 fish on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, the great catch of 153 fish that the disciples caught according to Jesus' instructions, and the 154th fish was on the coals with Jesus. Jesus was focused on the Jews, and only the Jews, when telling His gospel.

Paul's letter to the Romans says:

1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel; for it is the power of God, himself for the salvation of every believer, the Jew first, then also the Greek.

2:10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does what is good, to the Jew first, then also to the Greek.

Jesus' 154th fish meant that He had opened the work of spreading the gospel by evangelizing the tribe of Judah. He had organized the organization of the early church. The disciples' task was then to spread the word.

Acts 3 says:

"You are the children of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham: 'And in your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.' For you first, God has raised up His Son and sent Him to bless you, when each of you turns away from your wickedness."

The Jews rejected Jesus

When Jesus was on earth, many Jews were enraptured by what He said and amazed by the miracles He performed. So many believed Him to be the prophesied Messiah, or Christ. They thought: "When Christ

comes, surely he will not do more signs than this one has done?" (John 7:31.)

Despite the overwhelming evidence that Jesus was the Messiah, most of those who saw Jesus and heard Him speak did not become believers. Unfortunately, even some of those who had initially believed in Him later turned away. Why did so many reject Jesus despite overwhelming evidence?

At that time, there was a prevailing notion among the Jews that the Messiah would come and free them from Roman oppression and restore the kingdom of Israel to the earth. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem shortly before the Passover in the year 33, an enthusiastic crowd welcomed Him, calling Him king (John 12:12, 13). The situation changed very quickly. A week later, Jesus was captured and crucified.

After Jesus' death, two of His disciples lamented: "We hoped that this man was the one who was to deliver Israel." (Luk. 24:21.) Even when Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, they had the idea that the Messiah would immediately establish a kingdom on earth. They asked, "Lord, will you restore the kingdom to Israel at this time?" False expectations about the Messiah were clearly deeply rooted in the hearts and minds of Jesus' listeners. (Acts 1:6)

But why has God chosen such a special way to deal with His people? What was the benefit in general that God chose the Jews to be His people? After all, the Jews are not a warm ideal nation. There are plenty of examples of this in the Bible. For example, in Exodus, the Israelites rebelled, rebelled, forgot God's miracles for them, and even began to worship the golden calf as an idol.

This is what Paul explains in the following:

"So, I ask: didn't the Jews stumble because of that, so that they would be left lying on the ground? Vice versa! Their fall has opened salvation to other nations, and thus the Jews have had reason to envy them. If their fall has been riches to the world, and their loss riches to

the nations, how much more will their full victory be?" (Romans 11:11–12)

So, it was still useful when the Jews hardened and did not believe in Jesus. Benefit in such a way that the apostles of Jesus went among the Gentiles and proclaimed the good news to them. This is what it means that "Their fall has opened salvation for other nations". "Thus, the Jews have had reason to envy them". By this, Paul means that the grace of the Gentile nations through Jesus is such a great privilege and, as it were, a shortcut to God, that the Jews become jealous of it. After all, they had to strive for God's connection by following the complicated laws of Moses. And now, that connection with God is given to the Gentiles completely free of grace! For grace, which is indeed free to the recipient, but for which an enormous price has been paid, the body and blood of Jesus.

Jesus said:

"I also have other sheep, ones that are not from this fold, and I must shepherd them too. They will hear my voice, and so there will be one flock and one shepherd" (John 10:16).

When the Jews as a nation rejected the teachings of Jesus and His position as the Messiah, the apostles set out to evangelize other nations. Here the meaning of the words "to leave", "Zion" or "Jerusalem" and "kingdom" are perfectly realized. Jesus had evangelized the Jews and given His life on the cross in Jerusalem to atone for people's sins. Now the apostles had to leave Jerusalem to proclaim the gospel and the kingdom of God all over the world among other nations.

THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

The background of Christianity is in Judaism. Jesus is a Jew. The twelve apostles that Jesus chose were Jews. The New Testament is almost entirely written by Jews.

After the crucifixion, Jesus appeared to His disciples in Galilee, based on which they knew with certainty about Jesus' resurrection and resurrection. Jesus had talked with them and even let them touch Him. The congregation is considered to have begun with the celebration of the giving of the Jewish law 50 days after Passover. The Followers of Jesus had gathered in an upper hall in Jerusalem, timidly fearing possible persecutions by the supporters of Judaism. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit came upon them and gave them the courage to publicly proclaim the gospel. Peter went out and preached in many languages to the people about Jesus. Thousands immediately accepted the message. The Holy Spirit gave them the ability and courage to proclaim the gospel, speak in tongues and heal the sick.

Later, Jesus also called Saul, who at first was a fierce defender of Jewish doctrine and an opponent of Christianity. Saul encountered Jesus on his way to arrest Christians in Damascus. While riding, he fell off his horse and became blind. Jesus asked him "why are you persecuting me". Saul realized that he had been on the wrong side in

opposing the Christians. He was taken to Damascus, where a believer named Ananias prayed for him and his sight was restored. Later he was named Paul. He became a strong promoter of Christianity. Most of the New Testament was written by him.

Christianity began to take shape immediately after the resurrection of Jesus, when His followers followed His teaching and proclaimed His resurrection. This is how the spread of Christianity started.

The Followers of Jesus belonged to the Jewish faith and were accustomed to Jewish culture. Christianity can be considered to have initially been a kind of small sect of Judaism. From the beginning, Judaism has included the expectation of the Messiah. The Messiah would come as a powerful king and free the Jews from foreign conquerors. The most important point of the faith of the followers of Jesus was the Messiahship of Jesus Christ, of which they tried to convince the other Jews in the courtyard of the temple. This caused opposition, which led to the interrogation of Jesus' followers and a ban on preaching. However, the doctrine aroused an expanding interest, and it gradually became an actual religion of its own.

In 44 AD, disputes escalated in Jerusalem over whether all converts had to submit to Jewish law, such as circumcision, before they could be baptized as Christians. At first, all Christians were Jews, but the number of non-Jewish believers kept increasing. The law-abiding Pharisaic Christians of Jerusalem demanded obedience to Jewish law. However, Paul and his colleague Barnabas, who were invited to Jerusalem, managed to convince the Jerusalem Christians of a more liberal interpretation. According to Paul, people did not become righteous before God according to the Jewish law, but by faith in Christ alone.

Christian congregations increased and expanded quickly when the apostles went to the surrounding areas to talk about the gospel. The apostles wanted to establish local churches and train pastors to guide them in the right direction.

Each parish was completely independent and had no common leadership and organization, let alone some kind of union with the state. They chose the people themselves for different tasks. The congregations were bound together only by a common faith.

The coexistence of Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians continued until the fourth century. Although there were zealots on both sides, and especially the spiritual leaders were strongly suspicious of the other side, and there was also persecution, coexistence went quite well among the common people. They celebrated the Sabbath together and could gather in the synagogue.

For two hundred and fifty years the church was a church of martyrs. Christians were persecuted because they refused to worship the emperor and the gods of the Roman Empire as gods. Suspicion was also increased by the fact that the communion was not open to outsiders, which gave rise to rumors of human sacrifices and debauchery, arousing fear and contempt for Christianity.

Everything changed in 312 when Emperor Constantine the Great defeated his opponent at the Battle of Mulvius Bridge. According to the story, before the battle Constantine saw a sign in the sky, a red cross, and heard a voice: "In this sign you are victorious". After this, Constantine became the leader of Western Rome and allowed the free practice of Christianity, which was soon considered persecuted. Constantine also became the first emperor to convert to Christianity. However, he only allowed himself to be baptized on his deathbed.

When Christianity became accepted, life became easier for Christians. At the same time, however, the content of Christianity also changed. From the faith of martyrs, they moved to everyday religiosity, where external signs of religiosity were more important than inner faith. Gentile Christians' attitude towards Jewish Christians also changed. The Jews were no longer respected as the founders of Christianity, but rather were seen as the murderers of Jesus. The leaders of Christendom wanted a clear separation from the Jews. It was not considered good to respect the Sabbath, which was established and considered important by God, and instead, the Sunday of sun worship, more familiar from pagan religions, was taken. The timing of Easter was changed so that the Christian Easter would not coincide with the original Jewish Easter. We started celebrating Christmas, which also comes from old pagan traditions. The church fathers chose traditions from pagan religions rather than Jewish tradition according to the Bible.

The congregations and churches founded by the apostles

According to research, the apostles founded about 40 churches in different parts of the world, mostly in the Mediterranean region. Below is a list of some of the established churches.

Alexandria: Mark
Antioch: Peter
Armenia: Thaddaeus (Judas) and Bartholomew
Athens: Paul
Bulgarian Orthodox Church: Andreas
Constantinople: Andreas
Corinth: Paul
Cyprus: Paul and Barnabas
Ephesus: John
Philip of Ethiopia
Georgian Orthodox Church: Andreas
Goa and Maharashtra: Bartholomew
Jerusalem (Greek Orthodox): Peter and James
Malta: Paul
Milan: Barnabas
Patras: Andreas
Philip: Paul
Romania: Andreas
Rome: Peter and Paul
Russia: Andrea
Saint Thomas Christians of Kerala: Thomas
Santiago de Compostela: Jacob
Syracuse: St. Petersburg
Thessalonica: Paul

There may be errors in the information in the sense that a church may raise its own value by naming a certain apostle as having found it.

On the other hand, it is quite certain that the list also lacks churches that the apostles were founding.

FINALLY

Is it about futility in explaining the meaning of numbers? Is the so-called numerosity of the Bible just a false waste of time, as many state as their firm opinion. Ivan Panin was a mathematician who, living more than a hundred years ago, spent fifty years studying the numerology of the Bible and especially the New Testament. He concluded that it could not be a matter of chance, nor that different authors had agreed together and purposefully developed a code covering the entire New Testament.

Some may argue that a prophetic dimension can be found in any number in the Bible, if one digs deeply enough into the numbers and the numerical values they form. Likewise, they may argue that such has no truth value or benefit to Christendom. In their opinion, it's simply bullshit.

They're probably half right. It is probably the case that all the numbers in the Bible can contain meaning in addition to just telling the number. But that's where they're wrong when they claim that all the study of numbers is a hoax. For we must remember that the word of the Bible urges us to study the secret symbolism of numbers. In Revelation chapter 13 it is said that "Here wisdom is required. Let him who has understanding count the number of the name of the beast: it is the number of a man, and that number is six hundred and sixty-six."

Well, it says that he, who has understanding. So, it doesn't really apply to everyone.

Once the numericity of the Bible cannot statistically be a coincidence, we come to a quite significant and serious statement: the author of the Bible must be God's Holy Spirit Himself, and the task of each apostle was only to be ready to write according to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Ivan Panin was thoroughly disappointed by the feedback he received about his life's work. He imagined that his tens of thousands of pages of documents, which revealed secrets related to the texts of the Bible, would open people's eyes and the word of the Bible would gain a whole new weight in people's minds. However, he was not believed, and his research was forgotten.

The same thing happened when the prophecies of the Bible, more than a thousand years old, came true when the Jews returned to Palestine. The return migration started and finally the state of Israel was founded in 1948. Many believing Bible scholars thought that this would be a strong testimony to all doubters of the truth of God's word and prophecies. And maybe there would be a new zeal to study the word of the Bible and maybe there would also be a revival in the churches. Well, not much of that happened. There are still many Christians in leadership positions in the churches who think that Israel today is not what is promised in the Bible. It is difficult for a person to change his mind about something he has taught and preached about all his life. For ordinary people, the events did not matter much. It was only thought that because of the Holocaust, the UN decided to give the Jews their own state.

As we have noticed in this event, which is told in the last chapter of the Gospel of John, there is an account of a miraculous catch of fish. There were two types of fish at the event. First was the group of 153 fish called Peter's catch of fish, and second was Jesus' 154th fish.

The number 153 is the triangular number of 17, and 17 means victory or a new, better time in many places in the Bible. And so, it is in this case as well. A new era of grace began in the world. Spreading Christian doctrine among the nations.

Jesus' 154th fish, on the other hand, brings out the meaning of the number 154. There are three words in the Bible that appear 154 times in the scriptures. They are "poreuomai" which means to leave, "tsiyon" which is T'zion (Jerusalem) and "basileia" which can be translated as kingdom. (of God). Now it was time to move on. The gospel was to be taken among other nations: leave Jerusalem to take the gospel to all the world to proclaim the coming of the kingdom of God.

And so they left.

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