

# The Mystery of John's 153 Fish

(John 21:3-12)

The Signature of the Gospel Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing... and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No. And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea. And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes. As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread. Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught. Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an **hundred** and **fifty** and **three**: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. -(John 21:3-12)

**153** is the number of great fishes that are caught by Peter and company in the last chapter of the gospels (John 21). [21=7x3]

The inevitable question is begging an answer: why does the Holy Ghost inspire John to record the specific amount of fishes?

It leaves little to no doubt in the Christian's mind that God has specifically inserted numeric details in the Bible that have some sort of deeper meaning.

And yet the meaning is not revealed in the text. Despite the wanting interpretation, we need to search nowhere else except the Bible to understand what **153** is pointing us to. It's actually quite simple, but the verification behind it is miraculous.

There are only 2 people in the Bible whose names are numerically linked to the number **153**.

Those men are Peter and Paul.

Peter is mentioned in **153** verses in the KJB

Paul is mentioned in **153** verses in the KJB

No other names in the Bible are mentioned in exactly **153** verses, nor is any name in the Bible mentioned **153** times. Only Peter and Paul.

These two men are very important in the Bible. It is Peter (who drew the net of **153** fishes) that validates Paul's epistles as Scripture. This is important since many critics dismiss and try to discredit the legitimacy of Paul and his message!

As also in all his [Paul's] epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:16

(This is also the **7+7+7** and final mention of Scriptures in the Bible).

The amount of numeric verifications is unreal. The digits of **153** are found over and over again between Peter and Paul.

If you look at total mentions (instead of verses), "Peter" and "Paul" are mentioned a combined **315** times: The digits of **153**.

The **#315** (and last) mention of Peter / Paul is in 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter **3:15** which directly precedes the verse verifying Paul's writings as Scripture. Notice the reference: **3:15**, which are the exact digits of **153**. Furthermore, the book of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, which contains the last mentions of both Peter and Paul, is exactly **1553** words in length.

Peter + Paul combined are mentioned **315** times in the KJB

Last Mention (**#315** of **315**) "Paul" in 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter **3:15** The book of 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter (which contains the last mention of both Peter and Paul) has **1553** words

These digits are even mentioned in the text itself, when directly referring to Peter and Paul.

In the **#(15+3)** verse of Galatians, Paul talks about meeting Peter, and while doing so, mentions "**three**" and "**fifteen**" ...all the digits of **153**.

Digits of **315 / 153** in the text (Paul meeting Peter)

*"Then after **three** years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him **fifteen** days". –(Galatians 1:18)*

**3** years / **15** days

But why Peter and Paul? What do they have to do with each other? How do they relate to the **153** fishes?

The answer is simple: These are the two men to whom the gospel is committed.

The **153** fishes are mentioned in the last chapter of the gospels and the allegory of fishing always points back to the gospel... *“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”* –(Matthew 4:19)

And of all people in the Bible, Peter and Paul (mentioned in **153** verses each, **315** combined mentions, final mention in a **3:15** verse) are specifically the men to whom the gospel was committed.

The gospel of the circumcision (the Jews) was committed unto Peter and the gospel of the uncircumcision (the Gentiles) was committed unto Paul.

This is clearly stated in Galatians, where Peter and Paul are mentioned a combined **7** times. (The only book where that happens).

And astonishingly, it is stated in Galatians 2:7, which houses the **#153** mention of Peter.

Galatians 2:7 - The signature of the gospel

The **#153** mention of Peter  
reveals the Peter-Paul connection and the meaning of **153**

*“But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me [Paul], as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter;”*  
-(Galatians 2:7)

Galatians 2:7 is the **#29089** verse of the Bible, which is divisible by **1531**

This is **100% MIRACULOUS.**

Consider Peter’s name... how he is also named Simon and Cephas throughout the New Testament. If any of those Simon/Cephas mentions were “Peter” instead, then this anomaly would not have happened.

Consider Paul’s name- that it used to be Saul (mentioned 25 times).

But out of nowhere... in Acts 13- N.T. book #5, chapter 13, (digits of **153**), his name changes to Paul and never goes back.

Then Saul, (who also is called Paul), filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, Acts 13:9 (verse 9 = **1+5+3**)

Why didn't his name get switched earlier when he was first converted? There is no explanation in the text. And yet it's perfectly established from that point forward to accommodate exactly **153** verses with Paul.

(Side note- if you're fact-checking this with software other than King James Pure Bible Search, and if it tells you Paul = 154 verses, then it is counting the colophon of 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy, which is not a verse. Some programs count colophons as verses because they are not built for specific word counts, and don't know how else to categorize them. The true verse count for Paul is **153**.)

A second consideration: this pattern works specifically with "Peter" and "Paul", not including any possessive forms of Peter's (Matthew 8:14, John 1:40, 6:8, Acts 12:14) or Paul's (Acts 19:29, 20:37, 21:8, 21:11, 23:16, 25:14).

Just one adjustment to the wording of the scriptures to make any of their mentions possessive (-'s) would throw off the entire counts.

One more sidenote: Some people think it's cherry-picking to exclude Peter's and Paul's from the counts. No. It would be cherry-picking to use "Peter" + "Paul + Paul's" but exclude "Peter's". It is not cherry-picking to use only standard forms Peter + Paul. It's consistent- and even more indicative of an intentional pattern. I always look for that consistency when searching for any word or verse counts. Without general consistency across the board, a man could make up whatever patterns he wanted to make up. In the King James Bible, we don't need to cherry-pick to make up patterns. These miraculous things simply exist.

I think I can somewhat relate to Peter in Luke 5:8-9...

*"When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:"* –(Luke 5:8-9)

The middle number of **153** is **77**. Again, this points us to "the gospel."

The middle of **153** is... **77**

"the gospel" is mentioned in **77** verses in the KJB

In Galatians... Paul + Peter = **7** verses

"the gospel" = **7** verses

(First mention in verse #7 of Galatians, Last mention is #(7×7) of the Bible)

The #53 mention of “the gospel”  
occurs in the #53 verse of Galatians (Gal. 3:8)  
“the gospel” in Galatians 3:8 is a word/phrase  
#153  
of the chapter

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith,  
preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be  
blessed.  
(Galatians 3:8)

Word/phrase #153 of Acts 14: “they preached the gospel” in Acts 7+7:7

The #(7×7) mention of “gospel” is in the #153 chapter of the New Testament -(2<sup>nd</sup>  
Cor. 4) “...the glorious gospel of Christ...”

And what verse do we turn to whenever we point to the gospel of Jesus Christ  
that is for us today?

Surely, you saw this coming!

The gospel of grace begins on... 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:3

*“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ  
died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he  
rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”*  
-(1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:3)

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:3 = 1535 English Reverse Ordinal,  
and begins on the #15×3 word of the chapter.

*“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after  
man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation  
of Jesus Christ.”*-(Galatians 1:11)

*“And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful  
are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of  
good things!”*-(Romans 10:15)

And what better confirmation could there be than this... All appearances of  
preach\* = 153 mentions in the KJB

**Search Filters: Entire Bible Case Sens Mentions**

**Search Phrase 1 preach - 50**

**Search Phrase 2 preached - 61**

**Search Phrase 3 preacher - 11**

**Search Phrase 4 preacheat - 1**

**Search Phrase 5 preacheth - 3**

**Search Phrase 6 preaching - 27**

**Total Mentions preach\* (in all forms) 153**

*“And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.” - (Galatians 3:8-9)*

The SCRIPTURE preached the gospel unto Abraham! What marvelous thing is this?! The book of Genesis did not even exist until Moses penned it nearly half a millennium after Abraham.

And yet the Scripture preached the gospel unto Abraham! *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith... Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” - (Galatians 3:13,14,16)*

The seed of Abraham is Christ, and that seed was directly promised to come from Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah.

*“The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.” - (Genesis 49:10)*

**Search Filters: Entire Bible Case Sens Mentions**

**Search Phrase 1 Abraham - 231**

**Search Phrase 2 Isaac - 128**

**Search Phrase 3 Jacob - 358**

**Search Phrase 4 Judah - 813**

**Total Mentions Abraham + Isaac + Jacob + Judah 1530**

*“The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus;” - (Acts 3:13) ... “the Lion of the tribe of Juda” - (Rev. 5:5)*

*“Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;” - (Matthew 1:2)*

Note: Judah is mostly translated as Judas & Juda in the New Testament, but is translated as Judah exactly 1 time (in Hebrews 8:8). Without that single mention of Judah in the N.T., the total count would be brought down from **1530** to 1529.

So what do we have... the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son, preached unto Abraham, promised through Isaac, Jacob and Judah in the book of Genesis, and first revealed in the book of Matthew...

Total verses in the first book  
of the Old Testament  
Genesis  
**1533** verses

Total verses in the first book  
of the New Testament  
Matthew  
**153** x **7** verses

Most modern Bibles (including ESV, NASB, NIV, etc.) omit verses in Matthew And now, watch, as the chances of randomness drop from practically nothing to almost dead zero.

The very first verse of the gospel of Matthew gives a summarization of all generations of Jesus Christ by claiming genealogy to David and Abraham. These two are most important of all, because both of them directly received the promise from God that the Christ would come from their seed. And here they are together, in the very first verse of the gospels, the gospel of Matthew.

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ,  
the son of David, the son of Abraham.  
Matthew 1:1

Total # of Verses in  
The Gospel of Matthew  
**153** x **7** verses

Total # of Verses with  
David+Abraham  
**153** x **7** verses

And let's not forget, Matthew 1 is **777** chapters away from the **#153** chapter of the Bible (Last chapter of Numbers)

Lord (Capitalized) + GOD (UPPERCASE) are mentioned in **153** x **7** verses  
The Gospel of Matthew contains **153** x **7** verses

David + Abraham (Matthew 1:1) are mentioned in **153** x **7** verses

Jesus + David + Abraham (Matthew 1:1) are mentioned in **153** x 13 verses  
Jesus is the son of David and the son of Abraham.  
Jesus is the Son of God.

The gospel of the Jews was committed to...

Peter

**153**

verses in the KJB

The gospel of the Gentiles was committed to...

Paul

**153**

verses in the KJB

The gospel was revealed to Peter and Paul by...

the Son

(Case-sensitive)

**153**

verses in the KJB

John counted the fishes they caught that day, memorized that number, and felt compelled to write that exact number in his gospel several decades later. This number was obviously very special to John, but he never says why. Under what inspiration do you think led him to count, memorize, and record that number ~1500 years before verse divisions would be added to the Holy Scriptures?

If you think any of this is just coincidence, Think Again!

Have a Blessed Day

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