

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.*

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

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153 Fish – Sons of God

As testified in the last issue, at 1.53 am, the Lord told me to proclaim the one new man. Actually, this is the third time the Lord has spoken to me at 1.53 am about the sons of God. If you have not read the last issue, you are encouraged to do so since it ties in with what follows.

One New Man – "Coming Very, Very Soon": <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc638.pdf>

In this issue, I will share on the first occasion the Lord spoke at this particular time. But before doing so, let us again consider the biblical meaning of the number 153 that appears only once in scripture: **Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three (153); and although there were so many, the net was not torn** (John 21:11). There has been a lot of speculation about the meaning of this great catch. For example, Lieut.-Col, F. Roberts found that amongst the multitudes who received direct blessing from Christ there are recorded exactly 153 individual cases. But what does this mean? It appears that the answer is discovered through the numerics of 153 as well as the gematria of some related words.

In his book *Number In Scripture* (Kregel, 1967), E.W. Bullinger notes that the number 153 is a factor of 9 times 17. The number **9** signifies **the fruit of the spirit**, and the number **17** signifies **victory**. Further, he notes that the expression "**sons of God**" occurs 7 times in Hebrew and by gematria equals the number 153; the expression "**joint-heirs**" (Romans 8:17) by gematria is 1071, which is a factor of 7 times 153; and the expression "**the creation of God**" by gematria is 1224, which is a factor of 8 times 153. Within the miracle of the 153 fish, the word for "**fishes**" by gematria is 1224, which is a factor of 8 times 153, and the word for "**the net**" by gematria is 1224, again a factor of 8 times 153. Notice the repetition of the number **7**, which signifies **completeness** or **spiritual perfection**, and the number **8**, which signifies **new birth** or **new beginning**.

There is an obvious thread woven through all the above words, but the most direct and significant meaning of 153 is discovered in the expression "**sons of God**," which speaks of those who will be counted worthy to reign with Christ in His coming Kingdom. I believe this is the message of the 153 fish in this parable. The casting of the net is something beyond initial salvation. It is a gathering of the called and chosen of Christ, the elect company that will rise from among the dead in the first or *out*-resurrection and be transfigured along with the chosen and faithful in Christ that are alive when Christ snatches away His conquerors to meet Him in air (earthly event). In that day, the Son of God Himself will cast the net to gather together His prized possession that will reign on earth and among the celestials as **a kingdom and priests** for 1,000 years (Revelation 5:10; 20:6), according to the order of Melchizedek. They are the **joint heirs** with Christ, the many **sons brought to glory** (Hebrews 2:10), **the sons of God, the sons of the resurrection** (Luke 20:36). They will be directly and individually blessed by the Lord.

But there is more, for within the text of John 20:19-21:17, there is a hint that the number 153 is representative of the sons that will experience Tabernacles at the very, very soon coming of the Lord. It may even give a hint of the timing of events. According to Leviticus 23:33-43, we know that the first day of the month of **Tishri** is the beginning of the **fall feasts**, starting with the **Feast of Trumpets** (day 1), followed by the **Day of Atonement** (day 10), followed by the **Feast of Booths** or **Tabernacles** (days 15-21), and concluding with **the great day, the eighth day** (day 22). I would add day 23 as the commencement of the Kingdom on earth. This is based on the account of Solomon finishing the temple and sending forth his people rejoicing and happy on the 23rd day (2 Chronicles 7:8-10).

By comparing this to John's text, we discover that after Jesus' resurrection, on the first day of the week, He privately appeared to His disciples and breathed on them so that they received the Holy Spirit, which empowered them to go forth with the good news of His Kingdom. Then eight days later, Jesus appeared to them again in the same fashion in order to convince Thomas. Actually, it could be said that Jesus taught Thomas. But what is significant in this encounter is that Jesus proclaimed: **"Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."** The 153 fish represent the blessed ones taught by the Lord with His law written on their hearts. Carrying the story forward, the **seven disciples** went fishing, catching nothing until Jesus told them where to cast the net. Then, He **fed His disciples** and sent them forth, especially Peter who was commanded to tend the lambs and to shepherd and tend the sheep. Perhaps this is the pattern of what will transpire some year in the month of Tishri as the Lord appears to His people and sends them forth to the nations to establish His Kingdom on earth.

We are given more intimation of Tabernacles in John 7:1-38 when Jesus went up to the temple midweek of Tabernacles and taught. If Jesus breathes the full measure of the Spirit into His disciples on the first day of Tabernacles, perhaps midweek He will fully write His laws on their hearts (Hebrews 8:10). Then, on the eighth day or the last day, the great day of the feast (John 7:37), He will present His chosen and faithful brethren to His Father. On the 23rd day (2 Chronicles 7:10), they will be sent forth into the world, rejoicing and happy of heart for **from their innermost being will flow rivers of living water** (John 7:38). The world will begin to see *the* Christ in His body of conquering believers, the manifested sons of God, the new creation in Christ, the first fruits of the one new man. They will enter into the feast of the Lambkin for 1,000 years, and, as they do, they will feed the multitude of the nations. Glory will begin to fill the whole earth. Obviously, there is some detail and linkage lacking in some of this; nevertheless, the good news is that God has a plan to manifest His sons of glory.

Now, let us consider another personal experience I had involving the number 153. I will only share the highlights. If interested in the full version, please see this link. <http://www.kingdomandglory.com/tuc/tuc439.pdf>

In the middle of the night, on **April 30, 2010**, I heard a trumpet playing the old American gospel hymn often titled **"When the Saints Go Marching In"** that was made into a popular jazz tune by Louis Armstrong in the 1930s. As I listened to this song being trumpeted, I was told to **"look at the clock now"**; according to our atomic clock, the time was 1.53 am. This was not some over-reactive imagination. I never saw anyone or anything in the room, but I believe the Lord sent a trumpeting angel to play this song and to link the number 153 to the saints or the sons of God. The Lord could have sent a heavenly choir, but instead, He sent a trumpeter so that I would not miss the point. A trumpet sound is coming that will call the saints into the **Kingdom of the Lord and of His Christ** in order to establish a new world order through the one new man, the sons of God. Here are some verses to this song.

Oh, when the saints go marching in
Oh, when the saints go marching in
Lord, how I want to be in that number
When the saints go marching in

Oh, when **the trumpet sounds** its call
Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call
Lord, I want to be in that number
When the trumpet sounds its call

Oh, when the new world is revealed
Oh, when the new world is revealed
Lord, how I want to be in that number
When the new world is revealed

Daniel prophesied of a future day: **'But the saints (holy ones) of the Highest One (Most High) will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom for the age, for all ages to come'** (Daniel 7:18). This is all because **to Him (Christ) is given dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, and all peoples, nations, and languages do serve Him, His dominion is a dominion age-during (eonian), that does not pass away, and His kingdom that which is not destroyed** (Daniel 7:14).

Do you hear the sound of the trumpet? The Lord is coming very, very soon, and the conquerors, the first fruits of the sons of God, the saints or holy ones of the Most High, will go marching into immortality, and a new world order of righteousness, justice, peace, and impartiality will be revealed through them to all the nations.