

# Hidden Gems in John

Divinely Inspired and Humanly Written

















# Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion



# Literary Types of the Bible

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- ▶ Law
- ▶ History
- ▶ Wisdom
- ▶ Poetry
- ▶ Gospel
- ▶ Epistles
- ▶ Prophecy
- ▶ Apocalyptic
- ▶ Historical literature
- ▶ Dramatic literature
- ▶ Legal Documents
- ▶ Song Lyrics
- ▶ Short Story
- ▶ Sermons
- ▶ Speeches
- ▶ Proclamations
- ▶ Parables
- ▶ Prayers
- ▶ Metaphors
- ▶ Allegory





THE BIBLE WAS  
WRITTEN  
FOR US  
AND  
NOT TO US



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א	י	י	ר	ש	ב	ן	ה	א	מ	ה	ה	ז	א	ת	ע	ם	ב	נ	י	ע	ם	י
ר	ה	ם	מ	א	ת	ב	נ	י	ח	ת	ש	מ	ה	ק	ב	ר	א	ב	ר	ה	ם	ו
נ	י	ו	כ	י	מ	י	ם	א	ח	ד	י	ם	א	ה	ב	ת	ו	א	ת	ה	ו	
י	ה	ן	ר	א	ש	נ	ה	ו	א	ל	א	ה	ו	י	ל	ד	י	ה	א	ח	ר	
ת	מ	צ	א	נ	ו	ה	כ	ר	נ	א	ה	כ	ת	נ	ת	ב	נ	ך	ה	ו	א	
נ	כ	ר	א	ל	י	ה	ם	ו	י	ד	ב	ר	א	ת	ם	ק	ש	ו	ת	ו	א	
א	ו	נ	ן	ו	ש	ל	ה	ו	פ	ר	ץ	ו	ז	ר	ח	ו	י	מ	ת	ע	ר	
ע	ם	ב	נ	י	י	ש	ר	א	ל	ר	ב	ו	ע	צ	ו	ם	מ	מ	נ	ו	ה	ב
א	ת	א	ה	ר	ן	ו	א	ת	מ	ש	ה	ו	ש	ן	י	ח	י	י	ע	מ	ר	ם
ג	ע	א	ח	א	ד	א	ב	י	א	ע	ל	פ	ר	ע	ה	ו	ע	ל	מ	צ	ר	ם
מ	מ	ר	ה	כ	י	מ	י	ר	ם	ה	ם	ע	ל	כ	ן	ק	ר	א	ש	מ	ה	מ
ה	ג	י	ש	ו	א	ל	ה	ד	ל	ת	א	א	ו	ל	ה	מ	ז	ו	ה	ו	ר	
ה	ל	ו	ה	י	ה	א	ח	ד	ו	ס	ר	ח	ה	ע	ד	ף	ב	י	ר	י	ע	ת
י	ב	ו	א	ת	ה	נ	ר	י	ק	ט	י	ת	ר	נ	ה	ו	ב	ה	ע	ל	ת	א
ע	ד	צ	א	ת	ו	ו	י	צ	א	ו	ד	ב	ר	א	ל	ב	נ	י	י	ש	ר	א
פ	ך	ס	פ	י	ר	ו	י	ה	ל	ם	ו	ט	ו	ר	ה	ש	ל	י	ש	י	ל	
ע	ל	ק	ר	נ	ת	מ	ז	ב	ח	ה	ע	ל	ה	ו	א	ת	כ	ל	ד	מ	ה	י
ק	א	ל	י	ס	ו	ד	ה	מ	ז	ב	ח	ו	א	ת	ה	ח	ל	ב	ו	א	ת	ה
א	ח	ר	י	ה	כ	ב	ס	א	ת	ה	נ	ג	ע	ו	ה	נ	ה	ל	א	ה	פ	ך

TRUMP

DONALD

PRESIDENT [S: 2 (-)]

US [S: 2]

1946

(b. year)

JUNE

(b. month)

AFFLUENT

FINANCING

MONEY

WEALTH

THE #1 WORLDWIDE BESTSELLER

**DAN BROWN**

AUTHOR OF ORIGIN

**THE  
DA VINCI  
CODE**





Gematria

























The background is a vibrant blue field filled with various numbers (0-9) and geometric shapes like squares and circles. These elements are rendered in different shades of blue and white, creating a layered, abstract pattern. The word "Gematria" is centered over this pattern in a large, bold, black font.

# Gematria





# Hebrew Letters

8  Chet ח	7  Zayin ז	6  Vav ו	5  Hey ה	4  Dalet ד	3  Gimmel ג	2  Bet ב	1  Aleph א
70  Ayin ע	60  Samekh ס	50  Nun נ	40  Mem מ	30  Lamed ל	20  Kaf כ	10  Yod י	9  Tet ט
400  Tav ת	300  Shin ש	200  Resh ר	100  Qof ק	90  Tsade צ	80  Pey פ		



# Matthew

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<sup>15</sup>Eliud the father of Eleazar,  
Eleazar the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob,

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<sup>17</sup>Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

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14

The Birth of Jesus Christ



ד נ ד

d v D

דוד

d v D

4+6+4



דוד

d v D

$$4+6+4=14$$

# John

## The Word Became Flesh

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

<sup>6</sup>There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the Only Begotten

<sup>16</sup>From the fulness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No-one has ever seen God, but the Only Begotten Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

## John the Baptist Denies Being the Christ

<sup>19</sup>Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup>He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely "I am not the Christ."

<sup>21</sup>They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?"

He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

He answered, "No."

<sup>22</sup>Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to the one who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup>John replied in the words of the prophet, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

<sup>24</sup>Now some Pharisees who had come to him sent <sup>25</sup>questioned him, "Why then do you baptise if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup>Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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# Gone Fishing

A photograph of a fishing net in the ocean, filled with many fish. The net is made of dark mesh and has several black floats attached to it. The fish are mostly silver with some yellow and orange ones. The water is blue and slightly choppy. The background shows a clear sky.

**John 21**







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Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

The Birth of Jesus Christ

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup>Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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the disciple whom Jesus loved

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The background is a vibrant blue field filled with various numbers (0-9) and geometric shapes like squares and circles. These elements are rendered in different shades of blue and white, some appearing as outlines and others as solid shapes, creating a complex, layered pattern. The word "Gematria" is centered over this pattern in a large, bold, black font.

# Gematria



# John

# 496 syllables

## *The Word Became Flesh*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning.

<sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

<sup>6</sup>There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the Only Begotten

<sup>16</sup>From the fulness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No-one has ever seen God, but the Only Begotten Son, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

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<sup>19</sup>Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. <sup>20</sup>He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ."

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He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?"

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<sup>22</sup>Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

<sup>23</sup>John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

<sup>24</sup>Now some Pharisees who had sent <sup>25</sup>questioned him, "Why then do you baptise if you are not the Christ, Elijah, nor the Prophet?"



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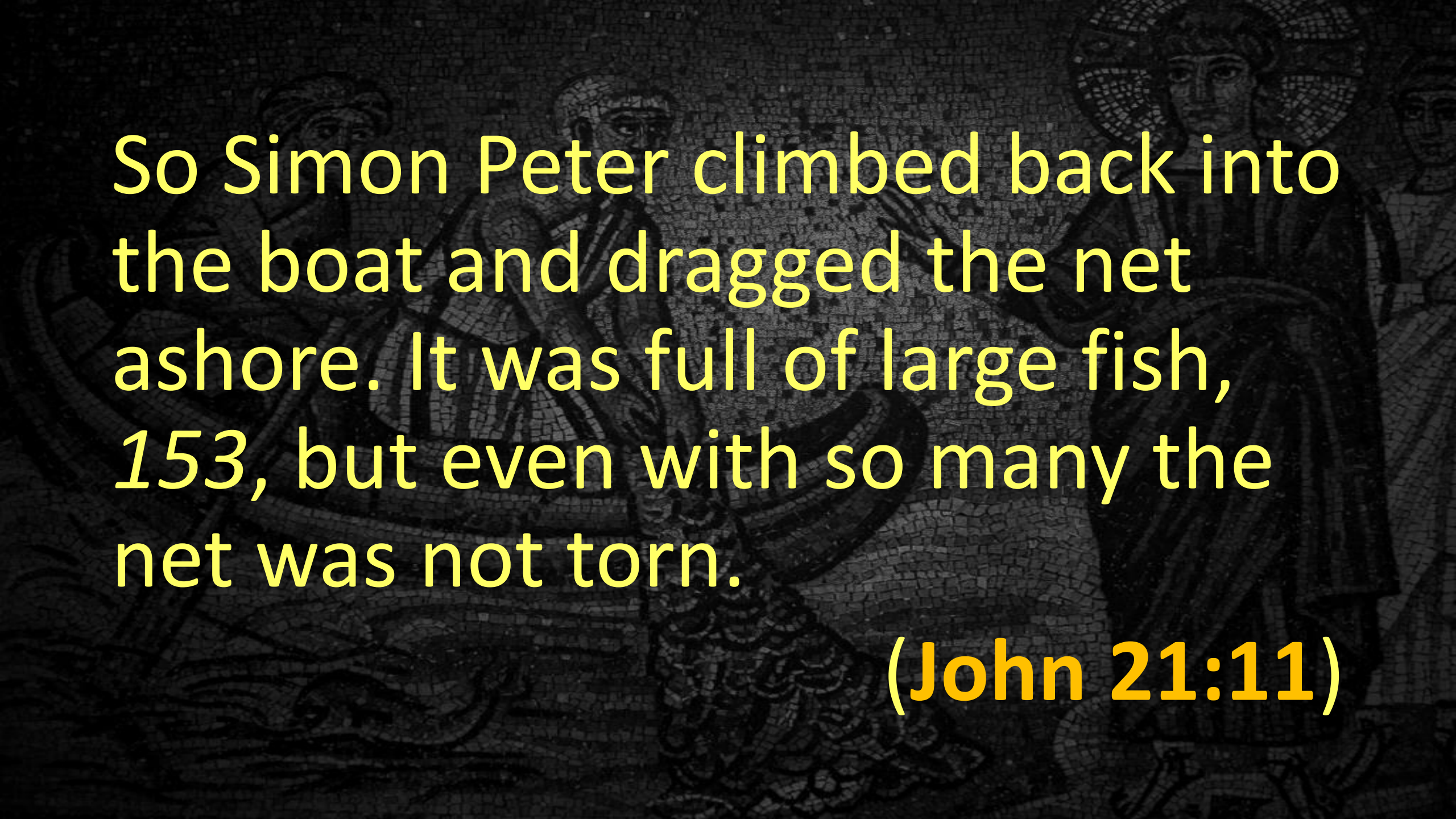
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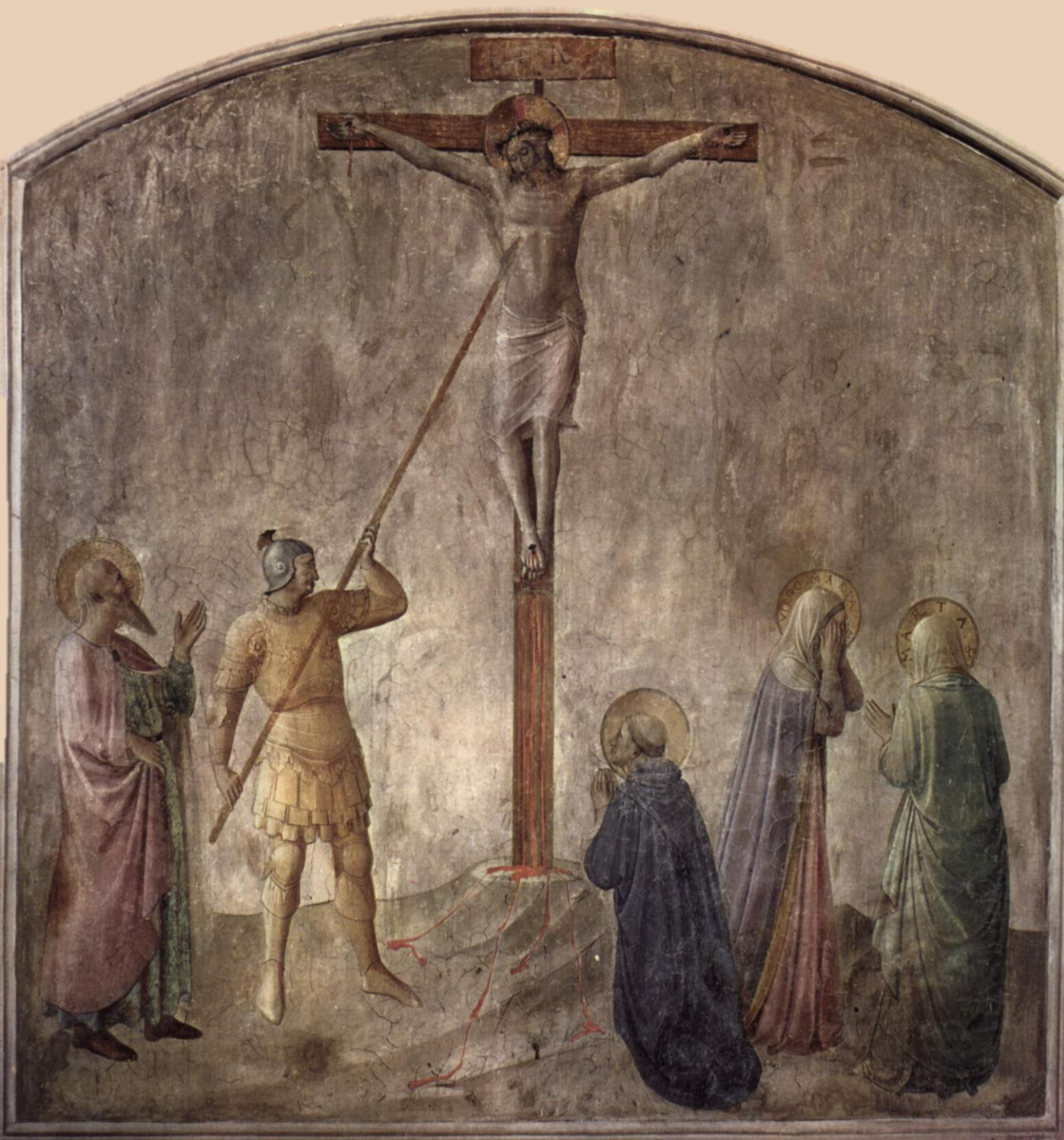




So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, *153*, but even with so many the net was not torn.

**(John 21:11)**





One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man *who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true.* He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

**(John 19:34-35)**







# ***Some Fishy Interpretations***



# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

SALVATION OF THE ELECT





# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

## SALVATION OF THE ELECT

**10** = Commandments



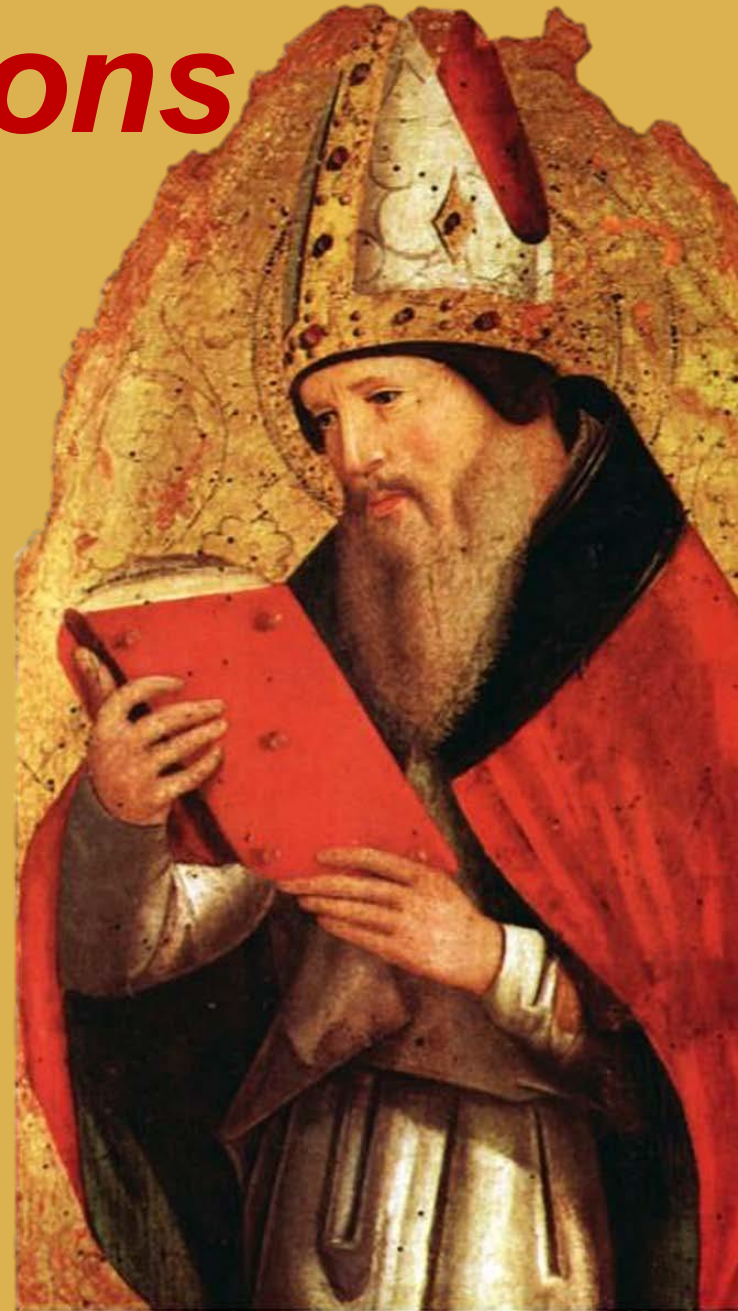
# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

## SALVATION OF THE ELECT

**10** = Commandments

+

**7** = Gifts Holy Spirit; Sabbath;  
Holiness





# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

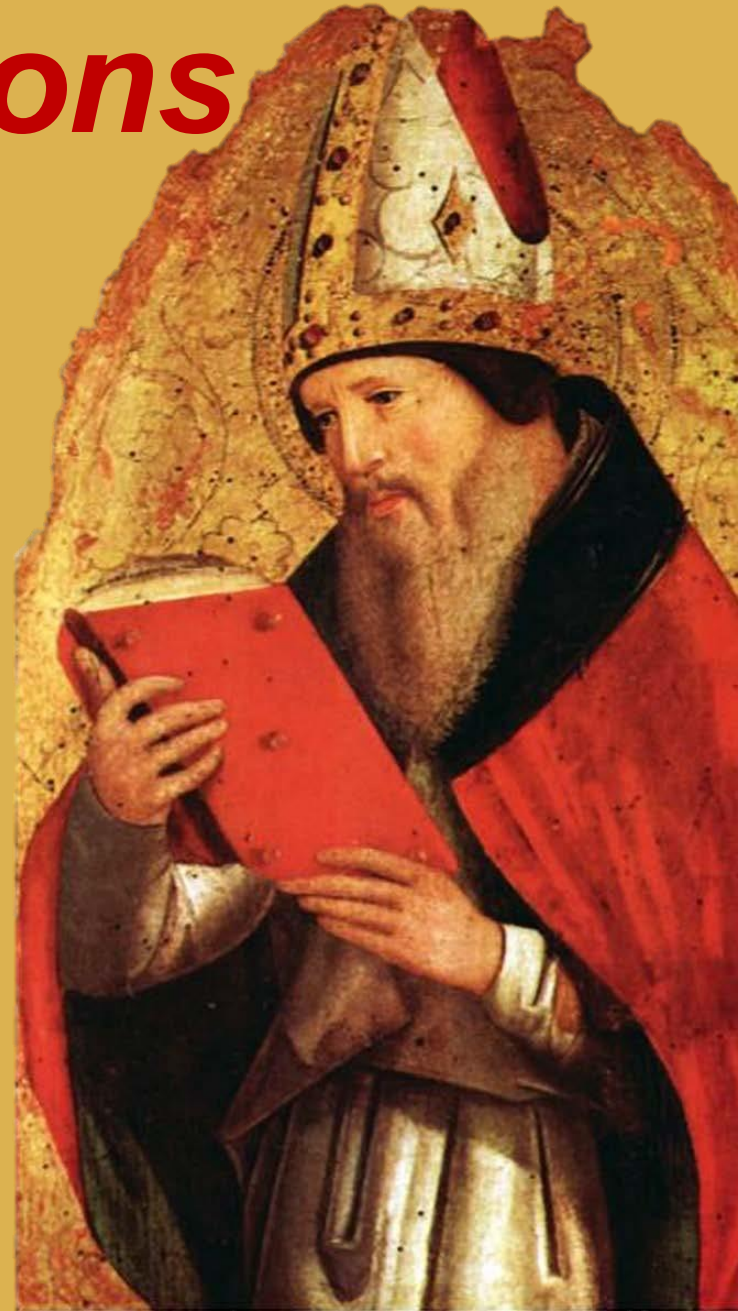
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**$T_{17}$**  = 153





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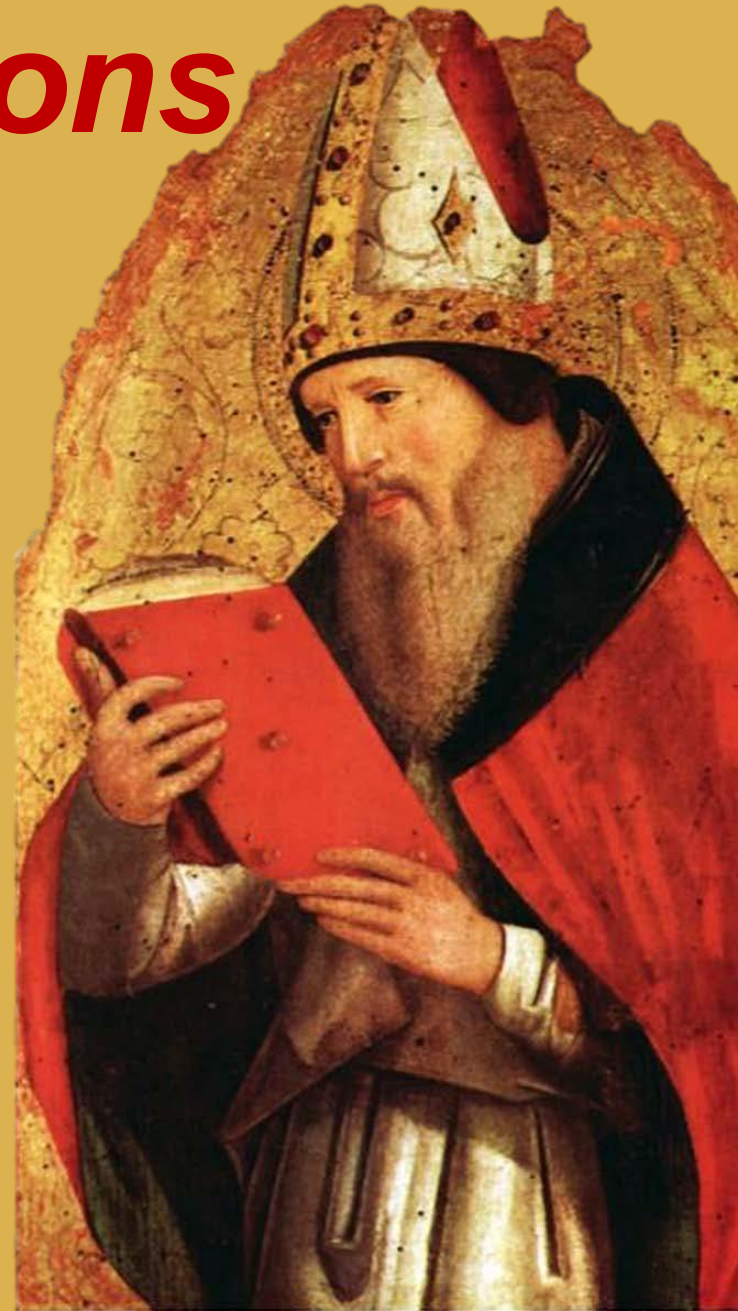
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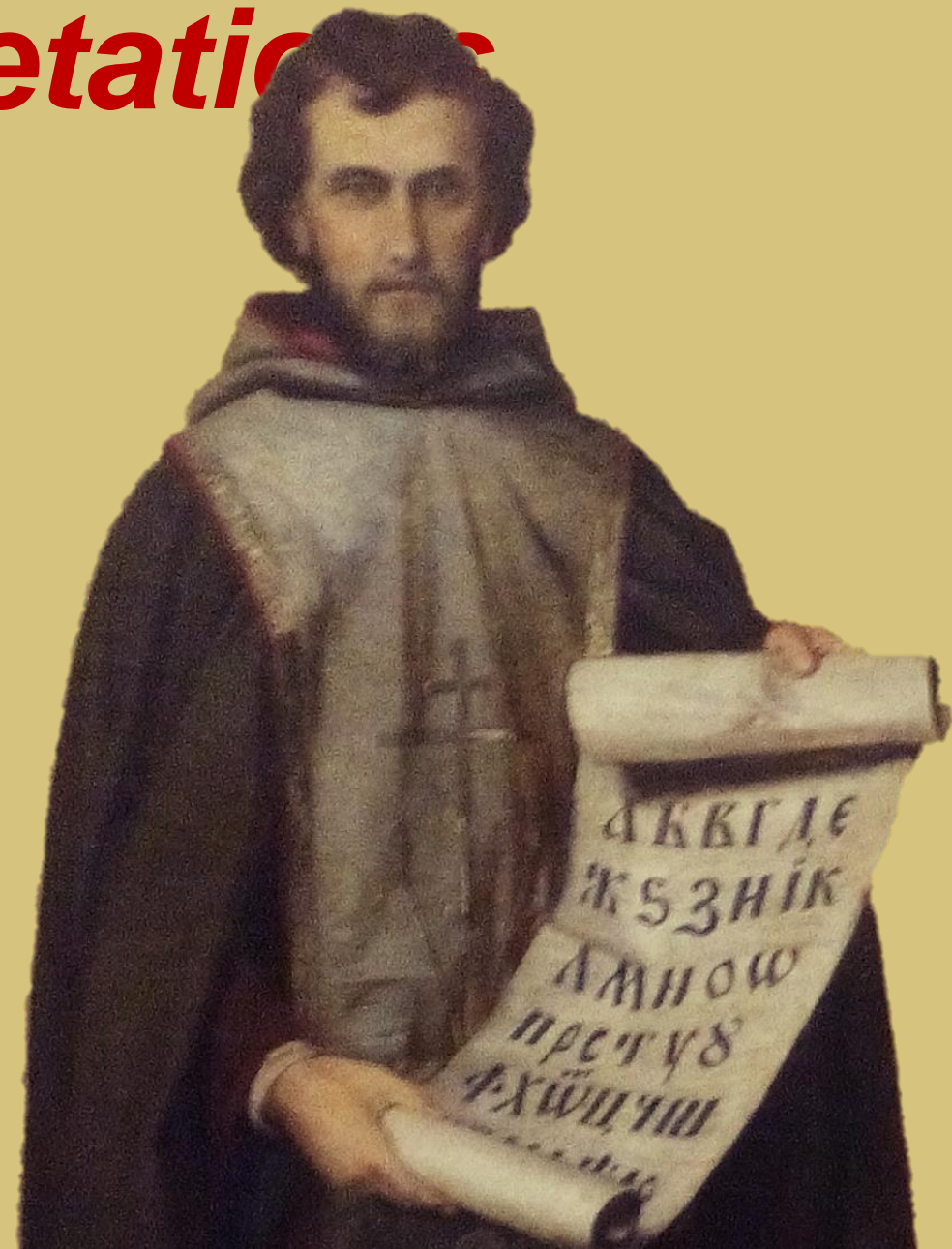
**$T_{17}$**  = 153

**153** = The Elect



# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

SALVATION OF THE CHURCH





# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

## SALVATION OF THE CHURCH

100 = Gentiles



# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

## SALVATION OF THE CHURCH

**100** = Gentiles

+

**50** = Jews





# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

## SALVATION OF THE CHURCH

**100** = Gentiles

+

**50** = Jews

+

**3** = Trinity

= 153



# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

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+

**50** = Jews

+

**3** = Trinity

= 153

**153** = The Whole Church





# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

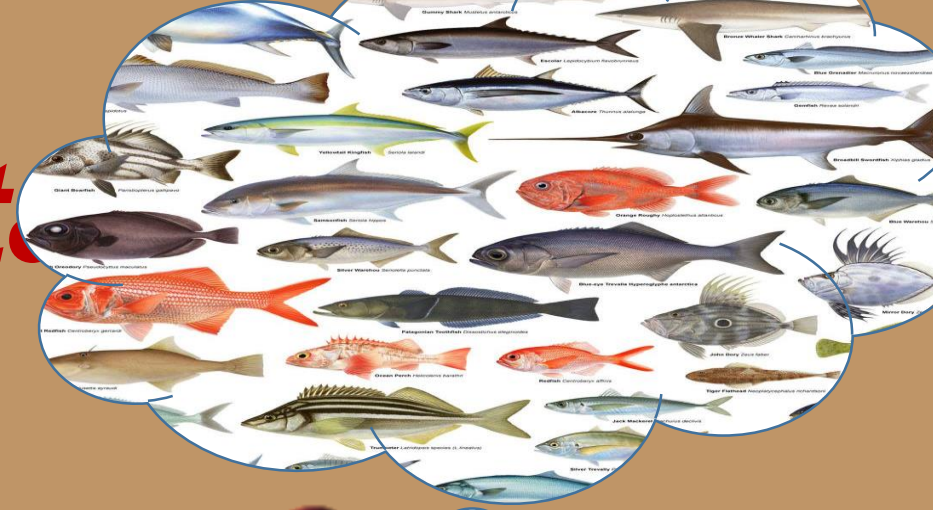
SALVATION FOR ALL PEOPLE TYPES



# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

SALVATION FOR ALL PEOPLE TYPES

153 = every species of fish in the world





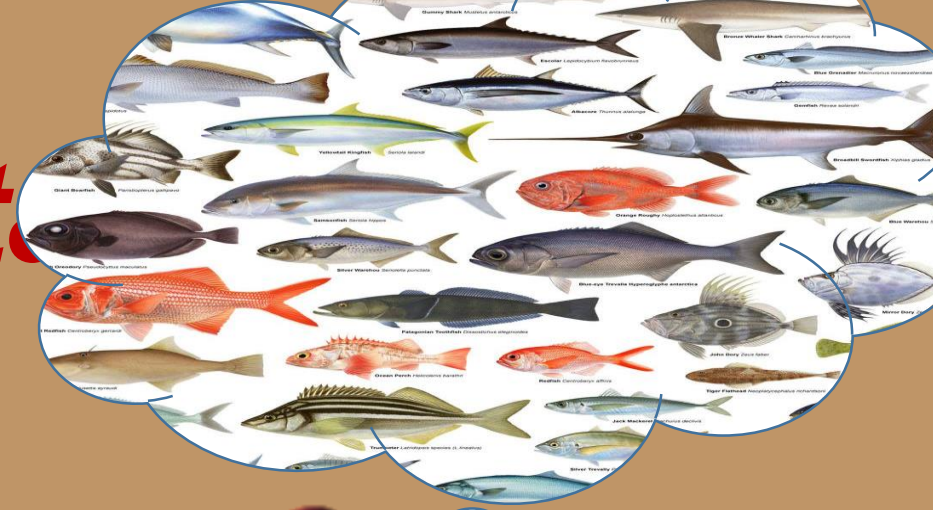
# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

## SALVATION FOR ALL PEOPLE TYPES

**153** = every species of fish in the world

**Fish** = every kind of people

**153** = Every 'ethnicity' of believer in the Church



# ***Some Fishy Interpretations***

**IT'S TRUE – HONEST!**





# ***Some Fishy Interpretations***

**IT'S TRUE – HONEST!**

Fishermen exaggerate



# ***Some Fishy Interpretations***

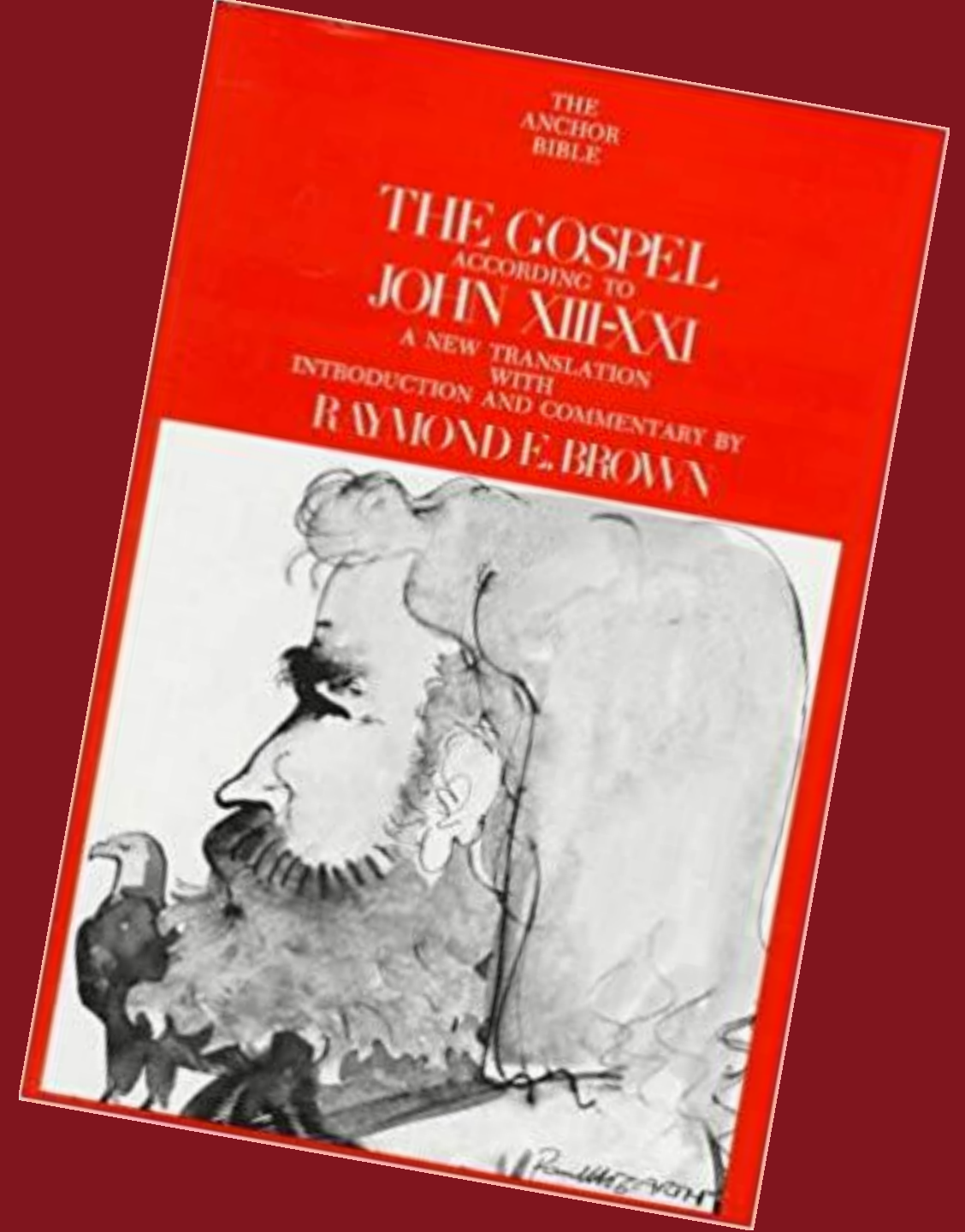
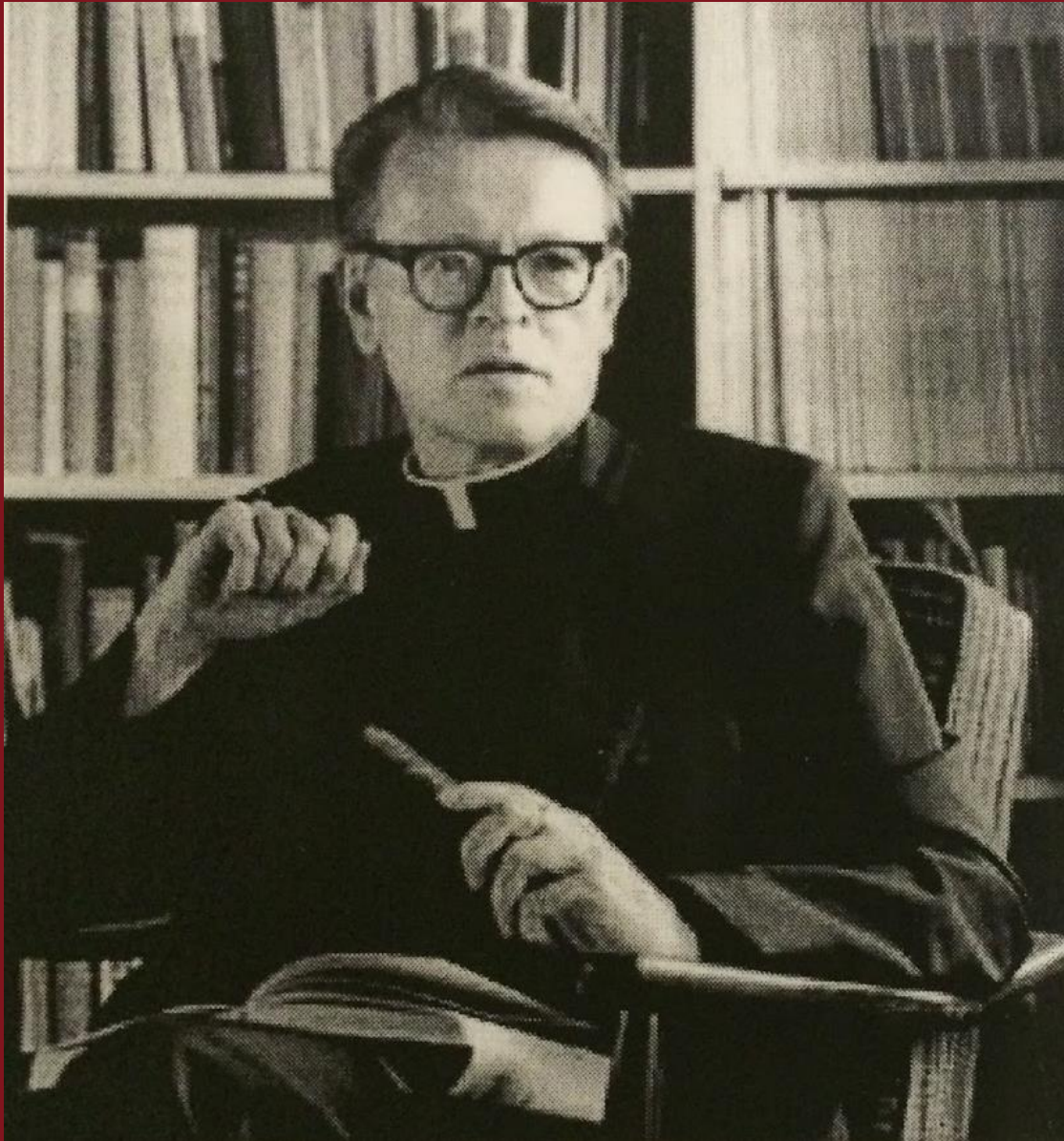
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Fishermen exaggerate

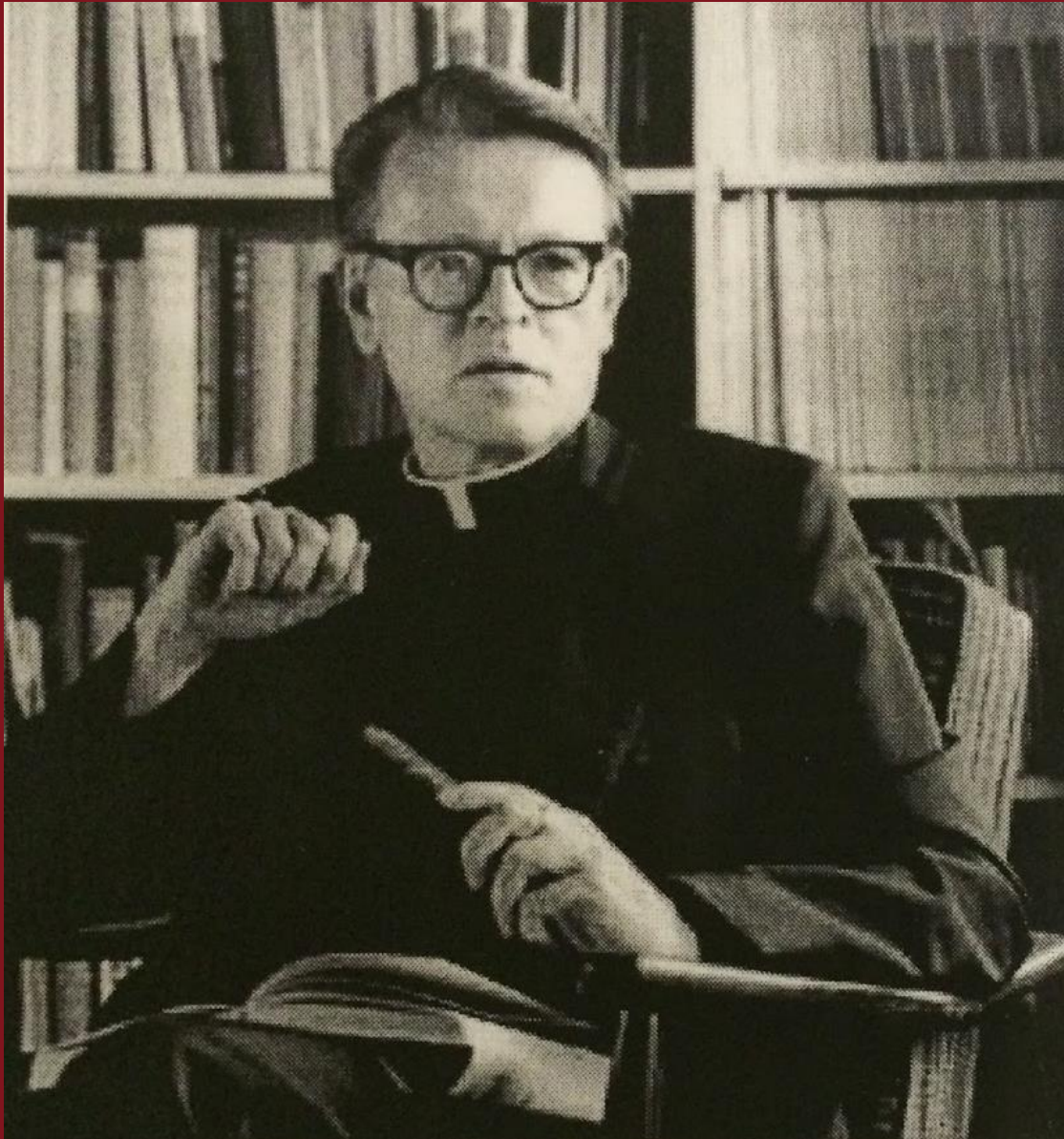
This is **NO** exaggeration!











*'One cannot deny that some of these interpretations (they are not mutually exclusive) are possible, but they all encounter the same objection: **we have no evidence** that any such complicated understating of 153 **would have been intelligible to John's readers.**'*

Raymond E. Brown



# ***Principles for avoiding crazy readings***

***Principle 1: Don't read too much into a single study***

***Principle 2: Don't read too much into a single meta-analysis***

***Principle 3: Don't read too much into a single review***

***Principle 4: Don't read too much into a single book***

# ***Principles for avoiding crazy readings***

**1. The claim must fit the data**



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**2. The meaning must be possible for the *author*  
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- 1. The claim must fit the data**
- 2. The meaning must be possible for the *author* and the *first readers***
- 3. Any 'deep' meaning must cohere with the surface text**





АКВГДЕ  
ЖЗЗНІК  
АМНОВ  
претус  
ФХЩТШ

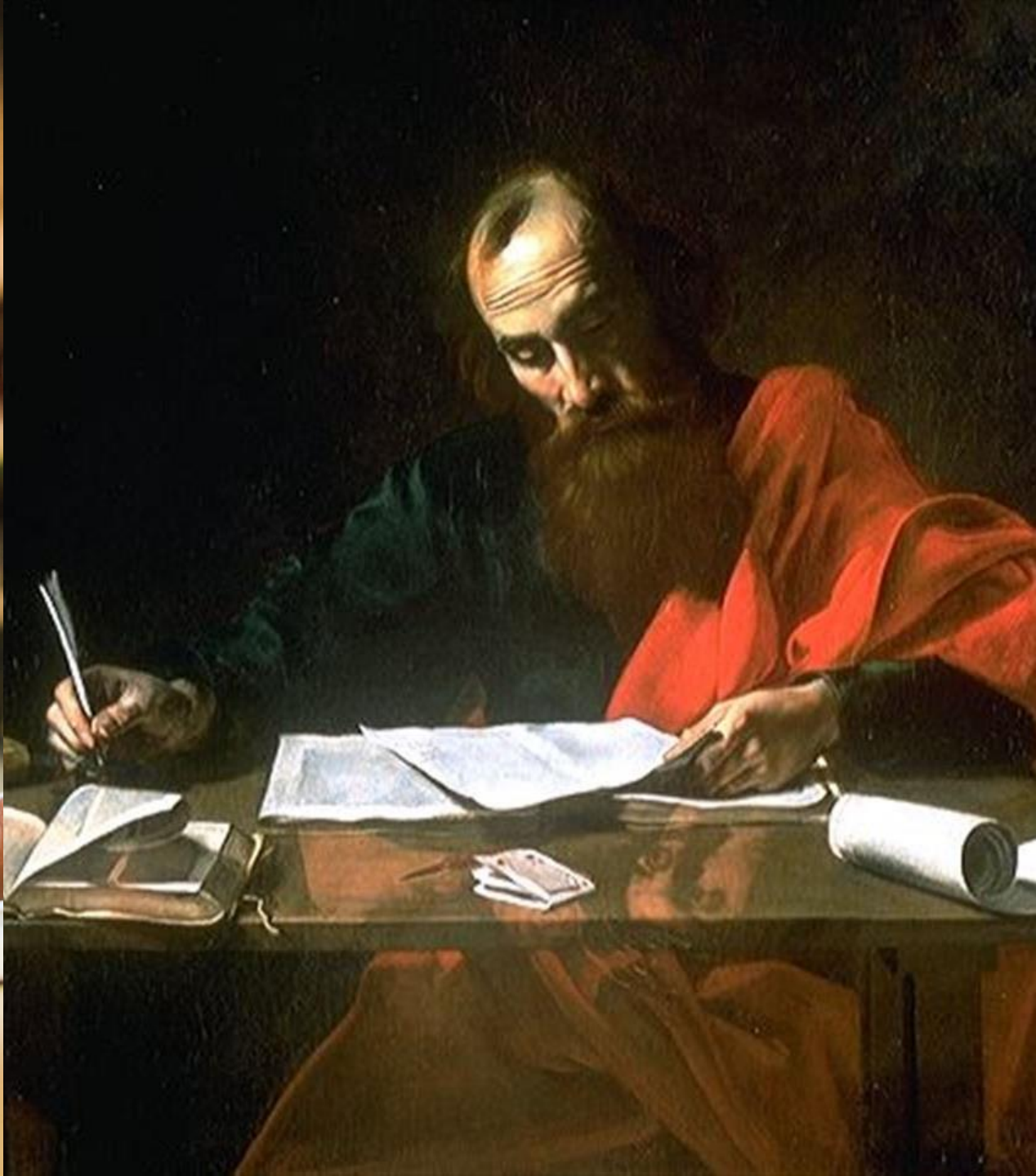














בני האלהים

40 + 10 + 5 + 30 + 1 + 5 + 10 + 50 + 2 = **153**

**bny h'lhym / *bene haelohim***

**sons of God**

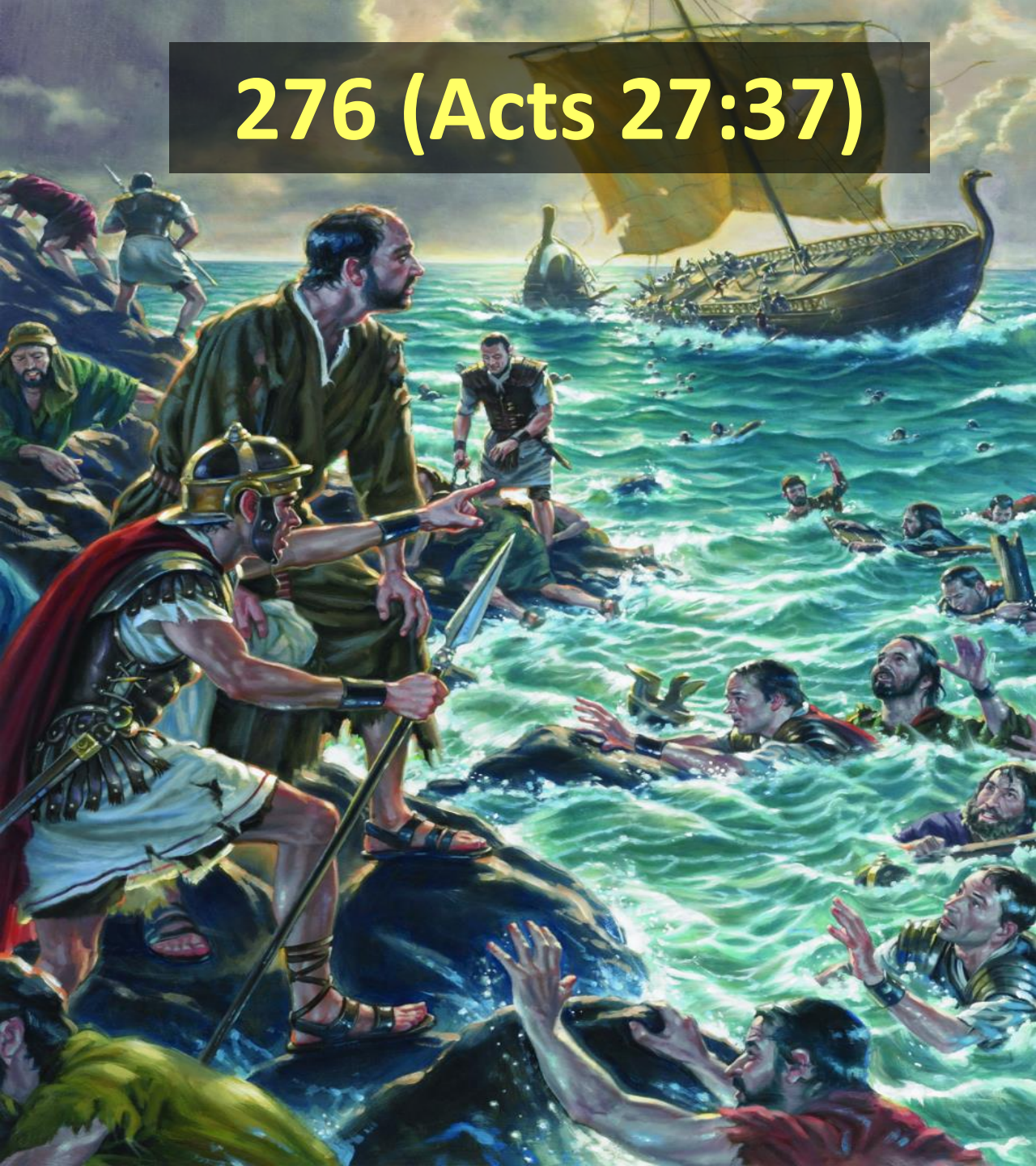




**153 (John 21:11)**

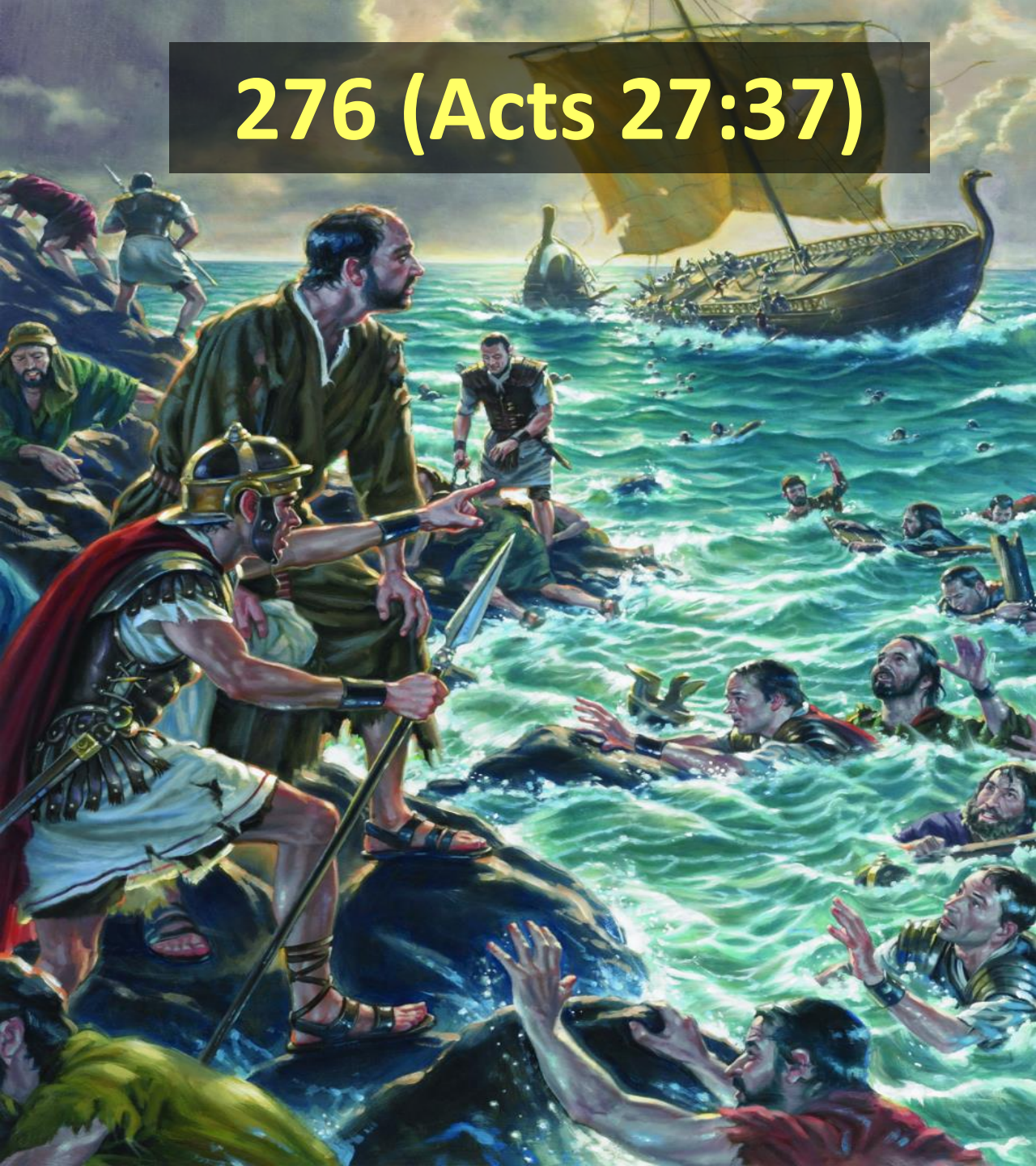


276 (Acts 27:37)

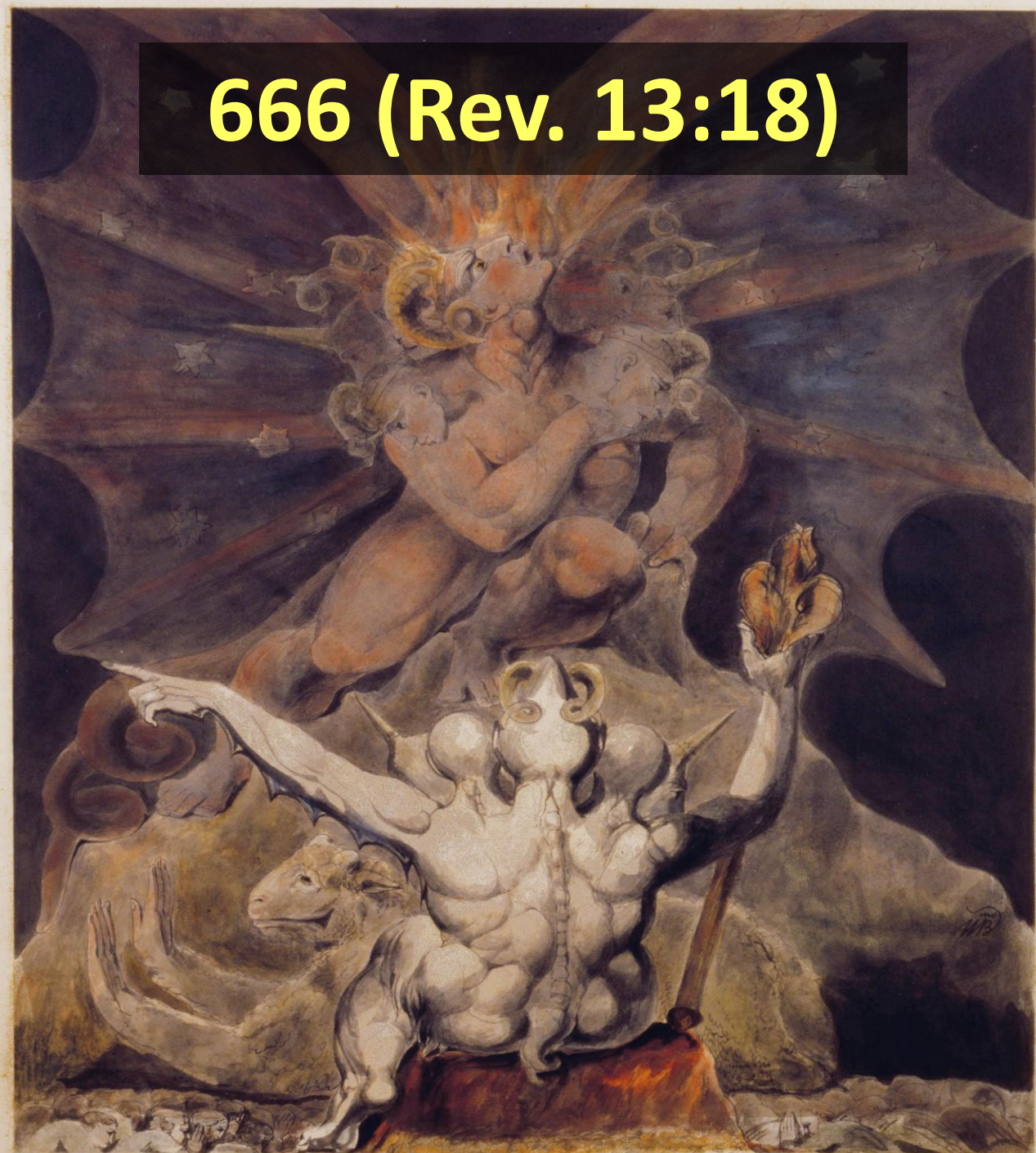




**276 (Acts 27:37)**

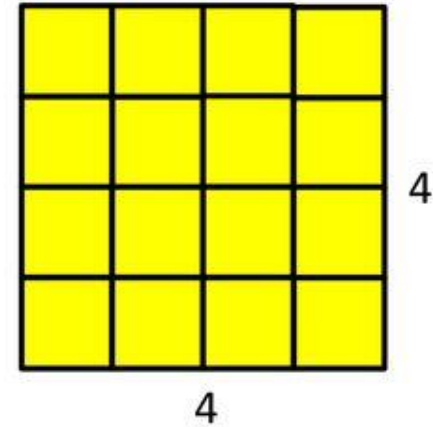
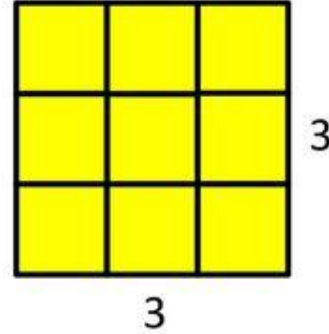
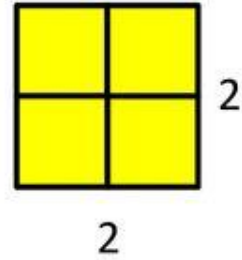
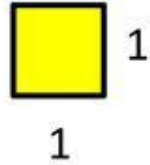


**666 (Rev. 13:18)**





# Square Numbers



$$1 \times 1 = 1$$

$$2 \times 2 = 4$$

$$3 \times 3 = 9$$

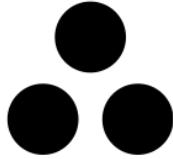
$$4 \times 4 = 16$$

**Square Numbers:** a number multiplied by itself

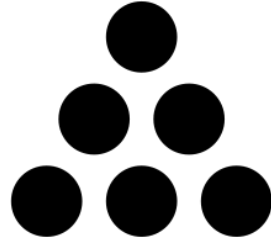
# Triangular Numbers



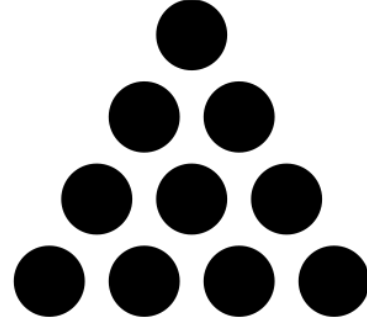
$$T_1 = 1$$



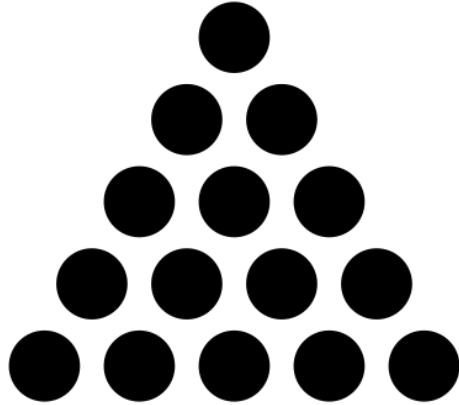
$$T_2 = 3$$



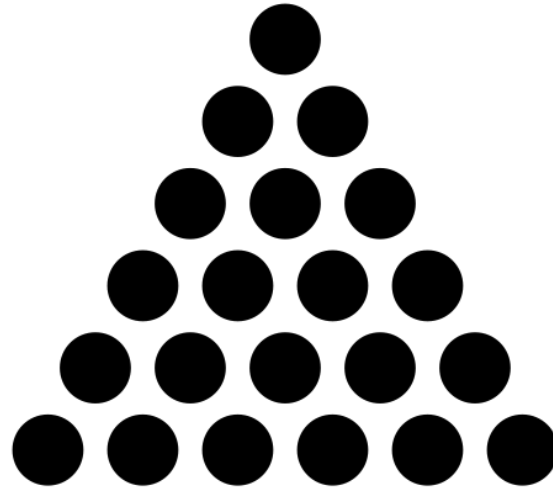
$$T_3 = 6$$



$$T_4 = 10$$

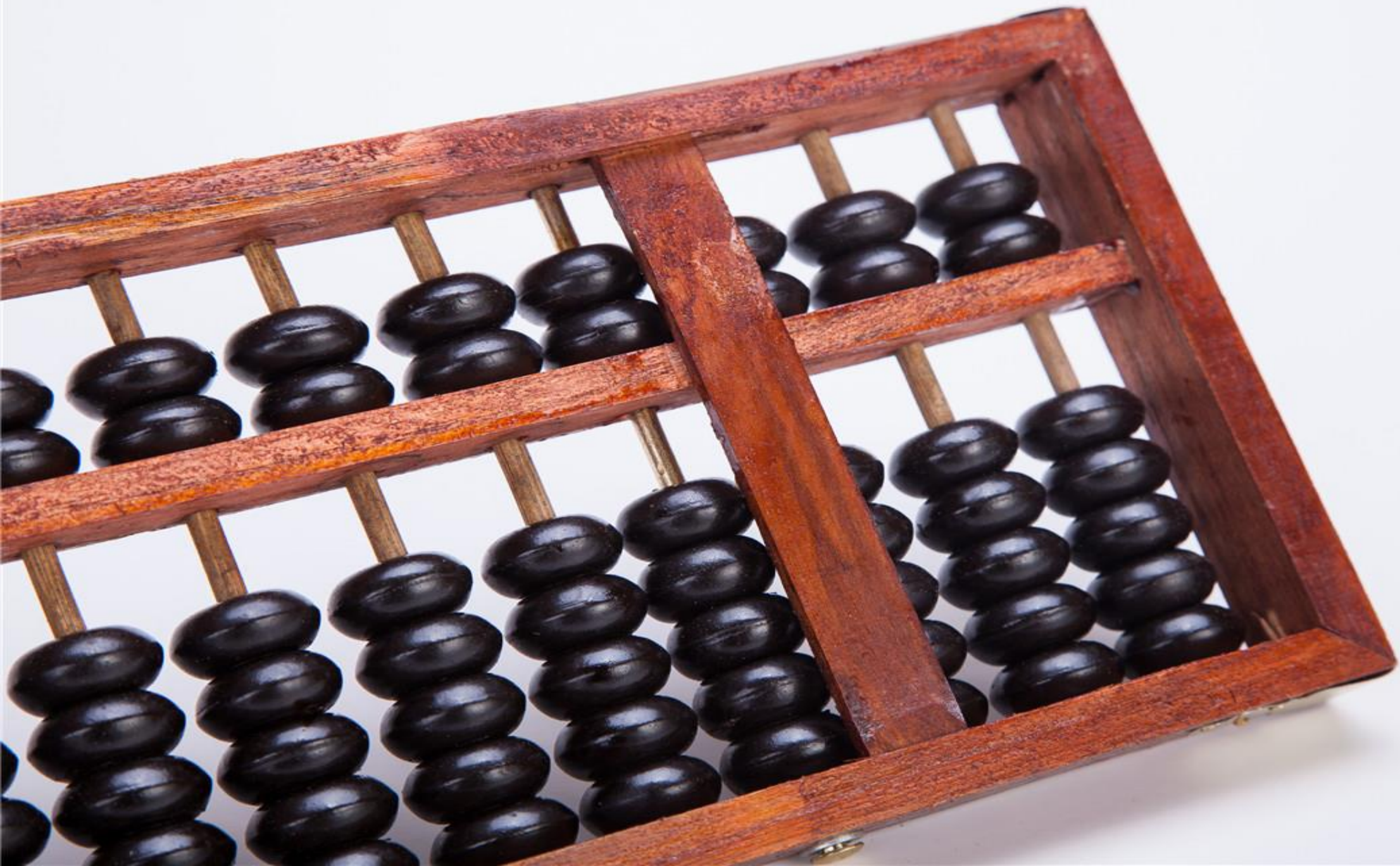


$$T_5 = 15$$



$$T_6 = 21$$



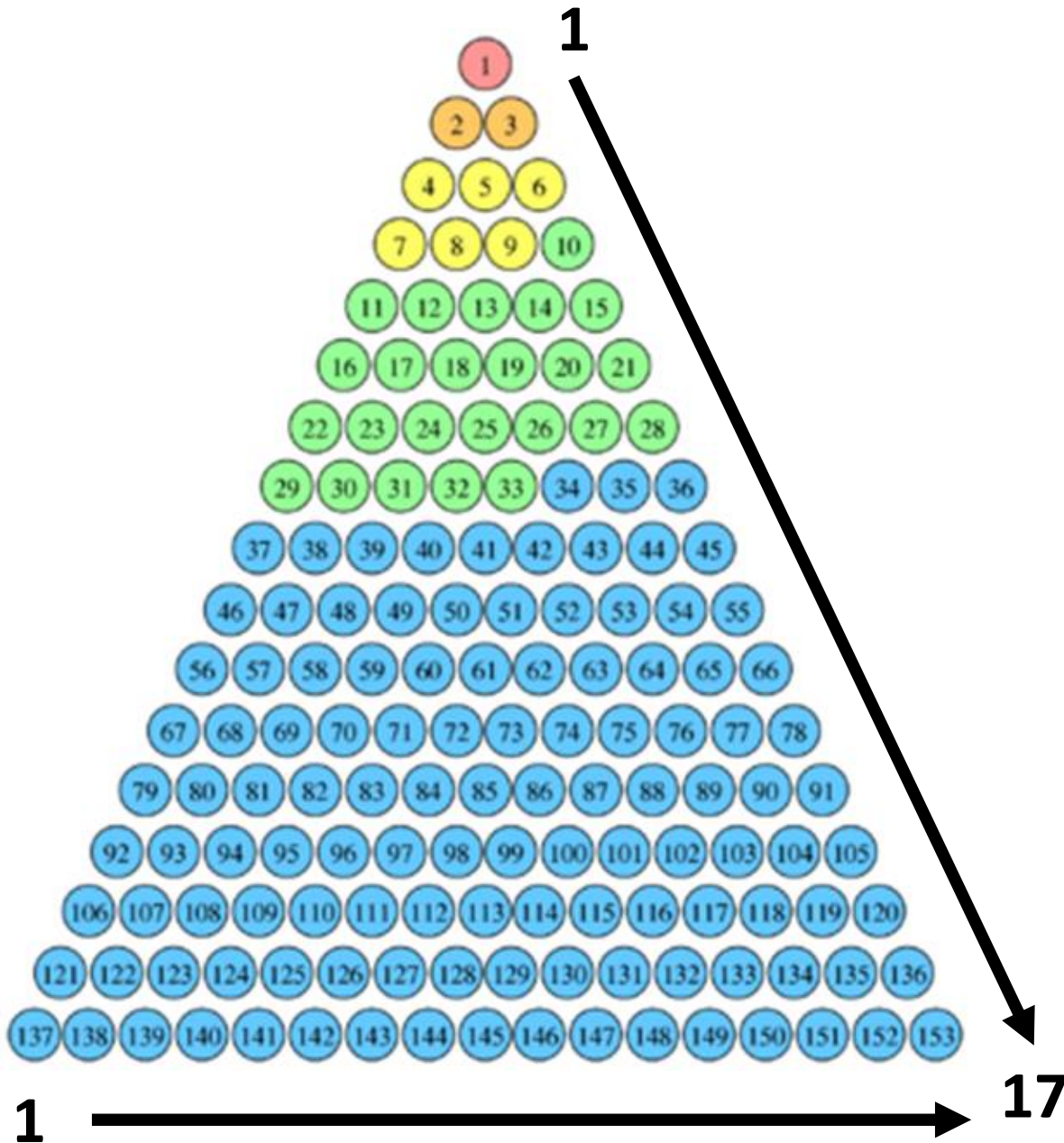


*psephizo*  
To calculate



*psephos*  
pebble





## SALVATION OF THE ELECT

**10** = Commandments

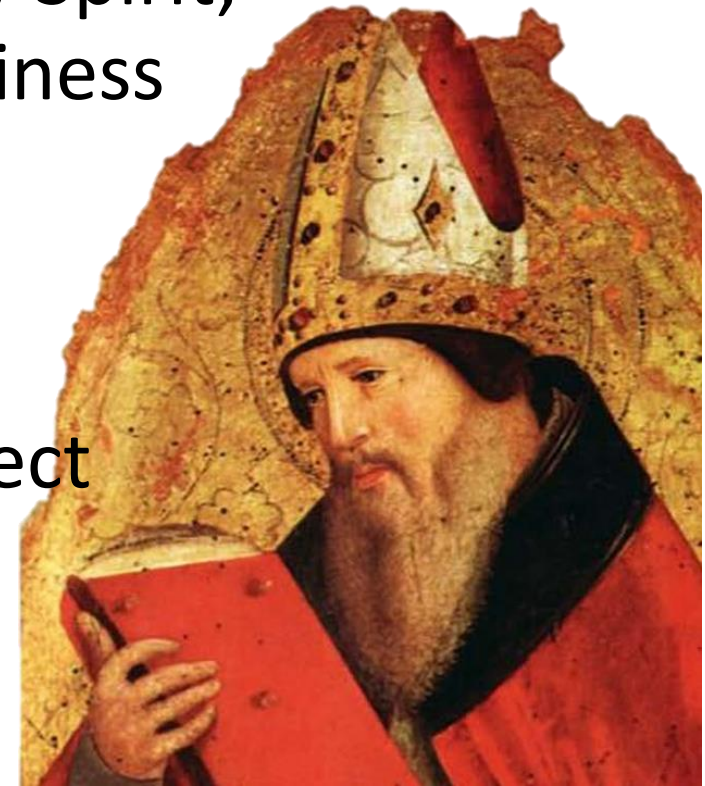
+

**7** = Gifts Holy Spirit;  
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**= 17**

$T_{17} = 153$

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SARMATIA ASIATICA

DACIA

MOESIA

THRACIA

PONTUS EUXINUS

Pontus

Cappadocia

Asia

Phrygia

Pamphylia

Mesopotamia

Parthia

Media

Elam

Arabia

Judea

Egypt

Crete

Cyrene

JERUSALEM

**NATIONS IN JERUSALEM  
AT PENTECOST**

Acts 2:9-11



**Numerical Literary Techniques in  
John: The Fourth Evangelist's Use of  
Numbers of Words and Syllables**

Menken

**BRILL**  
MyBook

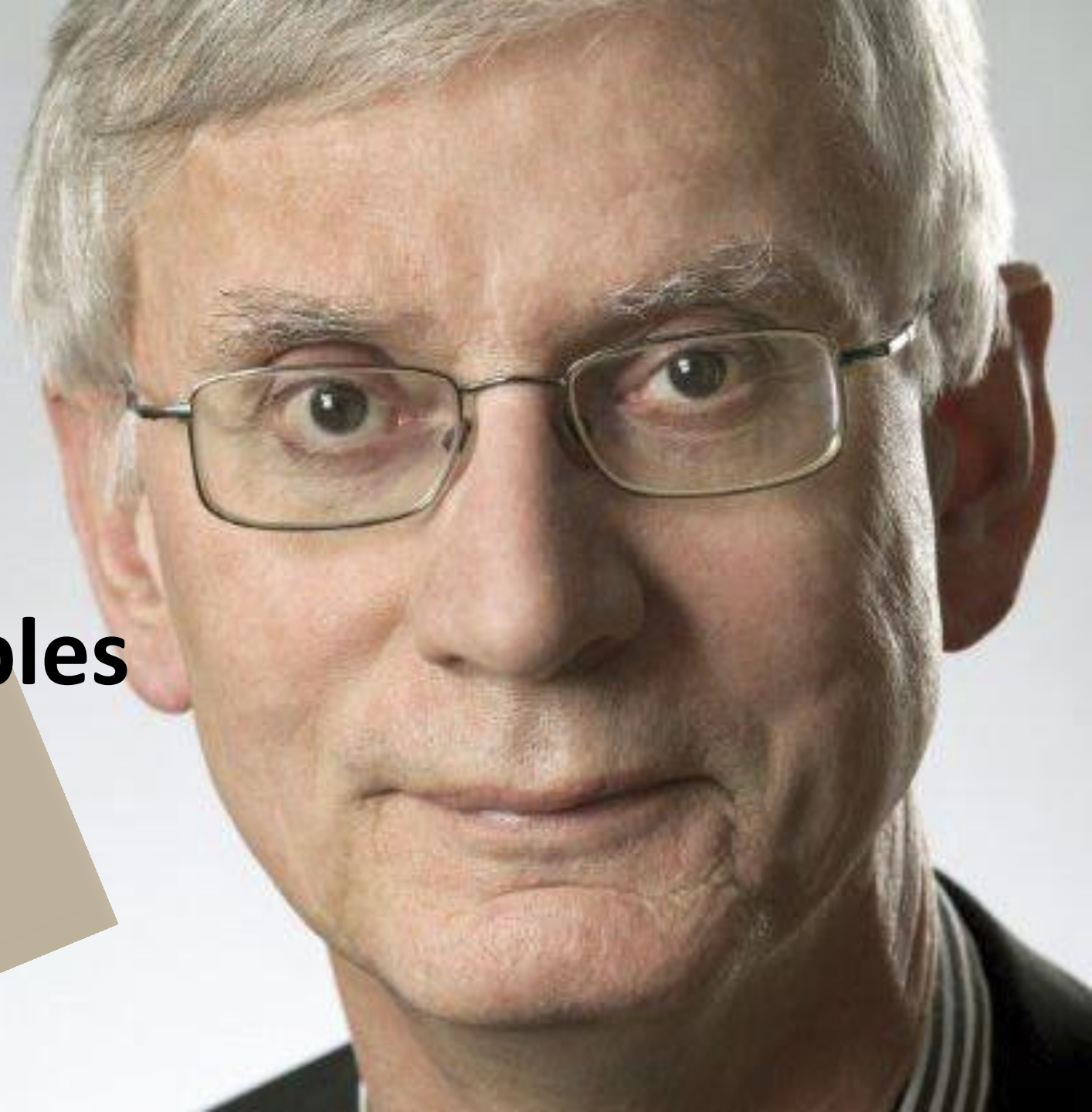


Numerical Literary Techniques in  
John: The Fourth Evangelist's Use of  
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BRILL  
MyBook

**444 syllables  
x2 = 888**





Numerical Literary Techniques in  
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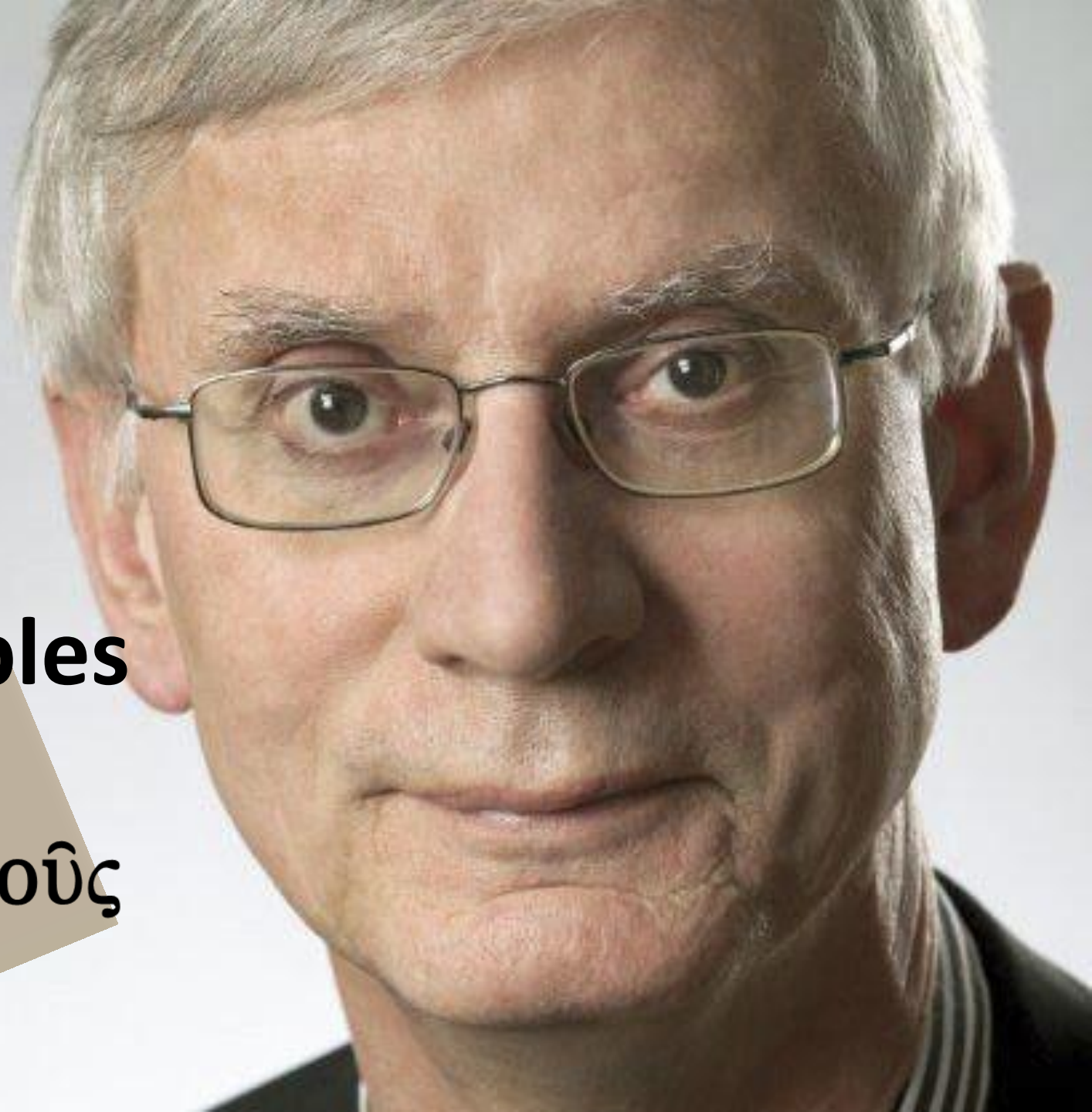
Menken

**444 syllables**

**x2 = 888**

**888 = Ἰησοῦς**

BRILL  
MyBook



# *Some Fishy Interpretations*

## SALVATION OF THE ELECT

**10** = Commandments

+

**7** = Gifts Holy Spirit; Sabbath;  
Holiness

**= 17**

**$T_{17}$**  = 153

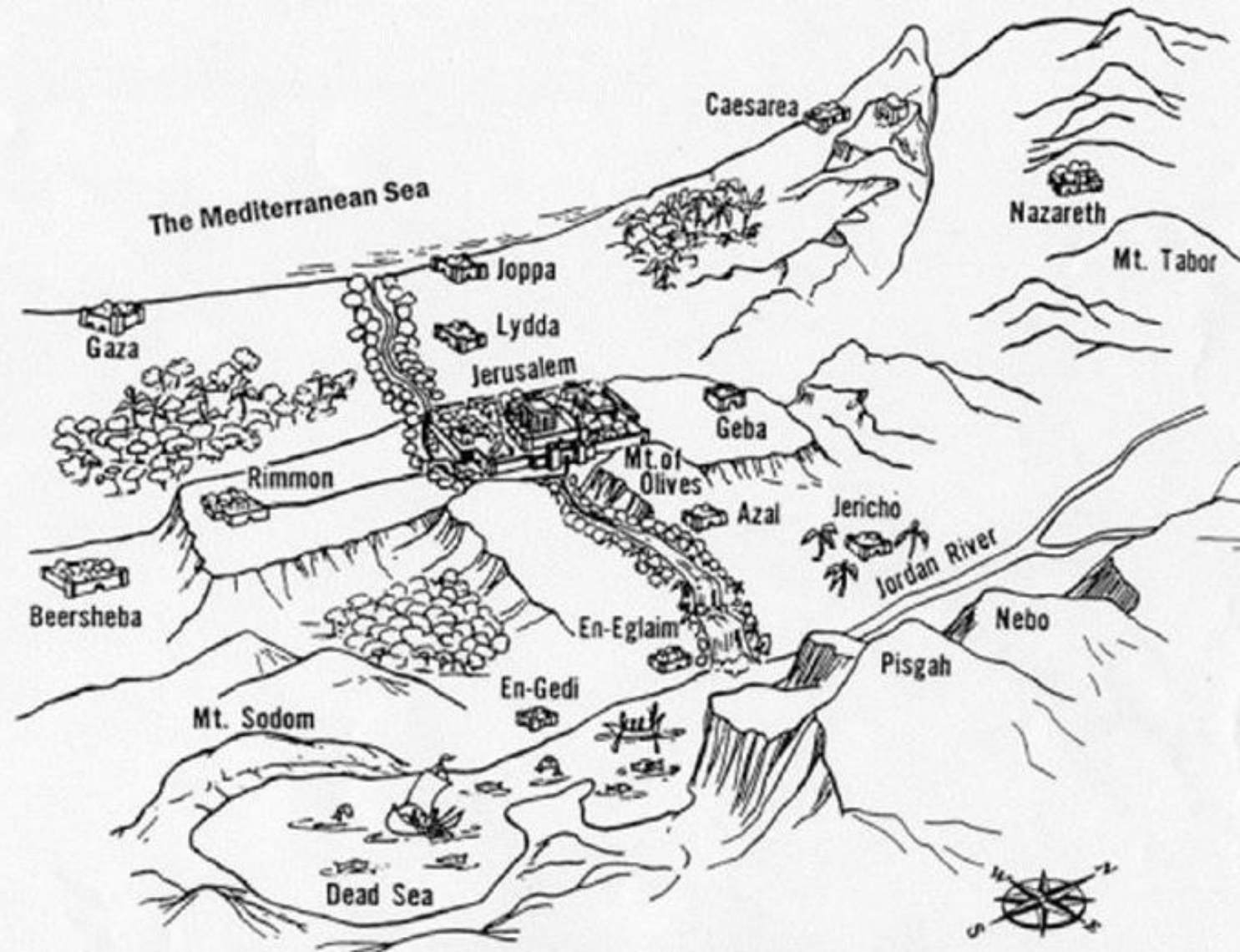
**153** = The Elect





# Ezekiel 47:1-12

# Ezekiel 47:1-12





# Ezekiel 47:1-12

## SALVATION FOR ALL PEOPLE TYPES

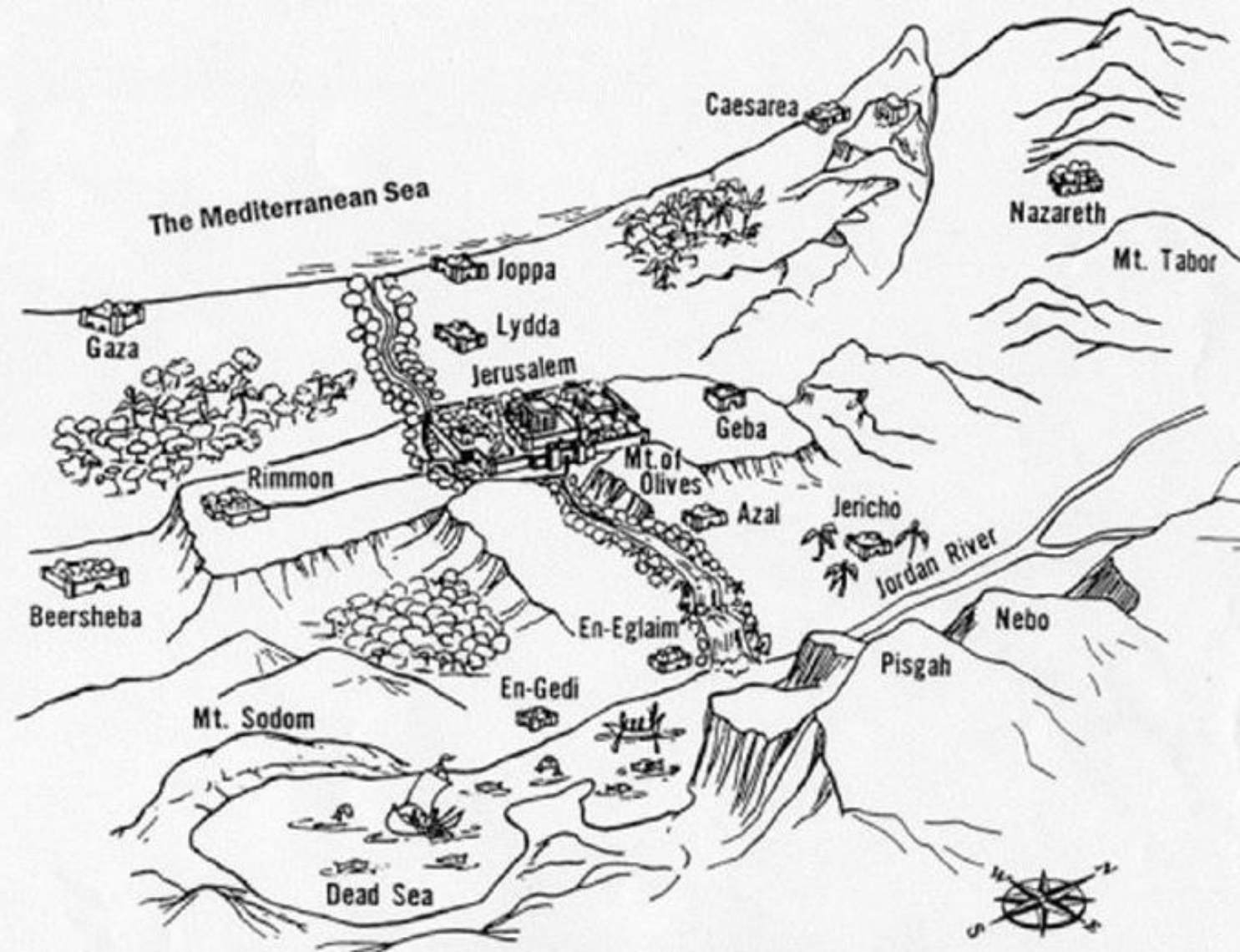
**153** = every species  
of fish in the world

**Fish** = every kind of people

**153** = Every 'ethnicity' of  
believer in the Church



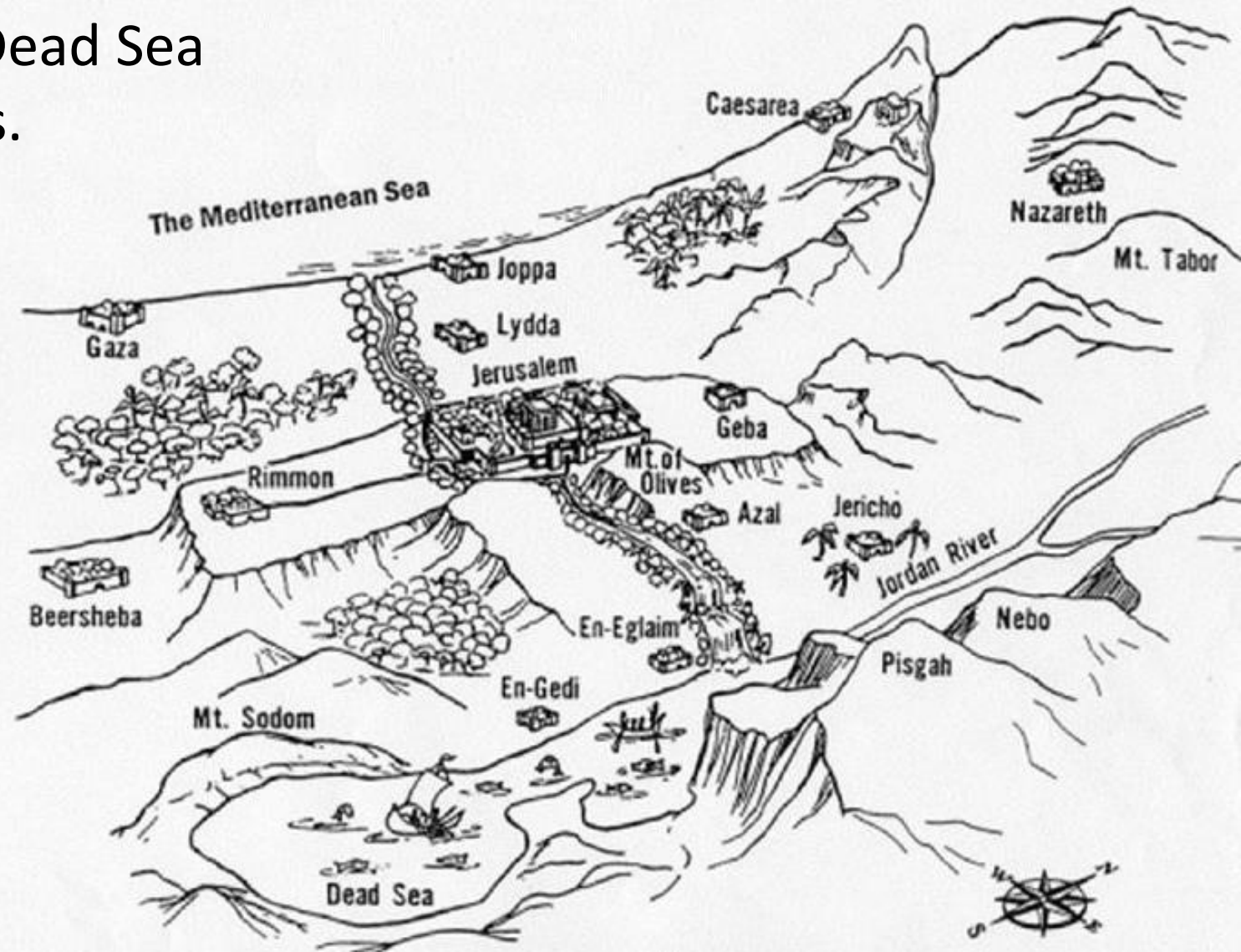
# Ezekiel 47:1-12





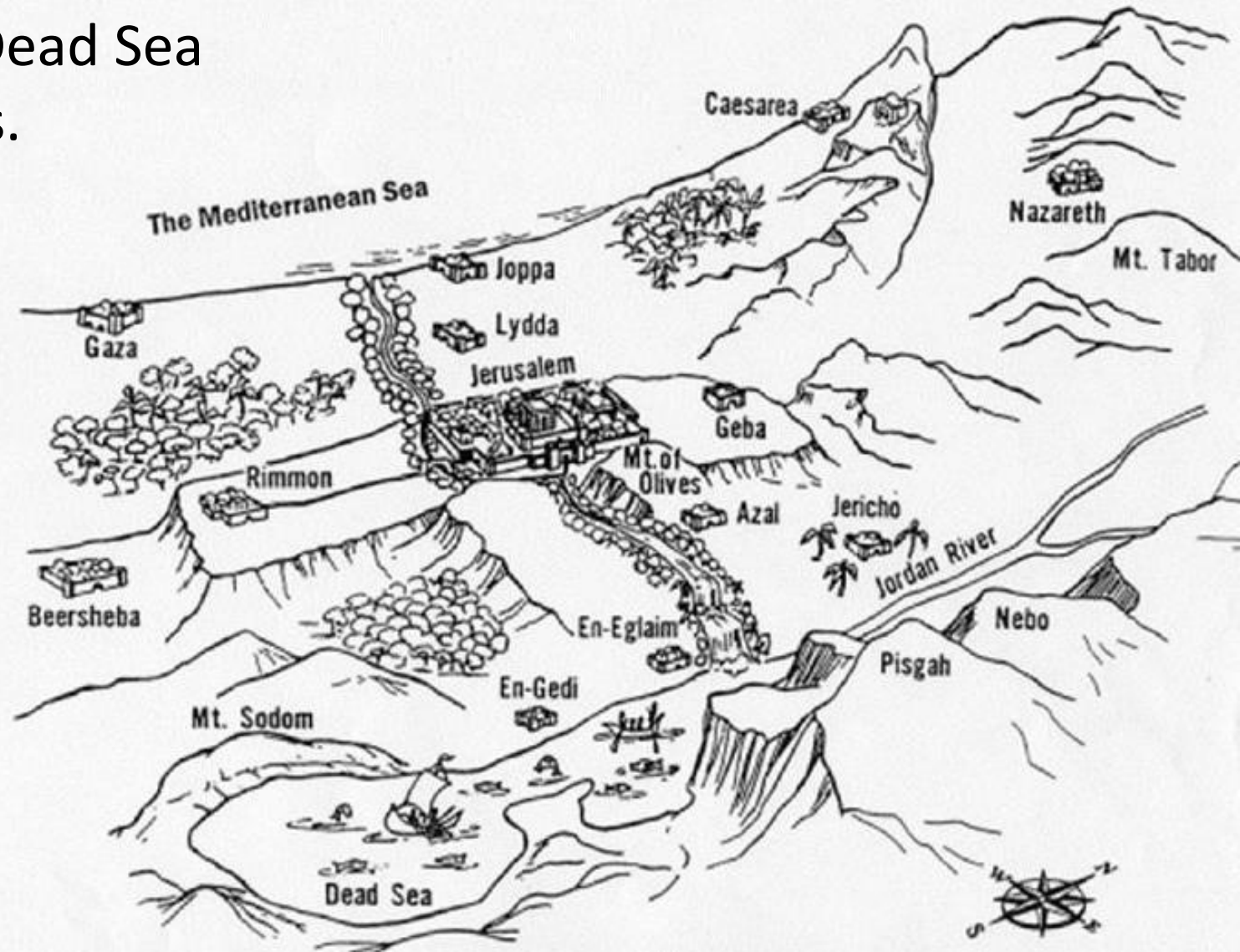
# Ezekiel 47:9-10

“very many fish will live in the Dead Sea  
as a result of these living waters.



# Ezekiel 47:9-10

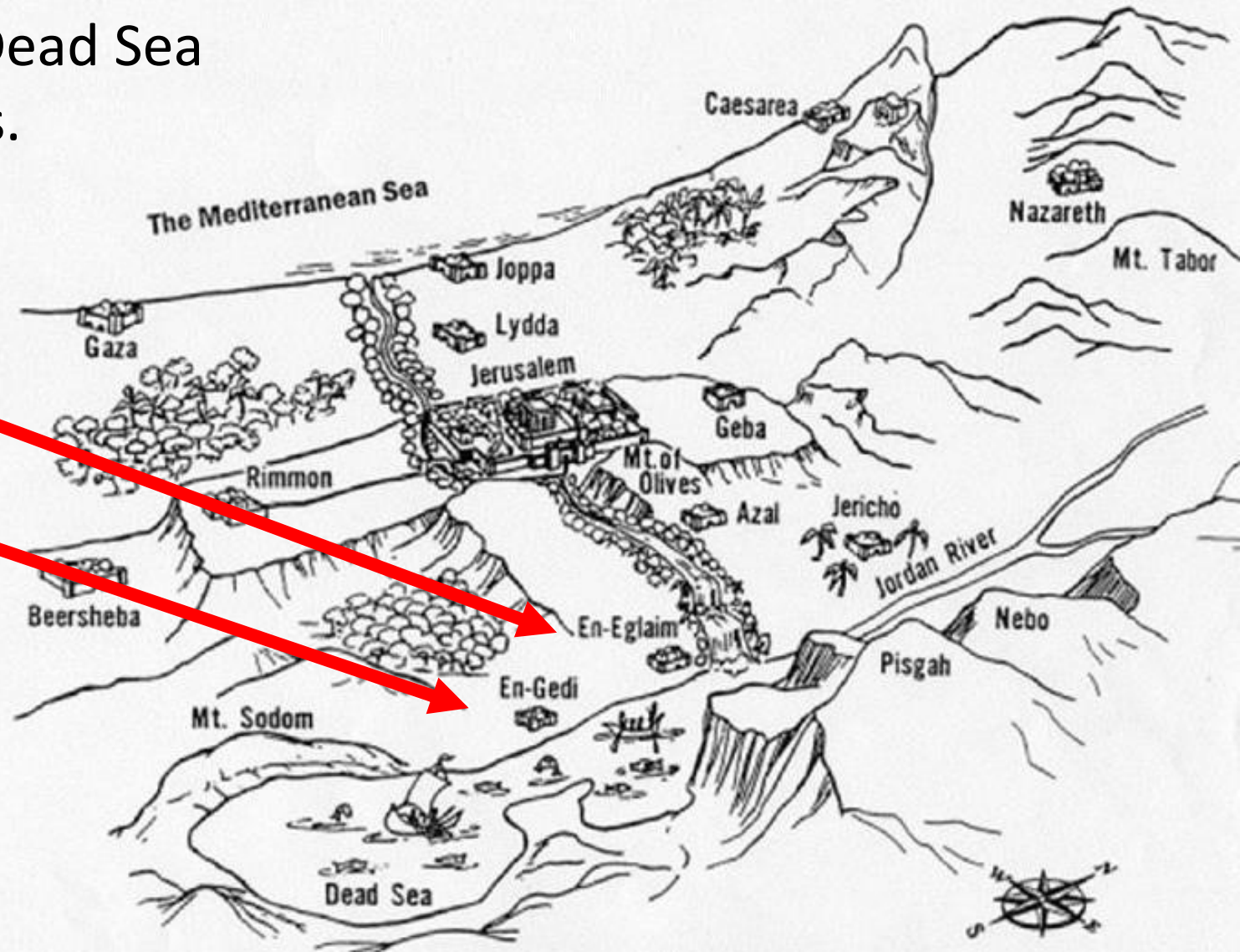
“very many fish will live in the Dead Sea  
as a result of these living waters.  
And it will come about that  
fishermen will stand beside it;  
from **En-Gedi** to **En-Eglaim**





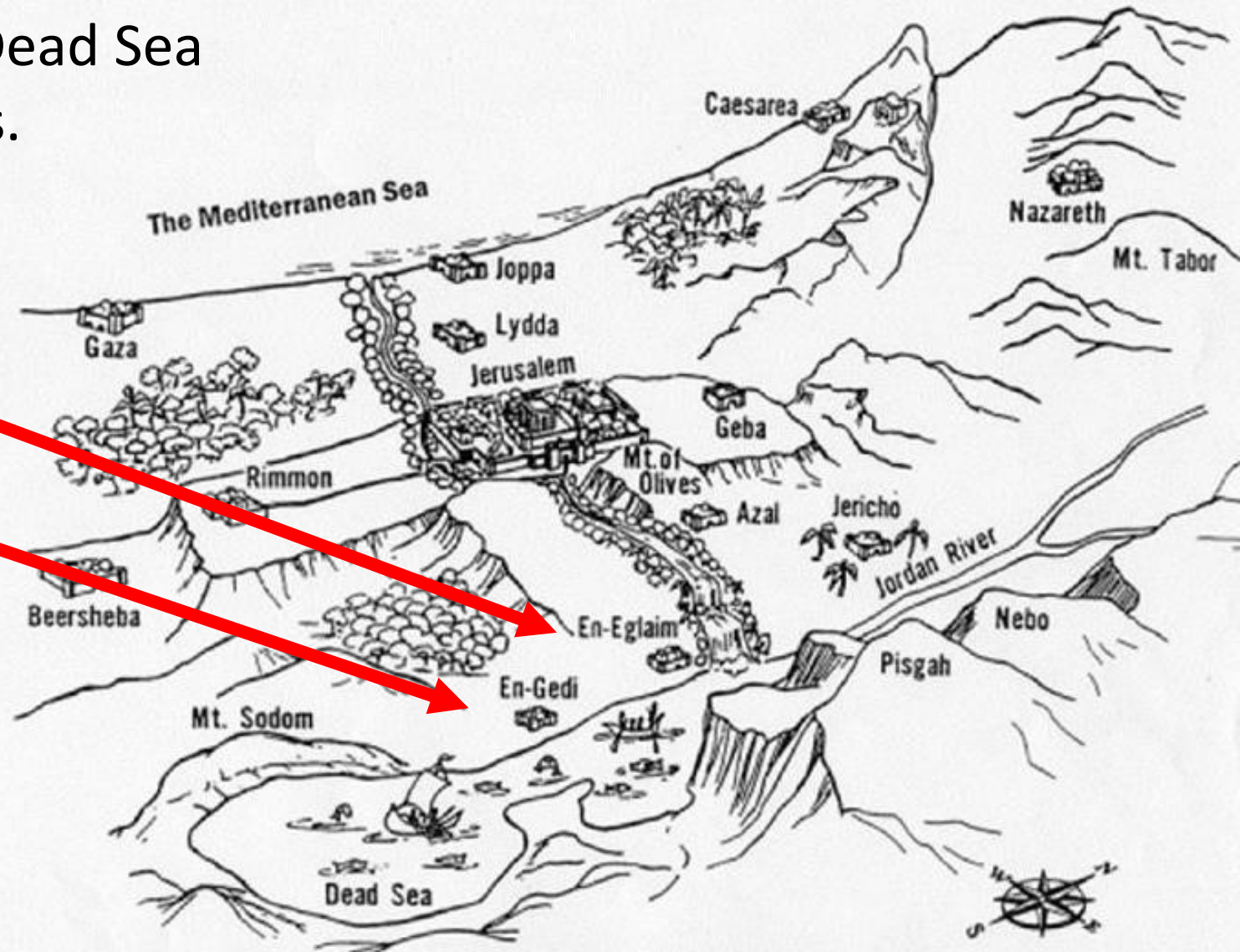
# Ezekiel 47:9-10

“very many fish will live in the Dead Sea as a result of these living waters. And it will come about that fishermen will stand beside it; from **En-Gedi** to **En-Eglaim** there will be a place for spreading of nets. Their fish will be according to their kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea, very many.”



# Ezekiel 47:9-10

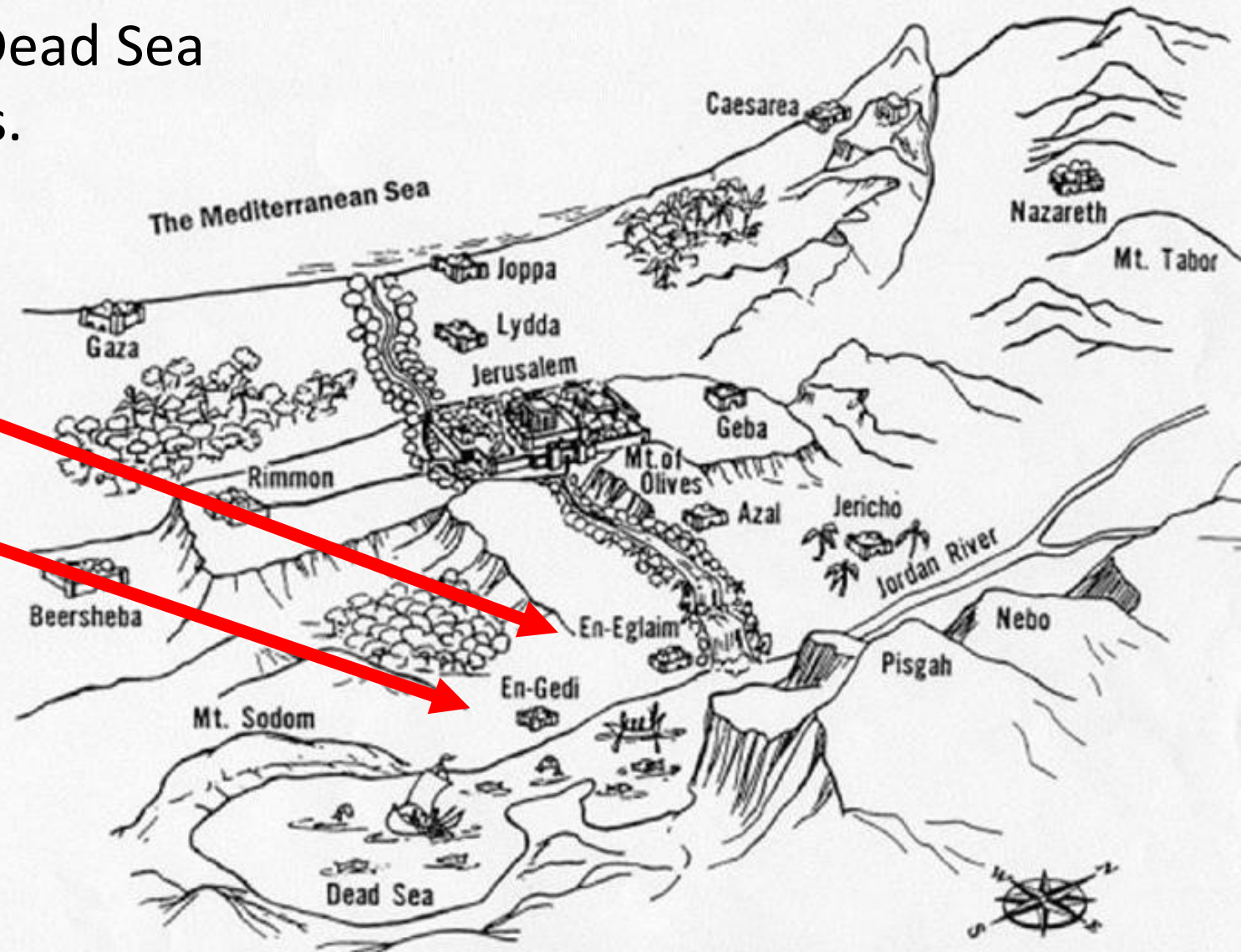
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גדי

$$10 + 4 + 3 = \mathbf{17}$$

***gdy/ Gedi***



גדי

$$10 + 4 + 3 = 17$$

***gdy/ Gedi***

עגלימ

גדי

$$10 + 4 + 3 = \mathbf{17}$$

*gdy/ Gedi*

עגלימ

$$40 + 10 + 30 + 3 + 70 = \mathbf{153}$$

*'glym/ Eglaim*





***Bringing it together***



# ***Bringing it together***

**1. familiar *yet* unfamiliar**

# ***Bringing it together***

**1. familiar *yet* unfamiliar**

**2. the number '153' is *both* real and symbolic**



## ***Bringing it together***

- 1. familiar *yet* unfamiliar**
- 2. the number '153' is *both* real and symbolic**
- 3. the number '17' is linked to Pentecost**

# Points for Home

- This episode of the catch of 153 fish is of a piece with one of the main themes of John's Gospel as captured by the words of Jesus, 'As for me, if I am lifted up from the earth, *I will draw all people to myself*.' (Jn. 12:32). World mission is part of the heartbeat of God. Commit yourself afresh to the Great Commission by resolving to pray and support some overseas mission endeavour. Ask the Lord whether he is calling you to be part of His global vision.
- The disciples are fishing in home waters – the Sea of Galilee, and Jesus' commissions them to begin proclaiming the Gospel first in *Jerusalem* (Acts 1:8). Who can you pray for and witness to this week nearer home? Cast the net wide!
- We have seen the value of a literate reading of the Scriptures. Commit yourself this week to going deeper into God's Word, with the illuminating power of the Holy Spirit to mine all the treasures it contains.