

PART 2

EZEKIEL'S MILLENIAL RIVER AND THE MEANING OF THE 153 FISH IN JOHN 21

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Yahshua and the Miraculous Catch of Fish

John 21:1 Afterward Yahshua appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: 2 Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. 3 “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.”

So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

4 Early in the morning, Yahshua stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Yahshua.

5 He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

6 He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.



7 Then the disciple whom Yahshua loved said to Peter, “It is the Master!”

As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Master,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

8 The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards.

9 When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.



10 Yahshua said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” 11 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.

12 Yahshua said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Messiyah. 13 Yahshua came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

14 This was now the third time Yahshua appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

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Fish

John 21 is one of the richest passages in all of Scripture. Acting as an Epilogue, the chapter details the redemption and restoration of the Apostle Peter. The chapter pairs the physical with the spiritual and the literal with the symbolic in order to convey an incredible account of the redemption offered through Messiyah Yahshua.

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Numbers have a special significance for Jews. In both the Hebrew and Greek alphabets the letters served as both letters and numbers and every word can also be a number. In writing and explaining the Bible, Jews regularly make use of the numerical values of words.

That may have had a very special significance for the apostles. **Firstly, in that time, there were only 153 known species of fish.** Yahshua had already called the disciples 'fishers of men' (Mark 1:17) but they focused initially exclusively on Israel. The number **153** represented every possible, known people group in the world at that time, in other words, the whole world.

153 PEOPLE BLESSED BY YAHSHUA

The 4 gospels record precisely **153 individuals** who were specifically blessed by Yahshua and included divine healing, resurrections and witnesses, the list includes 70 disciples, 11 apostles , 10 lepers, the palsied man and bearers, the Centurion, Lazarus, Mary, Martha, the blind men, the demon-possessed man, etc. Does the Bible point to the significance of numbers? please look up Matthew 10: 29-31, even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

153 is not just a random number, it has a very significant meaning and in the pages that follow, you will discover some remarkable patterns that are encoded within the ages and names of the Patriarchs and see why Yahshua allowed them to catch this particular number. These patterns exist, and they are quite startling. Many bible scholars are aware of these patterns, yet they attribute the patterns to human invention rather than allow that YHWH may arrange and order physical events so that patterns are formed.

The life spans of the Patriarchs follow a mathematical pattern.

REVELATIONS ON THE NUMBER 153

Long ago, Augustine of Hippo pointed out that 153 is the triangular of 17. This means that if we add $17 + 16 + 15 + 14 \dots \text{etc} + 1$, we come up with 153.

This number can be expressed as a triangle.

It is interesting to note that 153 is the numeric value of the expressions: 'The Passover (Ha Pesach),'

The 17th triangular number is 153.

It so happens that all the Patriarch's ages = the Gematria of 153.

$$175 + 180 + 147 + 110 = \\ 153 + 153 + 153 + 153$$

Sons of YHWH [Gen 6.4] בְּנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים

Beni HaElohim

has a gematrical value of 153

We are the 'sons of God' who need to take the message of Yahshua our Passover lamb to all the peoples of the world.

The number 153 can be factored as $3 \times 3 \times 17$.

We can examine the number 17 in the Bible, we will find that it does occur in some important places.

Of course, the numbers 7 and 10 are both numbers of completeness or totality.

Also, notice the following:

Now, since both 7 and 10 are numbers of completeness and totality, their presence here would indicate a complete catch of large fish, of the nations of the world.

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Let us look back at the event recorded in John 21. To begin with, we have to remember that in Biblical symbolism the land represents Israel and the sea represents the gentiles. The land is above the sea, with mountains on it reaching up toward heaven. The land is a “priestly” territory between YHWH’s heaven and the rest of the world.

Throughout the Old Testament the gentiles are often spoken of in terms of the sea, or are reached by crossing waters of one sort or another. This land-sea symbolism is applied consistently in the book of Revelation to distinguish the Jews from the gentiles.

And now, in John 21, Peter catches **153** large fish.

Clearly, these large fish speak of the nations of the world who are going to be caught in the net. The net is the kingdom of YHWH and his son Yahshua, focussed in the Ecclesia.

The net does not break, despite the large number of big fish. The Ecclesia will not be destroyed by the nations she converts, but will hold them and bring them to Yahshua, as Peter does.

As the net draws the fish, so Yahshua draws all men to Himself.

OUR CALLING IS TO BE FISHERS OF MEN



The big fish as the gentile nations provides us with an explanation of the number 153 as the triangular of 17.

The number of nations in the world in the Old Covenant, according to Genesis 10, was 70 (7×10).

The next number that combines these two factors is 153.

Notice:

$$7 + 10 = 17$$

$$7 \times 10 = 70$$

2 MORE INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE NUMBER 153

This is a representation of the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** which allegedly appears 153 times in the book of Genesis.

The argument that 153 is the 17th triangular number, and that since $10 = (\text{Law}) + 7 = (\text{grace}) = 17$; then this story of the **153 fish the apostles caught is a picture of the Law and grace. AMAZING!**

The use of fish in the Bible to represent mankind is common.

In Mark 1:17 we read, And Yahshua said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”

In Matthew 13:47-50 we read of Yahshua talking to His disciples in a house after having addressed thousands by the Sea of Galilee:

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net which was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind; when it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad.

So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous, and throw them into the furnace of fire. Keep this in mind too.

Now pay attention Mark 1-17 ,

153 is the sum of
 $1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9+10+11+12+13+14+15$
 $+16+17 = 153$ in other words 1 to 17.

John 6:39 - "This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day."

John 10:28-30 - "and I give eternal life to them and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

John 18:9 - "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one."

ONCE CAUGHT BY YAHSHUA, YOU ARE NEVER THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY



Ezekiel 47:10 And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Ein-Gedi as far as Ein-Eglayim; they shall be a place for spreading nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, a great many like the fish of the Great Sea.

10. En-gedi . . . En-eglaim--En-gedi (meaning "fountain of the kid"), anciently, Hazazon-Tamar, now Ain-Jidy; west of the Dead Sea; David's place of refuge from Saul. En-eglaim means "fountain of two calves," on the confines of Moab, over against En-gedi, and near where Jordan enters the Dead Sea (Isaiah 15:8). These two limits are fixed on, to comprise between them the whole Dead Sea.

fish . . . according to their kinds--JEROME quotes an ancient theory that "there are a hundred fifty-three kinds of fishes," all of which were taken by the apostles (John 21:11), and not one remained uncaptured; signifying that both the noble and baseborn, the rich and the poor, and every class, are being drawn out of the sea of the world to salvation. Compare Matthew 13:47 , the gospel net; the apostles being fishermen, at first literally, afterwards spiritually (Matthew 4:19).



WE ARE CALLED TO BE

FISHERS OF MEN

NOT JUST KEEPERS OF THE AQUARIUM

Ezekiel 47:11 But its swamps and its marshes shall not be healed; they shall be left for salt.

We are instructed by our Messiyah Yahshua HaMashiach to be the salt of the earth, in Matthew 5:13, and it is this salt of the earth, or the elect, that will be doing the teaching, judging, and disciplining in the Millennium age.

Remarkably there will still be many in the Millennium age that will refuse to be healed by the healing spiritual waters and the Ruach HaKodesh.

These are the marshes and miry places that will be given over to the elect, who will be doing the service in the Kingdom of our Messiyah Yahshua, and it is they that will provide the salt, or discipline and teaching to those spiritually stagnate and rebellious souls.

Ezekiel 47:11 But its swamps and its marshes shall not be healed; they shall be left for salt.

What is the lot and portion of such persons? "They shall be given unto salt," to barrenness, fruitlessness and ruin. Woe to the "miry and marshy places"! Woe to the places and persons to whom the waters of the sanctuary have come, and they are not healed. This is the chief point of my sermon, and the Scripture abounds with testimony of it.

Take Proverbs 1.25-31,
25 since you disregard all my advice
and do not accept my rebuke,
26 I in turn will laugh when disaster strikes
you;
I will mock when calamity overtakes you—
27 when calamity overtakes you like a storm,
when disaster sweeps over you like a
whirlwind,
when distress and trouble overwhelm you.

28 “Then they will call to me but I will not answer;

they will look for me but will not find me,

29 since they hated knowledge

and did not choose to fear YHWH.

30 Since they would not accept my advice

and spurned my rebuke,

31 they will eat the fruit of their ways

and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

Some men will suffer to be unconquerably hardened in the love of some sin or lust, which will keep the power of the word from their hearts.

So the ground here is said to be "miry and marshy" - such as has a mixture of filth incorporated with it sufficient to repel all virtue of the healing waters of the sanctuary. Thus we see men so furiously set upon their lusts, sports and sensuality that this keeps them from profiting by the word of the gospel.

These are the people the scripture refers to who are given to salt.

Ezekiel 47:11 "They are given to salt."

GIVEN TO SALT



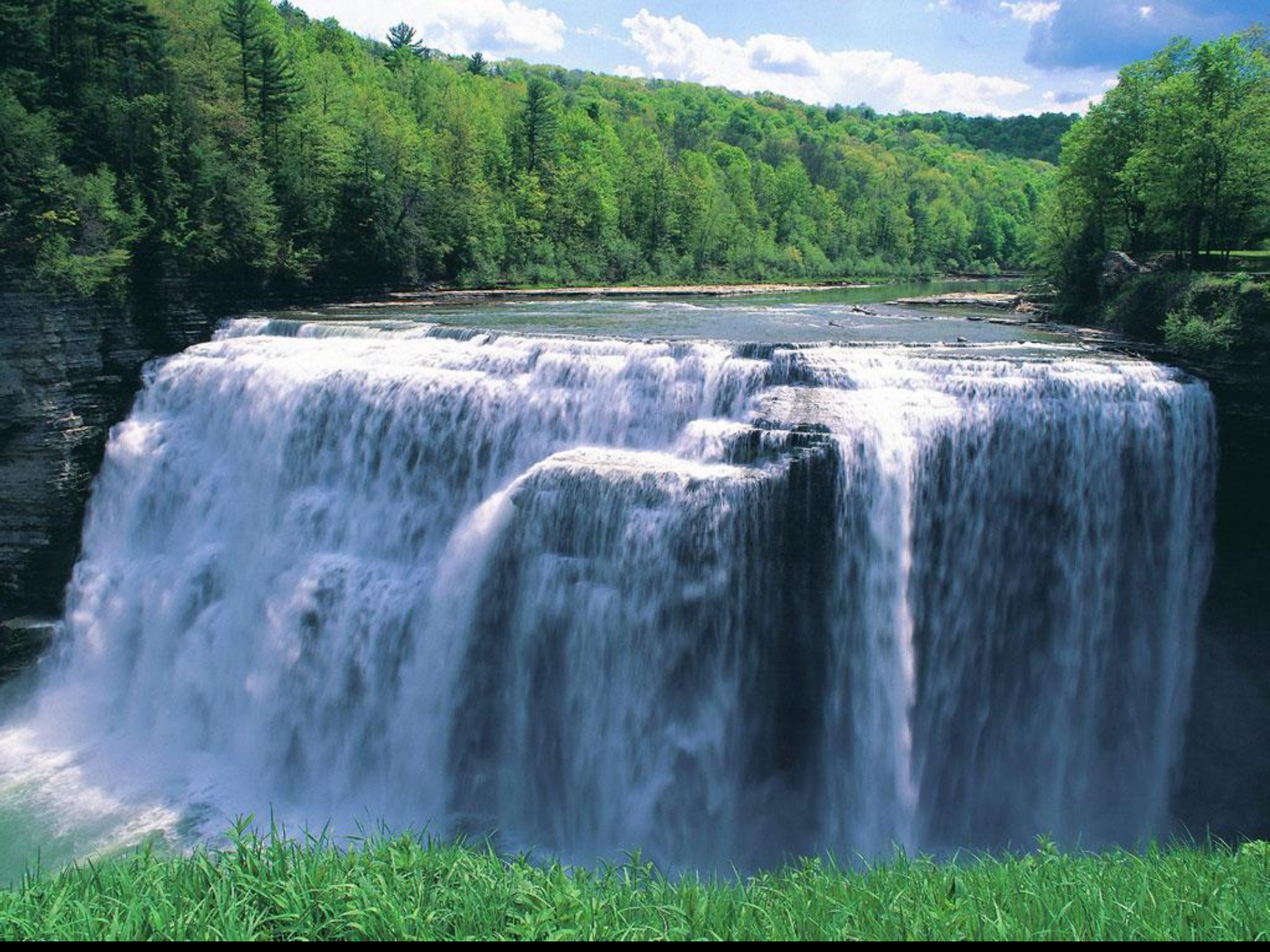
What of the result of this dealing of YHWH? What is meant by the land's becoming salt? Two things, barrenness in this world, and eternal ruin in the world to come. They shall never bear any fruit to YHWH.

This was the curse that our Saviour Yahshua gave to the fig-tree, "never fruit grow on thee." Man was made to bear fruit unto YHWH. Now when God shall say to any, "Go your ways . . . you shall never bear fruit unto me," whatsoever judgement can any man possibly fall under?

Eternal ruin must follow, Prov. 29.1. "He that being often reprov'd, hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

"If a man abide not in me he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered, and men gather them and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" - John 15.6.

Ezekiel 47:12 Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit will not fail. They will bear fruit every month, because their water flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine.”



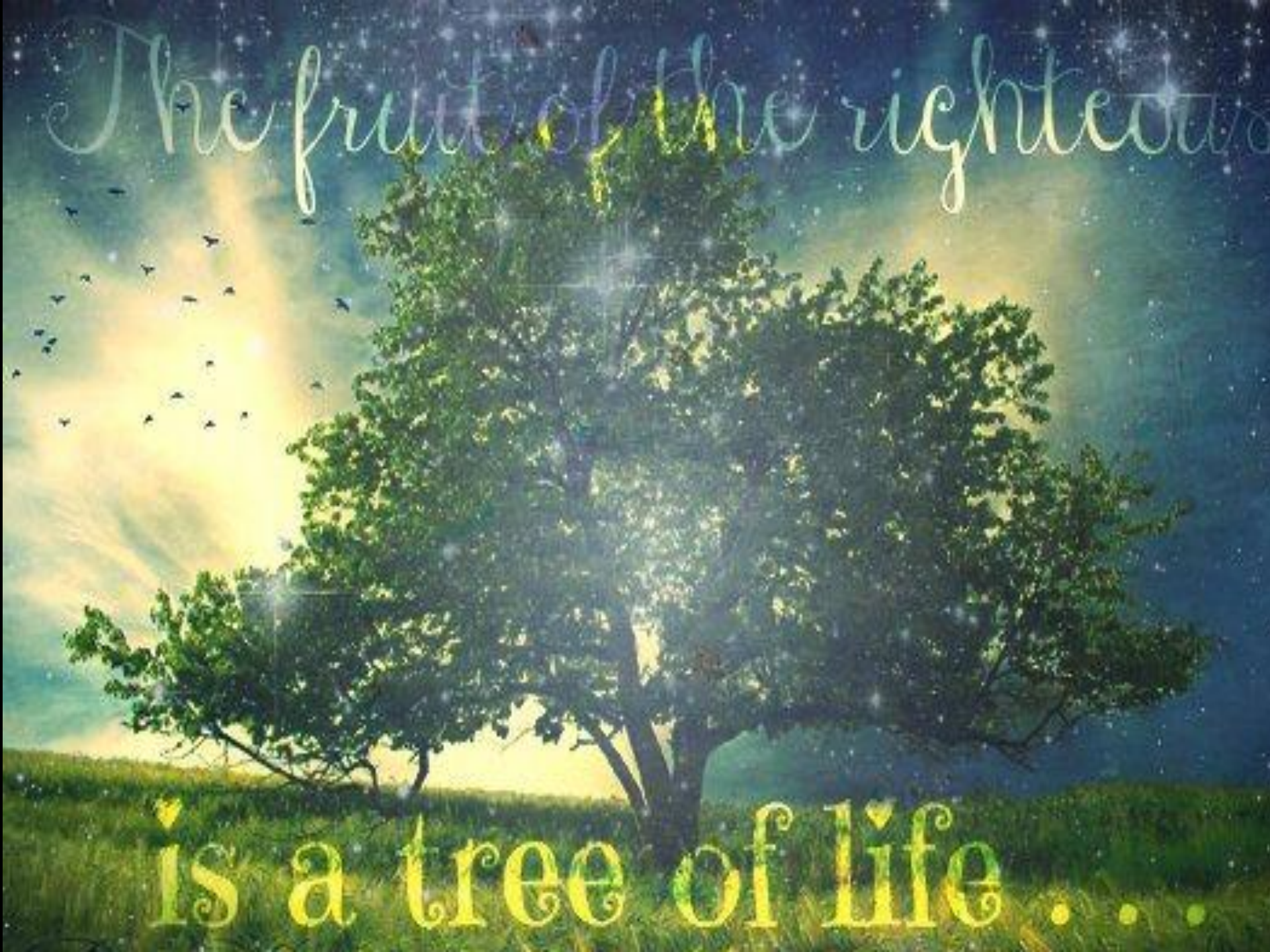
WHO ARE THE TREES PLANTED **BY THE RIVER?**

Spirit-filled and spirit-led Believers are the trees planted by the river whose fruit is for sustenance and leaves are for healing.

Is. 61:3 to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

Because their roots (trust, faith, hope, desires) are in the streams of living water (YHWH AND HIS Word) they bring life and healing to those around them.

Psalm 1:1-3 How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of YHWH, and in His law he meditates day and night. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither and in whatever he does, he prospers.



The fruit of the righteous

is a tree of life . . .

Jeremiah 17:7-8 Blessed is the man who trusts in YHWH and whose trust is YHWH. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit.



Psalm 92:12-14 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of YHWH shall flourish in the courts of our ELOHIM. They shall still bear fruit in old age; They shall be fresh and flourishing

The Psalmist and Jeremiah tell us of the righteous man who is like a tree planted by the rivers of water (Psalms 1:3; Jeremiah 17:8).



Twelve Kinds of Fruit

One should not think that one tree can only produce one fruit, each tree can produce all twelve fruits for this is spiritual fruit, not physical fruit. The twelve fruits, should not be used to count the trees, for there are many trees. Thus each of the chosen will bring forth the twelve fruits of the spirit, nine of which are mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23.

Galatians 5:22-23 Now the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control: against such things there is no law."

Two more kinds are mentioned in Ephesians 5:9-10, along with “goodness,” which was mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23.

Ephesians 5:9-10 As children of light be walking (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth), testing what is well pleasing to YHWH.

Romans 6:22 Yet, now, being freed from Sin, yet enslaved to YHWH, you have your fruit for holiness....

These are the twelve fruits that will be produced by the trees of life along the banks of the river of the water of life. These are also the fruits that should be produce by the chosen, the body of Messiyah Yahshua at this time, before the kingdom comes.

The Tree of Life

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of YHWH and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. Revelation 22:1,2, This verse is a reflection of the vision that YHWH gave to Ezekiel.

One difference between Ezekiel's prophecy and that of Revelation is that Ezekiel mentions trees/plural while Revelation mentions the Tree of Life, singular.

<http://thechristiansight.org/article.php?id=4>

The fruit and leaves of these trees is not for sustenance of the flesh, but rather for the nourishment and healing of the soul.

These trees bring forth fruit according to the twelve months of the year, and are therefore representative of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Israel at this time will be a great blessing unto the nations, as they provide them with spiritual sustenance.



We are plainly told that the leaves of the trees growing on the banks of the river flowing with the water of life are for the healing of the nations. What type of healing would the nations require at this time? We are not specifically told, but the ensuing text does give us a huge clue:

REVELATION 22:14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. 15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. (NKJV)

Yahshua said to the church at Ephesus that He would give the overcomer “to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of YHWH” (Rev. 2:7+).

He alluded to the original placement of the tree of life in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:9) and indicated that the redeemed would once more have access to the tree in a future paradise—the eternal state which John now sees.

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. (John 15:4-5)

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. “To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.” (Rev. 2:7+)

Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. (Rev. 21:14+)