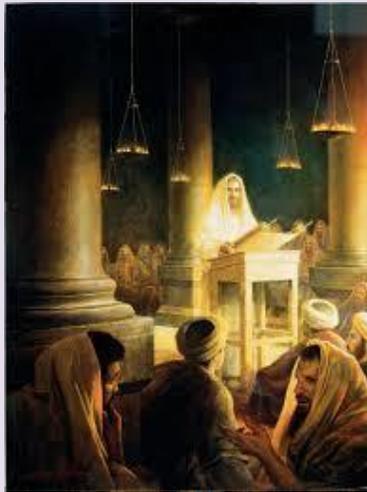


MARK CHAPTER 6 – JESUS REJECTED AT HOME

INTRODUCTION

When Jesus stood up to teach in the synagogue of his home town the people put no faith in him. Jesus marvelled – he had never seen such unbelief. Following this rejection his ministry suffered many setbacks. In spite of remarkable miracles performed before their eyes even his closest disciples became hard hearted.



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MARK 6: CHURCH IN LAST DAYS – SIMILAR TO JESUS AMONG THE JEWS

- Verses **1-6** Rejection of Jesus in his hometown: **Church can't recognize a spiritual man**
- Verses **7-13** Twelve sent out with no purse: **Church won't welcome itinerant ministers**
- Verses **14-16** Sages can't agree who Jesus is: **Church is filled with false teachers**
- Verses **17-29** John the Baptist beheaded: **Church loves vanity; believes strong delusion**
- Verses **30-44** Jesus feeds the 5,000: **First Jewish Believers: sheep without a shepherd**
- Verses **45-52** Jesus walks on water; storm stilled: **Rapture: Church is rescued from the storm**
- Verses **53-56** Safe on the other side; Jesus heals: **Heaven: Faith is rewarded**

The church is supposed to be the 'hometown' of Jesus, the place Christians go to enjoy warm fellowship. When the Christian community loves vanity should we expect good things to come of it? Why do persecutions come? Why will saints be martyred in the Last Days before the rapture? Why will there be a great falling away? What hope is there for revival? Who will be saved? Mark 6 addresses all these things.

¹ In the photo there are three pillars of Truth (3), five lamps of Grace (5), one podium with four legs for a Message (4), Jesus, six men listening and two men disputing: The Message (4) of Truth (3) is Grace (5) through Jesus: but men (6) in darkness dispute (2) this!

THE CHURCH CAN'T RECOGNIZE A SPIRITUAL MAN

These are the very words out of the mouth of Jesus in the Nazareth synagogue:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because he hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

(Luke 4:18-19) Jesus then said: **“This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”** (Luke 4:20)

In essence, Jesus said: **“I am the Messiah”**. The word ‘messiah’ means ‘anointed one’ – the promised one Isaiah described. The Holy One the Spirit of the Lord rests upon.

How do we recognize a spiritual man? A spiritual man is a person with the exact same confession: **‘Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah’** or an equivalent expression: **‘Jesus is Lord’** (Romans 10:9) (Romans 8:9).

Who does your church accept into fellowship? People who were baptised as an infant? People who were circumcised as an infant? People who grew up in the church? People who faithfully attend? People who faithfully make donations? People who speak in tongues? People who have served as missionaries? Any other criteria than a personal confession of Jesus Christ will not accurately identify spiritual re-birth.

Prophetically, the rejection of Jesus by the people in his own town tells us there will come a time when Christians, by the above definition, will also no longer be welcome in the ‘church’.

Gematria Analysis:²

Plain Words: **“And he went out from there, and came into his own country; and his disciples followed him.”**
(Mark 6:1)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 7,167 = 3 x 2,389 [355th prime]. Spiritual meaning of the numbers is **Binding (3)** of **Weak Spiritual Judgment (355)**. As the first verse of the chapter it summarizes the entire message which is that a spirit of unbelief had taken grip of Jesus’ hometown. The people there would have heard about the miracles Jesus performed prior to his visitation. By arriving in person Jesus intended to encourage their faith. What he found is no faith at all: **Binding (3)** of **Weak Spiritual Judgement (355)**. They did not accept Jesus as Messiah. So, by the Bible’s definition, they had no faith (that pleases God).

Plain Words: **“And when the Sabbath day came, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, ‘From whence hath this man these things?’ and ‘What wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?’”** (Mark 6:2)

² In the Greek language there were no Arabic numerals. Greeks used letters interchangeably for numbers. Gematria is the sum of the values of the Greek letters in a word. Using the spiritual meaning of numbers we can understand a deeper layer of meaning in the words and phrases of Scripture. This is the hidden manah that is spiritual food for Christians. Readers who wish to investigate further may go to Page 1 INTRO and Page 8 GEMATRIA on our website: www.biblenumbersforlife.com

Hidden Manah: Gematria 20,421 = 9 x 2,269 [337th prime]. Spiritual meaning of the numbers is **Judgment (9)** of **Backsliders Swallowed (337)**. How do we judge who the backsliders are? Anyone who questions whether Jesus' teaching or miracles come from God is an unbeliever.

Plain Words: "**Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? And are not these his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.**" (Mark 6:3)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 16,862 = 2 x 8,431 [1,055th prime = 5 x 211]. Spiritual meaning of the numbers is **Discern (2)** (between) **Grace (5)** and **Everyman for Himself (211)**. The unbelievers listening to Jesus could not distinguish between the common everyday selfish person: **Everyman for Himself (211)** the brothers and sisters of Mary, and the unselfish personification of **Grace (5)** in the flesh: Jesus the Holy Son of God.

Plain Words: "**But Jesus said unto them: 'A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house'.**" (Mark 6:4)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 10,668 = 84 x 127. Spiritual meaning of the numbers is **Court of the Lord (84)** **Spiritual Sons (127)**. These locals were setting themselves up as the judge of who is spiritual. In a great irony, by dismissing the Son of God they proved it was they who were not spiritual. Can Christians become too familiar with Jesus and not walk humbly before God? Can familiarity breed contempt?

Plain Words: "**And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.**" (Mark 6:5)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 7,691 = 16 x 61. Spiritual meaning of the numbers is **Sacrifice (16)** to the **Messiah (61)**. The listeners did not offer a sacrifice of faith to the Messiah: they rejected Jesus as Lord. In spite of their unbelief, out of his great compassion for those who suffer, Jesus healed some sick people. Even in that Christ rejecting place there were a few who knew they were sinners (sickness) and put their trust in Him (healing).

Plain Words: "**And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.**" (Mark 6:6)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 7,248 = 2 x 24 x 151. Spiritual Meaning of the numbers is **Discern (2)** (between) **Priest (24)** and **Man's Possessions (151)**. Just as Jesus went from village to village teaching, the Lord is continually searching the hearts of those in spiritual community. The LORD is searching (**discerning**) who is a **Priest** (*one who makes the sacrifices of the LORD*) and one who is merely a son of Adam (*a human in the flesh*): **Adam's Possession (151)**.

Jesus is the Sacrifice (*that God accepted on the altar of suffering: the Cross*). Believers are Priests who offer to God by faith the sacrifice that is acceptable, which is Jesus' death on the Cross. To say: 'Jesus is Messiah' means the same thing as 'Jesus Died on the Cross to Pay for My Sins'. Jesus did not remain a sacrifice that needs to die over and over. When Jesus offered his life on the Cross, he paid the debt of sin for all who will ever believe. After this Jesus rose again from the dead and became our High Priest in Heaven.

THE CHURCH WON'T WELCOME ITINERENT MINISTERS

Since the day of Pentecost the church of Jesus Christ has been under the stewardship of the Holy Spirit. There has only ever been one Bread (Jesus), one Body (Church), and one Lord over all (Spirit). There is only one confession ('Jesus is Lord'), one faith ('God raised Him from the dead'), and one baptism (in the Holy Spirit unto regeneration and spiritual life).

Who teaches the believers? Who gathers the believers? Who appoints men to various roles and works? The answer to all three questions is the Lord of the Church: the Holy Spirit. The members of the body are to be completely compliant to the direction of the Holy Spirit.

The way of the flesh is opposite to the way of the Spirit. Men like to submit to authority they can see. The flesh likes structure: role descriptions. The flesh likes hierarchies: men ruling men. The flesh is territorial.

Jesus sent out the twelve apostles to visit all the towns. Jesus gave the twelve instructions to take no purse or an extra cloak. Would the towns welcome the apostles sent by the head of the church? Would they submit to their ministry? Would they feed them and clothe them during their visit?

The towns had nothing to fear from these apostles. Were the apostles spiritual men? Yes. They professed Jesus as Lord. They did not come to set up man's religion and appoint themselves as lords over the church. They did not come to divide the church into fiefdoms of religious control. They did not come to spark debates concerning theological matters and cause schisms along sectarian lines. They did not come to draw disciples to themselves and found religious sects. They did not come asking for monetary donations so they could fill their purse with loot. These apostles came to cast out devils and heal the sick: in other words, to continue the ministry of Jesus person to person. When the Holy Spirit directed these men moved on to another town.

When a local gathering of believers does not welcome apostles such as these, and support them with food and clothing and shelter, it is proof the local church has passed from the stewardship of the Holy Spirit to the rule of men. Is your community of faith any better than the synagogue at Nazareth? Do you welcome unaffiliated itinerant ministers? If not, you are no better than the synagogue at Nazareth: full of unbelief.

Plain Words: **"And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits"** (Mark 6:7)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 13,941 = 9 x 1,549 [244th prime]. The spiritual meaning of numbers is **Judgment (9)** of **False Messiah Appears [244]**. Once again we see Mark 6 is about making spiritual judgements: Who is a spiritual man? What town is a spiritual community? The purpose of sending out the twelve apostles was to judge the spirituality of the towns: Is Jesus Lord? Or is Man Lord? If the towns reject the unaffiliated itinerant ministers then those towns have rejected Jesus as Messiah. A False Messiah rules in those places.

Why did Jesus send them two by two? The apostles were to demonstrate how the multiplicity of ministers works. The practice of one man dominating ministry in a town was to be shunned like plague.

Plain Words: “**And commanded them that they should take nothing for *their* journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in *their* purse**” (Mark 6:8)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 6,788 = 4 x 1,697 [265th prime]. The spiritual meaning of numbers is **Message (4) of No Place to Lay Your Head (265)**. This was the command of the LORD to his apostles: I am your shelter; I am your protector; I will watch over you: Go in my Name and minister in my Way. Ministers of Jesus do not belong to the Church. The Church ought never offer the ministers of Jesus salaries or ask them to submit reports of their work. Apostles of Jesus are the lowest servants: the slaves³. Slaves don't earn a salary. Slaves don't keep a bank account. Slaves don't own property. The duty of the Church is to feed, clothe, and shelter the servants of God – and release them to do their blessed work as the Spirit leads them.

Plain Words: “**But *be* shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.**” (Mark 6:9)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 5,085 = 3 x 3 x 5 x 113. The spiritual meaning of numbers is **Covenant (15) Line of Faith Survives (339)**; it can also be translated **Preserved Life (45) Rapture of Saints (113)**. What happens if the Church welcomes apostles? The **Line of Faith (339)** continues; the **Covenant (15)** with the LORD is honored. What happens if the local church does not welcome apostles? The faith will die out in that place because the LORD will no longer prosper their work. The Rapture of Saints (113) signifies the end of God's work in the church; in that unfortunate event, the LORD still promises to Preserve the Life (45) of Christians. Is the LORD placing a great burden upon the Church to welcome apostles? No. The lightest possible burden.

Plain Words: “**And he said unto them, ‘In whatsoever house you enter, there abide till you depart from that place.’**” (Mark 6:10)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 4,761 = 3 x 3 x 23 x 23. The spiritual meaning of numbers is **Killing Believers (69) Exalted (squared)**; it can also be translated **Judgment (9) of Heart is Humbled (529)**. These are some extraordinary numbers! But in light of what the verses in this section have been saying, when the church refuses to welcome itinerant ministers it will cease to be a line of faith. In other words, the Christians that would have been saved if the church had been faithful will not be saved. This is tantamount to **Killing Believers (69)**.

Mark 6 teaches the LORD promises to multiply believers if the church is faithful, and to cause a church to die if it is not faithful. The church is triumphant: the gates of Hell will not prevail against it. There is not some unseen evil power that causes churches to die; churches die because they are not faithful to God. Mark 6 deals with the duty of the church to honor the LORD's anointed servants. Believers in community have other duties as well: love one another; remember the LORD's death till he comes; etc.

This verse contains astonishingly detailed messages in the gematria of the individual words. We will analyze the gematria of the verse in more detail below:

³ Paul repeatedly referred to himself as the ‘*doulos*’, or bond-servant, or the slave of the Lord (Titus 1:1)

v10	Words	14 Letters	70	4761	3 * 3 * 23 * 23	69 KILLING BELIEVERS	9 JUDGMENT	69 KILLING BELIEVERS	529 HEART IS HUMBLD
	Original Text	Greek	Value						
And	και		31	FAMILY		129	BACKBITING		
he said	ελεγεν		98	RELIGIOUS LEADER BLIND		1730	10	173	GREAT BATTLE
to them,	αυτοις		981	9 109 DEFENDER OF THE POOR		1601	prime [252]		EVIL SPIRIT TORMENTS
								37	107 CRY OUT TO GOD IN DISTRESS
wherever	{οπου		620	20 31 FAMILY		2229	3	743 [132]	ANOINTED
if	εαν		56	HARD HEART		628	4	157	CHOSEN PEOPLE
									3233
you enter	εισελθητε		572	2 286 CONFESS YOUR SINS !		1004	2	502	KING INHERITS THE EARTH
into	εις		215	COURAGE TO FIGHT GONE		376			FLATTERY OF THE KING
									1825
a house,	οικιαν		161	PURIFIED CHURCH		821	prime [142]		25 73
there	εκει		40	SEVERE TEST		445			NO WAY TO PLEAD YOUR CASE TO GOD
									2322
abide	μενετε		405	PIONEERS OF THE FAITH		1501	19	79	MARTYRS
till	εως		1005	5 201 PEACE PACT WITH DEVIL		1056	4	264	SOULS IN GREAT DISTRESS
									3083
anyhow	αν		51	PRAISE		1582	14	113	RAPTURE OF SAINTS
you go out	εξελθητε		422	COVENANT OF LOVE		526			MOUNT ZION, CITY OF GOD
from there	εκειθεν		104	WORKERS DIVIDED					

Jesus is telling his apostles that the church will not always abide their work, **Backbiting (129)**, because men will emerge who are **Blind Spiritual Leaders (98)**. This will result in a **Great Battle (173)** in the church, which is the **Testimony (10)** of God on earth. Life for the spirit-free apostles will become **Evil Spirit Torments (252)**. As God's **Chosen Servants (37)** the apostles will **Cry Out To God in Distress (107)** because the church has **Bound (3)** the **Anointed Ones (132)**: the are hindering the God's work through His apostles.

Jesus is telling the church, **Message (4)** to **Chosen People (157)**, that it is the prerogative of **Messiah (61)** to choose who are His **Faithful Witnesses (53)**. If the church decides in its earthly wisdom to reject Jesus as Messiah, **Divide (2)** **King Inherits Earth (502)**, and choose another ruler, **Flattery of the King (376)**, then it will accept the consequences, **Payment for Sin (25)** **Babylon (73)**, for its poor choice: **Rash Decision (142)**.

By rejecting Jesus as Messiah, the church will have no defender: **No Way To Plead Your Case To God (445)**. The **Holy Truth (27)** which Jesus swears with upraised hand and declares to his church, **Nations Worship God (86)**, is rebellion will lead directly to **Martyrs (79)** of people of **Faith (19)**: **Killing Believers (69)**.

Choosing an earthly king is a **Peace Pact With Devil (201)**; it will bring peace to non-believers, but to believers it will bring: **Souls in Great Distress (264)**. These trials will wring the faith right out of the saints; they will not even bother to pray to God: **Cry to God Is Not Heard (441)** because their faith will be so cold. God will then uproot the church from the earth. The sprinkling of believers in the congregation will die out: **Righteous (14)** are **Raptured (113)**. There will be no one left to carry on the work of faith in spreading the gospel.

In spite of this, God will honor his **Covenant of Love (422)** and take the saints to Heaven: **Mount Zion (526)**.

Plain Words: “**And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when you depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment than for that city.**” (Mark 6:11)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 23004 = 71 x 324. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Judges (71) of Royal Princess Destroyed (324)**. Consider how seriously God takes this matter. The implications of the rebellion of the Christian churches goes farther than them dying out and the loss of Christian souls that might have been saved or of Christian martyrs who are put to death. A living spiritual church preserves secular society. Jesus said ‘**You are the salt of the earth.**’ Once the church is gone the forces of evil invade culture and erode all decency. The end result is God judges that city and it is wiped out, whether by fire from heaven or by marauding vandals. Whether the church welcomes apostles makes or breaks the survival of a civilization.

Plain Words: “**And they went out, and preached that men should repent.**” (Mark 6:12)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 3,563 = 7 x 509. The meaning of spiritual numbers is **The End (7) (of) Terror on Every Side (509)**. The apostles went to the churches. They are not preaching the gospel to the churches. The churches (ought to) consist of saved people. The apostles are preaching to the churches to honor the wishes of their Savior and Almighty God to maintain practices in His church that He specifies. If the churches do not welcome the apostles on God’s terms, based on what we learned in the previous verse, it will bring calamity on not only the church but on the local secular community. Will the churches hire permanent workers with exclusive ministry privileges in parishes controlled by a religious system? Or will the churches do ministry God’s way? This is not a trivial matter: this is a life or death matter for the church and for society.

Plain Words: “**And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.**” (Mark 6:13)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 6,048 = 27 x 224. The meaning of spiritual numbers is **Holy Truth (27) (is) Cold Blooded (224)**. Christians are well aware that God is Love. He has compassion in his heart for every saint and sinner. Nevertheless, concerning his Kingdom, the Kingdom of God, over which he sits as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Messiah will administer righteous judgment. His judgment may include painful discipline. The LORD is like the father who disciplines a child. Even though he loves the child he also wants the child to learn so he metes out punishment. This is not a picture of a gentle apostle: this is a picture of a man with a whip.

If the apostles were sent to the churches, or meetings of the faithful, who were the devils cast out of? Out of believers! God knows saints can stray far from the truth: the job of apostles is to straighten them out.

The apostles also minister healing oil. Saints living under tyrannical ecclesiastical dictators will be scarred from the experience. The apostles minister healing to those who have suffered spiritual oppression.

WHO ARE THE APOSTLES TODAY?

The teaching of the original apostles is still with the church in the form of the Scriptures.



The Bible tells us that '**all Scripture is God breathed.**' Holy men of old scribed these words as the Holy Spirit guided them. Marvellously, the words of all those different authors from all their varied occupations and epochs of history are in agreement with one another. This is because there is only One Author of the Bible.

Scripture has absolute authority in interpretation of faith and practice in the church. The gematria of the Hebrew and Greek letters is also God-breathed. The interpretations of gematria will never contradict the plain meaning of words in Scripture. It will provide a deeper meaning that men of stronger faith can digest.

When we read Scripture it is as if we invite the apostle who scribed the words to sit beside us to and speak to us. As we read the words of the apostle the Holy Spirit teaches our hearts how to interpret those words.

The Bible teaches that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah. Does the Bible have a central place in the Christian meetings that you attend? Does the Bible have a central place in your home? If so, then you are welcoming Jesus of Nazareth; if not, then you are rejecting Jesus of Nazareth.

However, God is still sending itinerant ministers in the church today just like he did in New Testament times. These godly brothers have no worldly affiliation, no worldly qualifications, no attachment to religious organizations of men. The church is to welcome these apostles and harken to their words. If local gatherings of saints will not listen to them, that sin *in itself* is enough for Christ to cause that local church to go extinct. This is what we have learned from the gematria of Mark 6 thus far. What does the Scripture say?

"Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth." (3 John 5-8)

"Diostrophes who loves to be first will have nothing to do with us... he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church." (3 John 9-10)

Welcoming Jesus: **1 John** and **2 John**. Welcoming apostles: **3 John**. Danger of false teachers: **Jude** (up next!)

CHURCH IS FILLED WITH FALSE TEACHERS

Religion is profitable for the false prophets. Take a glance at the notable cults of the last two thousand years and you will see a familiar pattern: false prophet(s) sitting at the apex of huge organizations, as exalted guides, stealing the honor of man to themselves, away from the proper glory of God, and harvesting much money from their devotees. In its extreme form these false prophets determine who may speak in their religious assemblies, a set of prescribed rituals to follow, and an official doctrine to preach.

This is in complete contrast to the true apostles, whose work and ministry was practically invisible in the secular mainstream of society. They refused to charge their hearers for their ministry (2 Cor. 11:7-8); they supplied their own needs by working with their hands (2 Thess. 3:8-9) or they requested merely food and clothing (1 Tim. 6:8). They warned the saints against adopting religion in any form (Gal. 4:9-11) because it wages war against true spirituality in the soul of the believer (Gal. 5:13-26). Men bringing such a message were unpopular with the prevailing religion of the day and were persecuted viciously (1 Cor. 11:16-33). Although they were spiritual guides of the highest order, they made themselves the lowest servants of the saints (1 Cor. 9:19) not their lords and rulers.

What is false teaching? Any teaching that departs from the truth set forth in the Bible.

Why is religion so connected to false teaching? In the first part, the gospel frees men from the guilt and punishment of sin. In the second part, the gospel frees men from religious obligation so the Holy Spirit can take control of our lives. Religion is based on a set of rules: do this, don't do that. The Holy Spirit operates according to a higher law – the law of love. Jesus obeyed the requirements of God by never sinning against the Law of God. When Jesus died the Law lost its authority over him. The Bible says Christians have died with Christ (Romans 6:1-5) therefore the Law has no authority over us either. So the Christian has no obligation to respect either the Law of God (the Law of Moses) or any other set of religious rules and conventions.

Whenever Christians submit to a religion they insult the grace of God demonstrated by Christ's death on the Cross because they imply Christ died for nothing (Gal. 2:21). Teachers which command Christians to belong to religious sects and follows rules within those sects are therefore as bad as any False Teacher we could name.

Religions may begin with believers but end with unbelievers. Starting at the point of denying the Grace of God through Christ's death as sufficient to save us from sin and the rule of religion over our lives, it is downhill from there. In my country, Canada, the land is dotted with empty church buildings for sale. Seventy-five years ago more than half the population would be in church on Sunday, about half in Protestant churches and half in Catholic churches. Today church attendance is down to ten percent and the official ideology of our nation is atheism and humanism. Religion has killed the faith and exalted man!

In the next part of the story in Mark 6, we see a situation where religious leaders in the land are confused even about such a simple thing as the identity of Jesus Christ. This is the effect of religion, it dulls our spiritual sensitivity to the point we don't know what to believe and so we accept lies.

Plain Words: “**And King Herod heard of him; for his name was spread abroad and he said, ‘John the Baptist was risen from the dead and therefore mighty works show forth in him’.**” (Mark 6:14)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 14,409 = 9 x 1,601 [252nd prime]. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Judgment (9)** of **Evil Spirit Controls (252)**. Herod was the ‘King of the Jews’: a title he gave himself. Herod was a convert to the Jewish religion and interested in matters relating to it. Jesus and his ministry was news among the Jewish community therefore it reached Herod’s ears. Herod showed that although he was a follower of the Jewish religion his belief was under the control of evil spirits. How do we know that: **Judgment (9)**? Because Herod was unable to identify who Jesus was. A person who confesses ‘Jesus is the Messiah’ can only say that by the Spirit of God (1 John 4:2). A confession that Jesus Christ is anyone other than the Messiah comes from the Devil (1 John 4:3). A man who does not confess Jesus is the Messiah is therefore under the control of the Devil: **Evil Spirit Controls (252)**.

Plain Words: “**Others said: ‘that it is Elias’. And others said: ‘that it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets’.**” (Mark 6:15)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 8,303 = 23 x 19 x 19. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Death (23)** **The Great Prostitute (361)**. What is the ‘Great Prostitute’? Religion! What is the connection to prostitution? A prostitute sells a time of intimacy for money. Religion opens its doors to members who are offered fellowship on the condition they make financial contributions to keep the religion going. Using a prostitute only gratifies the flesh. It cannot meet deeper human needs for love and commitment that are available in a marriage. Similarly religion only services the flesh: music, beautiful stained glass windows, a flowery speech. Religion pimps the reputation of God, his mighty works and his Holy Scripture, for money. Disgraceful! Worse, religion cannot save you. Religion is **Death (23)** to spiritual life.

Plain Words: “**But when Herod heard thereof, he said: ‘It is John, whom I beheaded; he is risen from the dead’.**” (Mark 6:16)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 9,130 = 110 x 83. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Day of Wrath (110)** **Nations Who Hate God (83)**. There are some startling insights here. First, to make a confession Jesus is someone else than the Messiah will never be a neutral issue in the mind of God. The opposite: it is a declaration of war. People who make such confessions put themselves in the group: **Nations That Hate God (83)**. A person might have a wonderful personality. They might be peace loving. They might do good works. They might even say prayers. But if they confess that Jesus is not the Messiah they are supporting the side which is opposed to God. Second, what can the outcome be for them other than **Day of Wrath (110)**?

Most people would admit that their personal identity is something they would rather others did not mess with. God is upset when people refuse to recognize the true identity of his Son or they tar him with another brush as someone else than who he is. When you consider the importance of knowing who Jesus is for sinners to be saved from eternal damnation, it makes disguising the true identity of Jesus a heinous crime. As a leader in Israel, for Herod to make wrong assertions of the identity of Jesus makes him guilty of great sin.

CHURCH LOVES VANITY – BELIEVES STRONG DELUSION

The daughter of Herodias dances and delights King Herod: asks for the head of John the Baptist (Mark 6:17-29)

The nation of **Israel** (community of God's people) is led by **King Herod** (rich ruler) with his noblemen (wealth) and generals (power).

John the Baptist (the prophet) is imprisoned (freedom to preach restricted) by Herod. **Herodias** (occult spirit: denies Jesus is Messiah) resents the message John preaches: that the marriage (religion) of Herod and Herodias is illegitimate before God. John argues Herodias already has a husband: **Philip** (the Devil).

Herod is so entranced by the dancing (spiritual deception) of the daughter (strong delusion) of Herodias that Herod promises on oath (strong covenant) to give her whatever she asks (lawlessness). She requests the head of John the Baptist on a platter as a test of Herod's vow. The executioner beheads John (prophets die).

The head of John the Baptist is a clear connection to his thinking (teaching). The community of God's people first neglected Biblical teaching (John imprisoned) then eliminated it altogether (head on a platter). Rather than meditate on spiritual truth, the God's people are given over to vain entertainment: exciting the flesh.

An important insight of the story is to understand that powers of darkness are at work to lead men astray from truth to lies. Evil spirits cannot fight the holy community of God's people head on: the LORD defends us. Therefore evil must corrupt the church from within. The scheme is to turn the church against the prophets who hold to the truth of God. Hidden workers of darkness, evil spirits, convince rich and powerful rulers to adopt religion. Religion has the appearance of righteousness but it is in fact a masquerade for wickedness. Jesus teaches the rich man to give his money to the poor and to follow him. Religion teaches the rich man to keep his money and give a portion of his income to the church, not to the poor. Religion is popular among rich men! But religion oppresses the poor and covers the truth.



“Jesus said unto him, if you will be perfect, go *and* sell what you have, and give to the poor and you shall have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions. Then said Jesus unto his disciples: verily I say unto you: a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you: it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.” (Matt. 19:21-24)

Plain Words: “**For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her.**” (Mark 6:17)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 15,024 = 2 x 24 x 313. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Division (2)** of **Priest (24): Lying Prophets (313)**. As we discussed in Mark 6:6 believers are the ‘priests’ in divine typology. To ‘divide’ the priests means to erase their faith. This is accomplished by restricting the freedom of the prophets to speak to the community: put John in prison. With the prophets muzzled, the **Lying Prophets (313)** prosper.

Plain Words: “**For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.**” (Mark 6:18)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 9,074 = 26 x 349. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Risked Their Lives (349)** for the **Gospel (26)**. John was brave to speak truth to power. But the heart of a prophet is more than willingness to **Risk His Life (349)**. John feared God and knew if people did obey the **Gospel (26)** they would suffer eternal punishment. John witnessed to Herod out of a heart of compassion for a ruthless dictator.

Plain Words: “**Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not.**” (Mark 6:19)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 6,236 = 4 x 1,559 [246th prime]. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Message (4)** of **False Messiah Rules [246]**. Why did Herodias resent John? John believed Jesus is the Messiah.

Herodias believes in another messiah, a false messiah, who is the ruler of the Kingdom of Darkness.

Whenever anyone objects to the truth of God (in the Law or in the Prophets) they proclaim that they are disciples of the Father of Lies: the Devil.⁴

Plain Words: “**For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and holy, and observed him; and having heard him, he lost his way** (he did not comprehend him) **and heard him gladly.**” (Mark 6:20)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 13,108 = 4 x 29 x 113. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Message (4)** of **Holy Life (29) Rapture of Saints (113)**. The prophet John brought a **Message (4)** of righteous living: **Holy Life (29)** to the rich ruler Herod. In essence John said: if you believe in the power of God to raise you from the dead, Rapture of Saints (113), then show it by living a just and holy life on earth. Herod was curious about this holy man, John, but he could not believe his message. As we know from Mark 6:16 the first idea that came to Herod’s mind to explain the ministry of Jesus was that John had risen from the dead. It is evident that John preached to Herod faith in the Messiah to obtain resurrection in the next life. Like the rich young ruler that went away sad, Herod also could not bring himself to live a holy life. If only he had believed, the Holy Spirit would have entered his heart and given him that power. But his lust for riches overcame any inclination to believe the prophets. Later in the Book of Acts Paul preached to another rich ruler: Agrippa. It is apparent from their dialogue that belief in resurrection of the dead was the key article of faith that defined who believed in God and who were merely carnal men practicing religious rituals to be accepted in society.

⁴ If genuine believers are confused how to interpret the Law or the Prophets that is a different thing. There will be debates among God’s people on matters of interpretation. The heart of Herodias is to destroy the Law and the Prophets. That is clear Satanism.

Plain Words: “**And when a convenient day was come, Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chiefs of estates of Galilee.**” (Mark 6:21)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 13,847 = 61 x 227. The spiritual numbers mean **King of the Jews (61) Blindness to Betrayal (227)**. Herod, the King of the Jews, a title he gave himself, was completely unaware that he was about to be manipulated by actors in his court. This is the nature of spiritual blindness: it deceives people into doing things (sins) which will bring the wrath of God and punishment on their heads. Herod appears in this story as the pathetic character. Amazingly God loves Herod and does not want him to perish. But the Devil is too craft and deceives Herod before he can believe and be saved. The irony in this scene is painful: Herod celebrates his own birthday, at the time in history the true King of the Jews: Jesus was born on the earth!

Plain Words: “**And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel: Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.**” (Mark 6:22)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 17,771 = 13 x 1,367 [219th prime]. The spiritual numbers mean **Rebellion (13) Pierced With Thorns (219)**. Herod is about to commit an act of utter rebellion against God. The giddy atmosphere of his life of luxury disguises the truth that he is about to suffer for his sin. As we will see he is humiliated in front of his friends as he makes a foolish promise. Later his conscience will be pricked: **Pierced with Thorns (219)** that he betrayed to death a man, John, who loved his soul more than life itself.

Plain Words: “**And he swore to her: ‘Whatever you ask me, I will give it, to half of my kingdom.’**” (Mark 6:23)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 8,697 = 39 x 223. The spiritual numbers mean **Disease (39) Hot Tempered (223)**. What could possibly induce a royal king to make such a foolish promise? Was it too much wine? Was it the party atmosphere that crazed his mind? This is not the first time in Scripture we see a king acting foolishly at a party. We can look at Xerxes’ grand galla to find another example of a king who makes a rash decision (Ester 1): **Diseases (39) Hot Tempered (223)**. We can look at Belshazzar’s banquet (Daniel 5). In the calculus of all these king’s minds is the lie that kingdoms are theirs to bestow. In truth God determines what happens to kings and kingdoms. God also determines eternal destinies. These kings are plagued by their own arrogance.

Plain Words: “**And she went and said to her mother: What shall I ask? And she said: The head of John the Baptist.**” (Mark 6:24)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 8,135 = 5 x 1,627 [258th prime]. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Weakness (5) Death to the Christ Confessors (258)**. How laser perfect does the gematria match the plain words of the text! Herodias, the host of evil spirits who despise God, does not hesitate to ask for the death of the prophet of God. If only Herod would understand: although he is a rich and powerful king on earth he is but a foolish pawn in a chess match between grand masters in the spirit realm. Not only Herod’s soul is the prize; also the souls of all in his kingdom. For good reason elders down through the centuries of the church have preached to young people to live in all reverence and fear of God: stay away from wine, women, and song!

Plain Words: “**And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying, I will that you give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.**” (*Mark 6:25*)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 14,168 = 77 x 184. The spiritual meaning of numbers is **False Prophet (77) Believers Sleep (184)**. People who do not have the Spirit of God cannot tell the difference between all the world religions. Religions reveal their Satanic colors when they call for the murder and eradication of believers of opposing faiths. History is filled with religious wars. The Kingdom of God is the exception: Jesus did not fight his oppressors he went to his death instead. All the religions of the world are under the control of the Evil One. Christianity is not a religion. Our temple is in heaven and our Savior lives in our hearts by faith. Money, land, control: the spiritually reborn-man will not fight over these. Christ has won the battle on the Cross, now we await his return to meet the LORD in the air and return with him to heaven. The earth is not our home: we are strangers and aliens here. So called ‘Christian’ religions are just another franchise of Satan re-branded.

Plain Words: “**And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.**” (*Mark 6:26*)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 8,863 = [1,105th prime] 1,105 = 13 x 85. The spiritual numbers mean **Rebellion (13) Holy Communion (85)**. Oaths! Another sure sign of the Kingdom of Satan is the reliance on making men swear oaths to control them. Jesus said ‘**Let your yes be yes and your no be no. Any other comes from the Evil One**’. Religions are full of oaths. An example would be the vow of celibacy undertaken by priests in the Catholic church. Through oaths evil spirits ensure men will stay loyal to their religious commitments and not gain the freedom available through rebirth and guidance by the Holy Spirit. Taking an oath is an act of Rebellion (13) to the Holy Communion (85), the Kingdom of God.

Plain Words: “**And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison.**” (*Mark 6:27*)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 12,783 = 13 x 45. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Rebellion (13) to Preserved Life (45)**. The sanctity of human life was established in the Covenant of Noah: ‘**Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed.**’ (Genesis 9:6). When men submit to religions they make religious doctrines and religious leaders their God. If the Pope calls for a Crusade, without thinking, the people put on armor and massacre defenseless ones of other faiths. Religion voids the commandment of God: Preservation (of innocent) Life (45). Read your history. You will find all religions guilty of this. Religion simply becomes an agency of rich rulers to mobilize ignorant masses to fight on their behalf. Satanic!

Plain Words: “**And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother.**” (*Mark 6:28*)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 10,776 = 24 x 449. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Priest (24) (of) Man Hides From God (449)**. Herod never saw the face of Herodias. The entire scheme was hidden from Herod. In spite of the personal witness of John the Baptist, King Herod did not come into the light of God’s presence and

confess his sins. Herod chose to hide from God in the darkness: **Man Hides From God (449)**. Herod did not know evil spirits are also hiding in the darkness. Using the cover of darkness, Herodias: **Priest(ess) (24)** of the evil spirits, tricked Herod. No matter what the doctrinal confession or good works or holy origins: the heart of all religion is occult. Evil spirits pull the strings, religion enforces obedience, and man is a slave to do wrong.

Plain Words: “**And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb.**”
(Mark 6:29)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 7,930 = 130 x 61. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Accusation (130)** (of) **King of the Jews (61)**. Herod steadfastly refused to come in to the light of God to confess his sins. Won't he be surprised when he appears before the light of God's glory at the Great White Throne judgment when the unsaved souls stand before God and make their case that God should not send them to eternal punishment? The beheaded body of John the Baptist will be brought in as evidence: **Accusation (130)** the “**King of the Jews**” (61), or so Herod called himself. Herod the great speech maker will be speechless. He joined a religion, he was deceived [Religion 'beheaded' Herod], and he committed wrongs worthy of eternal punishment. Religion could not save him from the punishment of his sins. In fact, religion led him straight to Hell.

BELIEVERS SCATTERED: SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD

When religion holds sway in the land it appears the Kingdom of Darkness overcomes the Kingdom of Light. True believers in Jesus are now scattered and persecuted. But, as we continue in Mark 6 this only brings more intense spiritual blessing into the lives of believers. The darker the world becomes the brighter the light shines in their hearts. God becomes more real, more evident to them.



Plain Words: “**And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.**” (*Mark 6:30*)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 6,963 = 33 x 221. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Scattered Remnant (33) God Forsakes Them (221)**. There is some deep insight in these numbers. Never question the gematria. Question your own understanding. What first appears impossible becomes the divine perspective.

Religion has shown its occult colors: John the Baptist is dead. The King of Israel, Herod the Great, is responsible for ordering the beheading. Here is what having a king as the representative of a nation does: if the king sins - the entire nation is tarred with the guilt of it. When God sent a plague upon Israel for the sin of King David counting the fighting men he cried out in horror at the innocent ones dying for his crimes: **‘these are but sheep, what have they done?... Lo, I am the sinner!’** (2 Samuel 24:17) When the people pledge an oath of obedience to the king they become his body, his kingdom. If the king sins, the people are party to it.

Herod ordered John the Baptist beheaded. This sin now stained the entire kingdom of Herod, the secular people of Israel of which he was the head. As a result of that sin, the Spirit of God departed from the nation of Israel: **God Forsakes Them (221)**. In addition, all the believers in Jehovah also departed spiritually from under the headship of Herod: **Scattered Remnant (33)**. As we will see the believers are drawn to Jesus in the wilderness, starting with the apostles in this set of verses.

Plain Words: “**And he said unto them: Come yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while; for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.**” (*Mark 6:31*)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 10,823 = 79 x 137. The meaning of the numbers is **Martyr (79) Quarreling (137)**. The beheading of John the Baptist set off furious debate among God’s people: **Quarreling (137)**. All knew John was a righteous man. How could a prophet be killed, **Martyr (79)**, and the murderer walk free?

Since the time of David⁵ the King of Israel appointed the High Priest⁶, and the High Priest anointed the King. King Herod built the Temple and he appointed the High Priest in it. The two individuals, the King and the High Priest, were joined at the hip. If King Herod was a sinner guilty of murdering a prophet, what did that mean for the priesthood? Were they party to this crime? Were they guilty of murdering the prophets? Would they stand up for the righteousness of God and condemn the crime as murder? Or quietly acquiesce to it?

The martyrdom of John the Baptist sent shock waves through the Jewish people. They did not know what to do or who to turn to for answers. Jesus knew the interpretation of these things: if Herod and the High Priest would murder John the Baptist, the forerunner of Messiah, then they would also murder the Messiah. Soon

⁵ This practice was an invention of David – it did not reflect God’s order of things. For those who wish to trace the path of the corruption of the Jewish religion we invite you to read our paper: ‘I am the Sinner’ on Page 4 PROPHECY of our website.

⁶ 1 Chron 23:6 King determines which Levites take each task and how many are assigned; King even determines which musical instruments are played; 1 Chron 24:3 King determines the order the priests minister; 1 Chron 25:2 King supervises the prophets!

Jesus would begin to tell his followers the Son of Man must die then rise from the dead. It was for this purpose the LORD told his apostles to draw aside for rest: to get ready for a bigger crisis.

Plain Words: “**And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.**” (Mark 6:32)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 3,843 = 63 x 61. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **God’s Wrath (63) King of Jews (61)**. Jesus began to teach his apostles that Messiah must die. The apostles would struggle to digest that prophecy. Messiah has no sin. Death is the result of the Curse on sin. If the Messiah has no sin, how can the Messiah die? Death is the visitation of **God’s Wrath (63)** on sin. When Jesus arose out of the waters of baptism at the hands of John the Baptist, God’s voice broke the skies and declared from the Heaven: ‘**This is my Son, with whom I am well pleased**’. How can a Holy Father put to death his Beloved Son with whom He is well pleased?

The implication of the debate was personal: Jesus and the apostles were ‘in the same boat’. If John would be murdered, then Jesus would be murdered. If Jesus would be murdered, then his apostles were next in line. If his apostles were murdered then all his believers were at risk. The existence of the Kingdom of God in Israel was threatened by the murder of John the Baptist. From the Book of Acts we know the persecution of the apostles and believers continued after the Cross. Eventually believers were driven out of the Holy Land.

The message of Mark 6 is this: if a town can reject Jesus, a town can reject his apostles. If a town rejects his apostles, God will destroy that place. History records the teaching of Jesus was validated: shortly thereafter the Romans came and destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD. It is a serious thing to kill God’s prophets. It is even a serious thing not to show apostles hospitality and listen to their words.

The Kingdom of God is not simply a matter of sinners being forgiven and going to Heaven. It is also a matter of God shaking the kingdoms of this world: destroying some and raising others. Herod’s kingdom proves that.

Plain Words: “**And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him.**” (Mark 6:33)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 14,348 = 68 x 211. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Victorious Disciples (68) Every Man for Himself (211)**. The people who feared God were literally running out of the cities. The Spirit of God stirred up the **Victorious Disciples (68)** and showed them there was no longer any safety in the arms of the Jewish state under the administration of King Herod: **Every Man for Himself (211)**. The believers in Jehovah were fleeing from the cities and the Spirit was directing them to find Jesus in the wilderness.

Oh that God’s people would gain a heart of wisdom and flee from religion at the first opportunity. Why tarry in the belly of the beast and wait until it shows its occult colors? Why not be wise and know the marks of religion? Meet Jesus in the wilderness. Take care of orphans and widows in their distress. Meet in homes and welcome unaffiliated itinerant ministers. Uphold the priesthood of all believers. Encourage every saint to exercise their gifts. Shun professional paid ministers like the plague. Love one another. Study God’s word.

Plain Words: “**And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.**” (Mark 6:34)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 11,744 = 32 x 367. The meaning of the numbers is **Fellowship (32) Place of Worship is a Yoke (367)**. Jesus taught them ‘many things’. Why is the Bible silent about what Jesus taught? Why do we have to decipher the gematria of the verses to understand what was really going on? In His wisdom God hid this knowledge from the rich men who would construct monolithic religions to snuff out the Kingdom of God. If the gospel truth were too straightforward the rich men would have destroyed the documents.

The message Jesus taught the people was the **Fellowship (32)** they belonged to, the Jewish religion of that day, had become **Place of Worship is a Yoke (367)**. Jesus taught them the Jewish religion of Herod’s temple was not God’s intention, it was man’s invention. David had also built a Temple in Jerusalem – that was man’s invention – God never asked for a temple in stone. David had built the temple to different dimensions, with different furniture, in different layouts than God had prescribed in the Tabernacle in the desert. David had added new features, including a portico with two columns and steps rising up to the portico.

Every religion does similar things: constructs great complexes for mass meetings; prescribes laws and rules and priesthoods and required offerings from members. Sports stadiums are temples of religion. Giant cathedrals and mosques are temples of religion. Universities are temples of religion. All are inventions of man. God is not found in those places. God is found at the kitchen table. God is found in a quiet closet.

Plain Words: “**And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said: This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed.**” (Mark 6:35)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 10,347 = 3 x 3,449 [482nd prime]. The meaning of the numbers is **Binding (3) of Worship of False Gods (482)**. Religion is like a tar pit: even if you get out of it - it sticks to you. The disciples of Jesus had been conformed to religion all their lives. They came to Jesus with a plan to send the people away from the wilderness. At the heart it wasn’t because there was no food – it was because the whole idea of meeting in the outdoors didn’t appeal to them. It didn’t seem like the right way to do things. They would have been more comfortable in a synagogue with holy candles with a rabbi evoking familiar blessings and prayers. They did not know it but the disciples were **Bound (3) to Worship of False Gods (482)**. Religion is false worship. The temples and rabbis and familiar psalms and holy candles had become a trap and a snare to these Jews. They were constrained to worship that way because they loved religion – not God.

Here is the hard teaching of Jesus: the wilderness is your home. Until the kingdom comes and Messiah rules from his throne in Jerusalem disciples are called to be strangers and aliens on earth⁷. We are called not to set down roots and build temples but to go to the ends of the earth and proclaim the gospel of the kingdom.

⁷ Our paper ‘Isaac Sojourns in Gerar’ deals with this whole topic. See Page 100 CHURCH on our website.

Plain Words: “**Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat.**” (*Mark 6:36*)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 14,709 = 3 x 4,903 [655th prime]; 655 = 5 x 131. The meaning of the numbers is **Binding (3) of Weakness (5) of Children of God (131)**. How the ears of Jesus must have tingled when he heard his disciples say ‘send them away’. The god-fearing believers had run out of the cities and now the disciples of Jesus wanted to send them right back. Furthermore, they wanted to order these believers to buy bread with money. Religion is the ‘great harlot’. She sells her bread for money. Jesus was going to have no part of this! What the disciples were proposing would result in perpetual spiritual poverty for the god-fearing believers: **Binding (3) of Weakness (5) of Children of God (131)**.

Plain Words: “**He answered and said to them: Give ye them to eat. And they said to him: Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?**” (*Mark 6:37*)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 14,368 = 32 x 449. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Fellowship (32) of Man Hides from God (449)**. There were 5,000 people in that place who had come running out of the cities. They didn’t bring picnic baskets with them – they were fleeing for their lives.

The spiritual number 200 means **Mouth of Lion (200)**. As far as the disciples were concerned the situation was hopeless: the people were going to die, the open mouth of the lion (of famine) would kill them.

A man who spends their life propping up religion comes to this conclusion: God needs me. The corollary to that notion is another lie: God has no resources of his own. The spiritual bankruptcy of these disciples can be traced directly back to a lifetime of religious conditioning.

Once in the past God called the author with wife and child to go to a city to meet the needs of refugees. He went and discovered the refugees had no place to stay and no food. The author had no money to buy a house or rent a house. God supplied a house that was old too and too run down to rent. It was a wilderness compared to other homes in the city. We stayed in that house for three years and met the needs of dozens of refugee families. We enjoyed such a blessing words can hardly describe it.

The disciples were correct in one thing: they had no power in themselves to feed the people. Their fault was not to see the sufficiency of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah who was in their midst.

Plain Words: “**He said to them: How many loaves have ye? Go and see. And when they knew, they said: Five and two fishes.**” (*Mark 6:38*)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 8,910 = 90 x 99. The spiritual numbers mean **Righteous Sifted (90) Shekinah Glory of God (99)**. How many loaves does a disciple of Jesus have? What utter silliness for these disciples to count the loaves *they* have: **Righteous Sifted (90)**. They are not counting the loaves God has. God has loaves without limit! God is with us: **Shekinah Glory (99)**. He will now prove it to those faithless disciples.

Plain Words: “**And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass.**” (Mark 6:39)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 9,750 = 78 x 125. The spiritual numbers mean **Miraculous Signs (78) Surrounding Protection (125)**. Let us count the miraculous signs in this scene. First, God stirred up the hearts of the people to flee the religion of Herod. Second, God directed those God-fearers to seek Jesus. Third, God gave them supernatural power to run around the boundary of the lake faster than a boatful of disciples could row across the lake in a straight line. Fourthly, he calmed the unrest of quarreling and disputing among them (not a mean feat: it was a crowd of Jews). Fifth, at Jesus’ command they sat quietly on the grass in groups.

The lesson here is powerful. In your time of greatest distress: do nothing. Come to a place of rest. Wait quietly and patiently for the LORD to deliver you. Keep your eyes and ears on the Lion. Do what he says.

Plain Words: “**And they sat down in ranks by hundreds, and by fifties.**” (Mark 6:40)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 2,761 = 11 x 251. The meaning of spiritual numbers is **Darkness (11) Evil Spirit Controls (251)**. What an amazing gematria! Not what we expect. But the Spirit of God sees to the depths of a matter. The spiritual number 100 means ‘Holy Flock’ and the spiritual number 50 means ‘Persecution’. So the number 5,000 means **Persecution(50) of the Holy Flock(100)**. Was Jesus persecuting the Holy Flock by feeding them? No, Jesus was feeding them because they were persecuted. When believers are driven out of cities for fear for their lives it is a sign: **Evil Spirit Controls (251)**. It is a time of: **Darkness (11)**.

Jesus was about to perform a great miracle: multiplying the loaves. He did it to show that God supplies our needs in times of distress. He will not leave us nor forsake us. We ought not to expect miracles as an everyday occurrence, but in a time of distress they do appear. Jesus was not just feeding the 5,000 with bread; Jesus was feeding them with the faith that God would not abandon them. The murder of John had struck fear in their hearts: Jesus was speaking ‘peace: be still’ to their hearts.

After eating the loaves the 5,000 went to their homes. Not because they were full of food. They went to their homes satisfied because their hearts were full of faith in God.

Plain Words: “**And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.**” (Mark 6:41)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 20,319 = 39 x 521. The meaning of the spiritual numbers is **Disease (39) Ungodly Nation Oppresses (521)**. Jesus had the people sit on the grass because he wanted every person not to miss the message he was about to deliver. He raised up the five loaves and the two small fishes. His message was this: See how ungodly this Herod religion is? Here we are in the wilderness, 5,000 people, oppressed and persecuted, and all we have is five loaves and two small fish. Will we perish? Will God forsake his people? Then Jesus thanked the Father and blessed His Holy Name in advance for what He was about to do.

Jesus multiplied the loaves and fishes and fed the 5,000 so that there were leftover pieces.

Jesus broke the bread. Then he broke it again. Then he broke it again. Endlessly. Dear reader, can you break bread like Jesus? Can you take what little you have and multiply it a thousand fold? Can you take the bread of the Word of God and fill the faith of God's people to overflowing?

Gematria analysis is just such a miracle of God. By now you should be persuaded there are hidden mysteries in God's word that gematria analysis can lift out. In gematria analysis we are literally dividing the Word of God into its mathematical factors, just as we have in this verse: $20,319 = 39 \times 521$. The result is more spiritual truth than the face value of the words. A single verse will have 10 to 20 words and 30 to 100 letters. The number of ways to divide and sum those numbers is enormous. The amount of spiritual information in the numerical patterns is endless.

Why has God waited until now to reveal the full power of gematria in his Word? The author believes it is because God's people worldwide are trapped in religions. A time of distress is coming when the occult colors of religion will be shown. Persecution of saints is already seen in Iraq, in Kenya, and in Nigeria. When God's people finally understand religion is their mortal foe, and flee to a wilderness with no spiritual food, gematria analysis may be one of the miracles God uses to sustain their faith.

"...there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." (Daniel 12:1-4)

Praise the awesome deeds of the LORD. His work is from everlasting to everlasting. Bless His Holy Name.

Plain Words: **"And they did all eat, and were filled."** (Mark 6:42)

Hidden Manah: Gematria $2,871 = 29 \times 99$. The spiritual numbers mean **Holy One (29) Shekinah Glory of God (99)**. It was a miracle that God multiplied the bread. It was another miracle that God filled the hearts of the distressed believers with spiritual food. Both miracles point to an even greater sign of God: that Jesus was the **Holy One (29)**. John said that the Word became flesh, and dwelled among us, and we beheld his glory: **Shekinah Glory of God (99)**. The appearance of Jehovah in the flesh of a human and his miracles among us is the greatest witness and testimony to the glory of God there will ever be.

Plain Words: **"And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes."** (Mark 6:43)

Hidden Manah: Gematria $7,420 = 70 \times 106$. The spiritual numbers mean **Elders (70) Faithful Witness Abused (106)**. Why were there twelve baskets of fragments? The suggestion here is that each of the apostles heaped

up a basket of fragments for himself. Were they were hungry? No, the previous verse says 'all did eat, and were filled.' The disciples were collecting bread more than what was required to meet their needs. The **Elders (70)** of the faith were stockpiling bread: in case God could not provide their needs tomorrow.

Jesus must have grieved: **Faithful Witness Abused (106)**. God had just performed a mighty miracle. His apostles saw a chance for self-enrichment. Everything in the ministry of Jesus was to teach the way to follow God without falling into the trap of religion. His apostles showed they were still infected with the virus.

They needed to be taught a lesson. When would they believe?

Plain Words: "**And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.**" (Mark 6:44)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 6,311 [821st prime]; 821 [142nd prime] 142 = 2 x 71. The meaning of the spiritual number is **Division (2)** of **Judges (71)**. We can only imagine the scolding: **Division (2)** Jesus delivered to those apostles: **Judges (71)**. This is the 44th verse. That spiritual number means **Blood Thirsty Murderers (44)**. Jesus likely recounted the tale of woe from Israel's history of spiritual leaders who led the people astray by lust for personal possessions. He may have started with Aaron and the golden calf. He may have ended with King Solomon's love of gold: he who turned the kingdom into a factory floor to supply personal luxuries.

The number 5,000 is mentioned in this context. 5,000 = 1,000 x 5. The spiritual number means **Tribe (1,000)** of **Grace (5)**. Jesus came to found a kingdom of grace: seeing the needs of others ahead of yourself. Men who saw the kingdom as an opportunity to advance their reputation, or line their pockets with gold, or use spiritual gifts to obtain personal advantage, or exalt themselves above others on have no part in it. Religion boils down to greedy men exploiting needy people. The end result of religion is death of the prophets, e.g. John the Baptist. Jesus let those apostles have it with both barrels. It was a grim end to a glorious day.

RAPTURE: CHURCH IS SAVED FROM THE WORLD

The apostles weren't learning from all the amazing experiences happening around them.

They had gone forth two by two and seen the power of God operate in casting out demons and healing the sick. They had seen a miracle of feeding 5,000 people with five loaves and two fishes.

They had also heard that Herod killed John the Baptist. There were many questions in their minds.

Jesus had intended to take the apostles to a quiet place that they might have rest. The pace did not let up. A long day of ministry to thousands of needy people took another chance away for the apostles to rest.

People who want to follow Jesus learn it is not an easy life. There are road blocks. There is resistance from friends and relatives. There are personal failures. Ministry to others can sap all your strength.

What was the lesson of the feeding of the 5,000? God cannot do his work in our lives until we stop trying to understand the world using only reason, **Quarreling (137)**, and we sit down and wait for God.

Plain Words: “**And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.**” (Mark 6:45)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 11,320 = 40 x 283. The spiritual numbers mean **Severe Test (40) King Rejected (283)**. It was already late in the day when the feeding of the 5,000 commenced. All had eaten, the apostles scavenged bits of broken bread in the declining sun, and Jesus gave them a stern speech denouncing greed. Darkness was falling. They were hustled into a boat and told to row across the Sea.

They are exhausted. They are laboring: pulling oars. Frustration simmers into discontent. Discontent froths up into accusation. Accusation spills out into rebellion. Rebellion explodes into rejection of the Messiah.

“Where is the Master?” “He’s taking his ease on the shore while we are here pulling hard on oars.”

“Have you noticed? He cares and feeds that mob from the cities but all he does is give us work to do.”

“That’s right – we’re the ones who do his bidding and he calls us ‘bloody murderers’ for collecting bread.”

“I’m fed up with being somebody’s servant. I want to go back to having my own business like before.”

“How about you Peter and John? Remember those days? Drinking wine on the beach watching the sun set.”

“This Jesus thinks too highly of himself. Who made him king over us? I’m going back to collecting taxes.”

In the darkness of night at their point of extreme weakness: **Severe Test (40) the twelve apostles decide to stop following Jesus: King Rejected (283)**.

Plain Words: “**And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.**” (Mark 6:46)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 4,234 = 58 x 73. The spiritual numbers mean **Worldly Life (58) Babylon (73)**. The scene we are observing is prophetic of the last days of the Age of Grace. The apostles are all in one boat at sea pulling on oars together: the world’s people (the sea) unite to form a one world government: **Babylon (73)** under the leadership (boat floats above water) of ten rulers who follow one charismatic leader⁸. The people of the world (the waters) have a common belief: they reject Jesus as Messiah and they dream of a world of peace where men can do whatever they please: **Worldly Life (58)**.

Jesus departed into a mountain. During the Age of Grace Jesus is in Heaven sitting on the throne of all power: at the top of the mountain of the faith – mount Zion the heavenly Jerusalem. There he is praying and interceding for his church on earth. This is the 46th verse. That spiritual number means **Resurrection (46)**.

As far as the apostates are concerned, Jesus is dead. As we continue in the story we see the LORD demonstrates to them in a powerful way he is not dead. He is alive in the supernatural power of Jehovah.

⁸ Only one of the apostles does not join the rebellion: John; the remaining ten follow the charismatic Peter. The apostles become ‘types’ of world rulers in the last days. In their hardness of heart they can’t represent spiritual leaders in this part of the passage.

Plain Words: “**And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.**”

(Mark 6:47)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 6,694 = 2 x 3,347 [472nd prime]. The meaning of spiritual numbers is **Division (2)** of **The Lord Hears (472)**. This verse speaks of the very last days of the Age of Grace. Jesus is alone on the land – meaning the church has abandoned the solid ground of the faith. The 5,000 have dispersed back into the cities – they have become like sheep without a shepherd once again. The men who were once the servants of Christ have now departed from the faith and engage themselves in worldliness. Evening has come: the leaders of the world are in league with the Kingdom of Darkness.

The spirit of the men in the boat is light and gay. “We are free from the tyrant Jesus! We are going to live our own lives again! Let’s celebrate, sing some of the bawdy fishermen songs: let’s have a party!” As Jesus prays on the mountain God reveals to him what is transpiring: **The Lord Hears (472)**. His church has descended to the bottom and they are about to do the unthinkable: duplicate the crime of Herod, and kill the prophets!

Jesus prays. God is never without a witness on the earth in this epoch. In the boat there is **Division (2)**:

John puts down his oar (renounces worldliness) and stands up in the boat. “No, brothers!” “What you are doing is wrong.” “By departing from Jesus you are uniting yourself to [*marrying*] the spirit of the world which is the kingdom of Darkness [*Herodias*]” “Do not unite with the world: the world is joined to the Devil [*Philip*]!”

The apostates harden their hearts further. “No!” “We are all in this together” “If you don’t join with us – you have no part in this boat – we will throw you overboard into the sea! [*behead John the Baptist*]” And the rest of the apostates in the boat swore oaths to do as their leader [*Herod: the Antichrist*] threatened.

Plain Words: “**And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.**” (Mark 6:48)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 17,679 = 83 x 213. The spiritual meaning of the numbers is **Nations Hate God (83)** **God’s Deeds Forgotten (213)**. God sends such a storm upon the apostates: God’s Deeds Forgotten (213) cannot carry out their murderous threat: Nations Hate God (83). They are now trying to save their lives.

Jesus came to them, walking on the water. A clear message to the leaders: You think you are safe from drowning [*unruly lawless masses on earth*] because you have put your trust in a ship [*one world government: world trading system*]. You are not safe. Curious thing isn’t it? Look at me – I am safe. Not only that: I am the one whose feet are treading up this storm to drown you. All the affairs in the universe are under my control. I am LORD. But you forgot my words. You forgot my deeds. Now I am forsaking you.

And Jesus turned to walk past them on his way to the far shore [*Heavenly Kingdom*]. What a miracle! Not merely walking on water – but finding a boat lost at sea in the midst of a storm – in the darkness!

Plain Words: “**But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out.**” (Mark 6:49)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 5,876 = 52 x 113. The spiritual numbers mean **Gospel Worker (52) Rapture of Saints (113)**. The rebels saw Jesus: **Gospel Worker (52)** but they could not understand him. In their rebellion they had become spiritually blind (darkness). In a premonition of death they tapped a deep root of truth: Jesus is not dead: Rapture of Saints (113). However, they were confused and supposed Jesus to be an angel.

It seems fantastic to believe that just hours before in the day these same men had seen Jesus on the shore and now they supposed Jesus to be an angel not a man. This is the power of darkness – it buries spiritual lessons already learned from our consciousness – and makes us ignorant – living in fear in the darkness – unable to interpret spiritual things - believing lies. The apostles were as confused as Herod who supposed Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead.

The apostates cried out. They were afraid. They were perplexed. The sight of Jesus brought a glimmer of hope into their hearts: God exists. God is light. They cried out to God. And God heard.

Plain Words: “**For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and said to them: Be of good cheer: It is I, be not afraid.**” (Mark 6:50)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 10,048 = 64 x 157. The spiritual meaning of the numbers is **Fellowship Broken (64) Chosen People (157)**. The captain of the ship appears! The mutinous apostates are understandably nervous. Christ called them ‘blood-thirsty murderers’ and his words came true! They had threatened to throw John overboard. ‘Be of good cheer.’ Grace speaks! The ears of the apostates are opened. They hear His voice.

Prophetically, the Great Falling Away took place, **Fellowship Broken (64)**: the saints denied Christ and followed the world. The last remaining faithful witnesses of Christ were martyred: John thrown overboard [*baptised into His death!*]. The world became an enormous storm: nation rose against nation, violence and lawlessness were everywhere. The boats of man’s worldly dreams filled with water and sank: all hope was lost. At this blackest hour Christ comes down from Heaven [*the holy mountain*] and met the saints in the air [*they all saw him*]. ‘It is I’ ‘Be not afraid’. In an instant their old bodies of flesh disappear and they are clothed in new resurrection bodies: **Chosen People (157)**.

What will the rapture be like? To God’s faithful who were obedient to the end, it will be like Christ embracing John: a sweet reunion. To those who put their trust in Christ and began to follow him but turned back to the world, it will be a bitter-sweet reunion. Sweet to know their lives are safe; bitter to realise they lost the opportunity to glorify the LORD in the land of the living.

Secrets in the Gematria. Why did John recline his head on Jesus’ breast at the Last Supper? Why did he look into the eyes of his Master with such adoration? Now we know: Jesus saved his life [from drowning]. John, whose name means ‘beloved’, could scarcely eat in Jesus’ presence. His heart was consumed with the Lord.

Plain Words: “**And he went up to them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered.**” (Mark 6:51)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 7,574 = 14 x 541 [100th prime]. The spiritual numbers mean **Righteous (14) Holy Flock (100)**. In their new resurrection bodies the saints fulfill our destiny to be Christ’s body: Holy Flock (100). No longer blind, we see. No longer doubting, we believe. No longer clinging to idols: distracted by the things of this world: we are captivated by the LORD. No longer sinners, we are **Righteous (14)**.

How can this be? The seed of faith is a deposit of future glory to be revealed. God chose us. In his power and might God will in time transform us to be in the image of his Son. Later in Mark 9 the LORD took three disciples up a tall mountain and was transfigured before their eyes into his heavenly form. This was to show them He was completely righteous – gloriously acceptable to God. Righteousness is a position – a state of standing before God. When we believe, the moment we believe, our sins are forgiven and we are granted the righteousness of Christ. When we get to Heaven our righteous will be revealed. But believers possess it even now on the earth. The LORD could not permit those twelve to sink in the sea. It is impossible for the righteous, for forgiven sinners, to go to hell – that would be unlawful. We have one destiny only: to go to Heaven. Yes, some will die before Jesus appears at the rapture. But all believers, those who are asleep at his coming and those who are awake, will be raised to newness of life.

Plain Words: “**For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.**” (Mark 6:52)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 6,484 = 4 x 1,621 [257th prime]. The spiritual numbers mean **Message (4) Worship is an Abomination (257)**. The storm has passed. The waters are at peace. The apostles finally get a rest to meditate on all these marvellous events. They conclude they lost their way: **Worship is an Abomination (257)** at the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves. While God was performing miracles calling souls out of the city to meet him in the wilderness and feeding those hungry souls with living bread from God: all they could think of was stockpiling leftover crusts. They took their eyes off Jesus and began grubbing the surface of the ground for bread crumbs. They became earthly minded. It was a short step from there to abandoning Christ and embracing the world: in self-indulgence they craved to feed their flesh.

John set forth the Message (4) of what they learned: the will of God is for us: to love one-another (no one gets thrown over-board!); keep our eyes on Jesus (ahead of everything: even seeking our daily bread); keep our souls unstained by the love of the world (placing our trust in man’s institutions (boats)); and keep Christ on his throne on the mountain (never appoint a man among us to be our leader: he will become *the* man of sin).

Spiritually, the meditation of the apostles brought them back to the wilderness. They saw there was no hope in cities, in boats, in governments, in kings, in temples of stone, in religious sects. There was no hope in storing up food against future needs. There was no hope in a one-world government. Their only hope to be saved from drowning was Jesus Christ. There only hope of heaven was Jesus Christ. Their only hope of the brotherhood of all believers was Jesus Christ. They pondered these things deeply.

HEAVEN: FAITH IS REWARDED

And the apostles reached the other side.

This speaks of two things: a prophetic picture of the saints victoriously entering heaven; and a here-and-now picture of saints who 'reach the other side' in their faith and who share their faith with others.

Plain Words: "**And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore.**" (Mark 6:53)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 4,290 = 15 x 286. The spiritual meaning of the numbers is **Covenant (15)** of **Confess Your Sins (286)**. Gennesaret went by many names. In Joshua's time it was called Kinnereth, the Greeks called it Chinnereth, and the Romans called it Genezar, Genezareth, and Gennesaret. It was a place noted for rich soil, famous for beauty, called the 'paradise of Galilee'. The apostles arrived in paradise.

Before they disembarked there was something to do. After hearing John's exhortation, the apostles were of one accord: they all agreed they had been stubborn, foolish, wicked, and rebellious: **Confess Your Sins (286)**. Most of all they renounced their unbelief. How could they put their trust in anything else? Only Jesus could save them. They renewed their commitment to follow Jesus: **Covenant (15)**.

When Jesus enters the boat the water is stilled. In the quiet believers see calm assurance and strength in the face of the Master. Fear and unbelief melts away. Peace and love takes their place.

Christianity is a communal organism. The picture here is of believers who have lost their individualism. They see themselves now as part of a band of followers of the LORD. They selflessly serve one another as the LORD leads them. Before the storm the apostles were twelve loose strands, now they are a holy braid. The prayer meeting in that boat was the foundation of the church.

The apostles will never hoard a personal store of bread again. They will break bread together: a community of faith. And watch the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves continue and continue.

Plain Words: "**And when they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him.**" (Mark 6:54)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 7,429 = 17 x 437. The spiritual numbers mean **Victory (17)** **Wealthy Livestock Owner (437)**. '**The apostles came out of the ship**'. Their strength now was not in man's inventions: buildings, boats, institutions, religions. They stepped out from the turbulent sea of worldly solutions to man's problems on to the solid ground of faith in Christ.

Twenty-four feet stepped out onto the Promised Land at Gennesaret: the spiritual number 24 means Priest (24). Twenty-six if you count Jesus: the spiritual number 26 means Gospel (26). The apostles now were Priests (24) of the Gospel (26). They had a personal experience of Jesus saving their souls. Now they were going to share that story with the world: **Victory (17)** in Jesus!

'Straightway they knew Him'. Heaven is the place where everyone knows Christ. The LORD is immediately recognized as the **Wealthy Livestock Owner (437)**: the Master of the Universe, the King of Kings, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Scripture says: **'He owns the cattle on a thousand hills.'**

Plain Words: **"And ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was."** (Mark 6:55)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 11,689 [1,403rd prime] 1,403 = 23 x 61. The spiritual numbers mean **Death (23)** of the **Messiah (61)**. This story is about healings. How are people healed? We are going to look a little more deeply into the spiritual numbers than usual to arrive at our answer.

The gematria of the verse is 11,689 = 11 x 1,000 + 689. 689 = 13 x 53. We can interpret 11,689 as **Mystery (11) Tribe (1,000) of Rebels (13) to Faithful Witness (53)**. When the apostles got out of the boat they began to spread abroad their story, **Faithful Witness (53)**, of Jesus saving their souls. Anyone listening carefully would appreciate the apostles cast themselves in the part of **Rebels (13)**. The apostles were not claiming a righteousness of their own. They were attesting to the righteousness of Christ. Jesus did not come to save the righteous but sinners. This is a message the everyday man and woman who knows their own personal weakness can identify with.

The Gospel is opposite to the message of religion. The Jewish priests, scribes, and Pharisees sought their own righteousness by scrupulously keeping the law. Their belief kept them returning to Herod's Temple. These rough Galilean fishermen were preaching another path: confessing your sins and faith in Jesus. It was a journey that starts on foot on earth but finishes in the Heavenly Jerusalem: the temple that is above.

Look at 1,403 which is the prime index of 11,689. We can write it as: 14 x 100 + 3. We can interpret it as: **Righteousness (14) of Holy Flock (100) is God (3)**. The Galilean fishermen had found the secret to eternal life: the LORD is our righteousness. They put no confidence in their own flesh or their own devices.

How could Jesus be the fountain of healing of all sicknesses? He took away sins. Without sin there is no curse. Without a curse there is no sickness and no death. How could Jesus take away sins? If we believe Jesus was righteous, how do sinners partake in that? Jesus had to die on the cross: **Death (23)** of the **Messiah (61)**. Jesus is the Sacrifice. Every believer in Jesus, not just apostles, is a Priest who offers to God the Sacrifice (Jesus) on the Altar (Cross). When God smells the aroma of that offering, God accepts it. Our sin is forgiven.

Jesus had not died yet, how could he take away sins? Picture it like this: take a string and tie a red ribbon in the midst. The string represents time: the red ribbon is the death of Christ. Mark someplace else on the string a dot with black ink – that is the point of your confession of faith in Jesus. Now loop the string around so the black mark crosses the string where the red ribbon is tied. The blood of Christ applies to you. You are healed. The string is unbroken, time is continuous. But in the eyes of God you died with Christ. Does it matter if the black dot is before the Cross? Sinners before the Cross were healed by the same faith in the same Messiah who died the same death. Believing Jews knew Messiah must suffer. Praise the LORD!

Plain Words: “**And wherever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were even the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.**” (**Mark 6:56**)

Hidden Manah: Gematria 20,472 = 24 x 147. The spiritual numbers mean **Priest (24) Father’s Possession (147)**. Sickness reminds us we are sinners. People who are sick are burdened with all kinds of guilt. They can’t be a contributor to the needs of others. They cause others to have to go out of their way to care for them. Sickness reveals our true condition: we are weak, we are helpless, we can do nothing good to gain any merit, in fact our life is a burden to others.

In the condition of sickness it is most difficult for us to think there is any worth in ourselves that God would treasure. God is looking for that precious thing in our heart which is faith in him. When a sick person turns to him and puts their hope in him: for healing of the flesh or for healing of the soul; God sees our faith. If we have faith, then we are a **Priest (24)**. If we are a priest, our sin is forgiven: we are our **Father’s Possession (147)**. We are as precious to him as any other child in his family. A family member of such high worth that he would send His Son to die even if it was only to save you. In its simplest form faith is this: Jesus loves you!



The hem of Jesus’ garment was the part closest to the ground (not like in the picture where the woman is reaching up higher). In this way stooped or laid down on mats in the presence of the Master, confessing their own unworthiness but reaching out their hands beseeching the grace of God to heal them. And every single one who asked was healed.

These pious Jews were not merely reaching out for healing. They were placing a hand up in public testimony that this humble itinerant preacher was the promised Messiah, the consolation of Israel. Thus, the rejection of Jesus in his hometown gave opportunity for these precious believers down the road to be healed.

Amen.