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John 6 - Part I, Twelve Baskets

John 6:1-10: *1. After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias. 2. And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. 3. And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. 4. And the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh. 5. When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? 6. And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. 7. Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. 8. One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said unto him, 9. There is a lad here, who has five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? 10. And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.*

This is the second Passover (verse 4) during the ministry of Jesus. At the first Passover, Jesus drove out the moneychangers and those selling animals (John 2:13-16). At this Passover he fed 5000 with five loaves of bread and two fish. Looking at the first Passover as an allegory, we see that the “moneychangers” are those who change the truth (riches, money) into a lie, and give the people men’s ideas (animals) of truth, based on their understanding of the law. **1Corinthians 5:6-8:** *6. Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leavens the whole lump? 7. Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us: 8. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven (old understanding), neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth (which comes from Christ and not man). Spiritually, we will go through three Passovers.*

John 6:11-13: *11. And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they [desired]. 12. When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. 13. Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.*

Jesus gave thanks for the bread, then began to distribute it to his disciples, and the disciples to the people. Later in this same chapter Jesus tells the people that he is the “bread of life.” {5000 = 5 X 1000 - many under grace; 1000 = 10x10x10 = constantly hearing God’s voice}. God’s grace came through Jesus, the bread of life: **Ephesians 2:5-10:** *5. Even when we were dead in sins, (God) [has made us alive] together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6. And has raised us up together, and made us sit together in [the heavenlies] in Christ Jesus: 7. That in the ages to come (our generation) he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8. For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9. Not of (our own) works, lest any man should boast. 10. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto (God’s) good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Why number only men? Women and children are implied. Consider that when a man and woman come together they bring forth children. The intellect and feelings combined produce thoughts, which we share with others. What about the fish? And why the remnants of 12 baskets of bread?*

Jeremiah 24:1-10: 1. The Lord showed me, and, behold, two baskets of figs were set before the temple of the Lord, after that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, and the princes of Judah, with the carpenters and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon. 2. One basket had very good figs, even like the figs that are first ripe: and the other basket had very naughty figs, which could not be eaten, they were so bad. 3. Then said the Lord unto me, What see you, Jeremiah? And I said, Figs; the good figs, very good; and the evil, very evil, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil. 4. Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, 5. Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good. 6. For I will set my eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up. 7. And I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart. 8. And as the evil figs, which cannot be eaten, they are so evil; surely thus saith the Lord, So will I give Zedekiah the king of Judah, and his princes, and the remnant of Jerusalem, that remain in this land, and them that dwell in the land of Egypt: 9. And I will deliver them to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them. 10. And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers.

Metaphorically, the baskets are symbol of the mind-set of the people, some of which produce very good fruit, while others produce very evil fruit. All go into Babylon. Those who are sincere are delivered from the world's spiritual confusion and given a new heart. Those refusing to admit their confusion are removed into all the kingdoms of the earth - i.e. they delve into every kind of false worldly doctrine.

The twelve baskets of bread gathered after feeding of the 5000 are a figure of the 144,000. At this stage, however, they are not yet complete in their understanding or their works. The fish represent that last bit of worldliness that has not been eliminated. There are two fish because there is yet something to be understood about the Son of God, and they are not completely walking in love toward their fellow man.

John 6:14-14: 14. Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, "This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world." 15. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone. The multitude followed Jesus and were trying to make him their King based on things they beheld with the natural eyes. Are you looking at scripture through the natural eyes, or spiritual eyes? Notice, Jesus departed into a mountain alone. Eventually Jesus will depart from those refusing to walk in spiritual truth. Will you accept the truth and move on to higher ground? Or, will you cling to some fleshly understanding and eventually lose what you have gained? Personally, I want to be among those, who in this generation stand on top of Mount Zion (Revelation 14:1).

If you are seeing these things it is because you have had the experience. The time to cement our relationship with the Lord is at hand. **Revelation 3:18-19a:** 18. I counsel you to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that you may be rich; and white raiment, that you may be clothed, and that the shame of your nakedness do not appear; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten... Amen.