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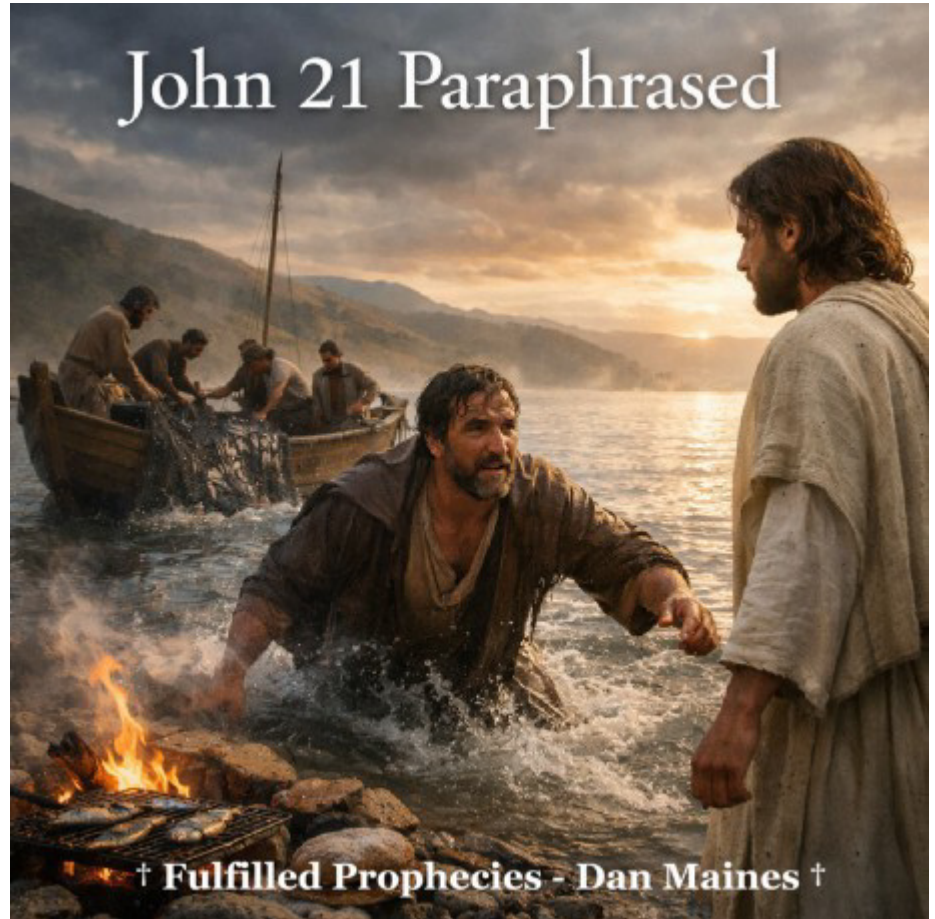
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John 21 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

John 21 Paraphrased

Introduction

† This final chapter shows Jesus after His resurrection, appearing again to His disciples, proving His work was complete and His authority fully established

† It also restores Peter and confirms the mission going forward, not in a future age, but in their generation where fulfillment was unfolding

† The focus is not delay, but confirmation, restoration, and

commission before the end of that covenant age

John 21:1

After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and this is how it happened

† Jesus is appearing in the same world, same place, showing continuity after resurrection

† This isn't a different realm, but confirmation that He is alive among them (Acts 1:3)

† The resurrection is already active and visible

John 21:2

Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others were together

† The witnesses are specific, grounded in real people and history

† Multiple eyewitnesses confirm what follows (1 Corinthians 15:5-7)

† This is not symbolic, but actual historical appearance

John 21:3

Simon Peter said I'm going fishing, and they said we'll go with you, so they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing

† They return to their old life temporarily, showing uncertainty

† Without Christ's direction, their efforts produce nothing (John 15:5)

† This sets up the lesson of dependence

John 21:4

When day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples didn't know it was Him

† Recognition isn't immediate, showing a transformed yet real presence

† This echoes earlier resurrection appearances (Luke 24:16)

† Their understanding is still unfolding

John 21:5

Jesus said children, you don't have any fish, do you, and they answered no

- † Jesus initiates the moment, guiding them again
- † Their lack highlights their need for Him
- † This mirrors earlier calling moments (Luke 5:5)

John 21:6

He said cast the net on the right side of the boat and you'll find a catch, so they cast and couldn't haul it in because of the great number of fish

- † Obedience brings immediate provision
- † This is a clear sign connecting back to their original calling
- † It shows His authority still governs their work

John 21:7

The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter it's the Lord, so when Peter heard it he put on his outer garment and threw himself into the sea

- † Recognition comes through understanding, not just sight
- † Peter's response shows urgency and restored affection
- † This contrasts his earlier denial

John 21:8

The other disciples came in the boat dragging the net full of fish, for they weren't far from land

- † The miracle is practical and visible
- † The group witnesses it together
- † This reinforces shared testimony

John 21:9

When they got out on land they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it and bread

- † Jesus provides what they couldn't produce
- † The setting recalls Peter's denial by a charcoal fire (John 18:18)

† Restoration is about to take place

John 21:10

Jesus said bring some of the fish you have just caught

† They participate in what He already provided

† This shows partnership, not independence

† Their work now flows from His authority

John 21:11

Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land full of large fish, one hundred fifty three, and although there were so many the net wasn't torn

† The detail shows eyewitness accuracy

† The unbroken net points to preservation and completeness

† This reflects the gathering of people without loss

John 21:12

Jesus said come and have breakfast, none of the disciples dared ask who are You knowing it was the Lord

† Recognition is now settled

† There's reverence and certainty

† The relationship is restored and strengthened

John 21:13

Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and the fish likewise

† This mirrors earlier fellowship and provision

† It echoes covenant meal imagery (Luke 24:30)

† He remains the source of life

John 21:14

This was now the third time Jesus was revealed to the disciples after He was raised from the dead

† Repeated appearances confirm reality

† This establishes certainty before their mission begins

† The resurrection isn't hidden, it's proven

John 21:15

When they finished breakfast Jesus said Simon son of John do you love Me more than these, he said yes Lord You know I love You, He said tend My lambs

- † Peter is being restored after denial
- † Love is tied to responsibility
- † Leadership flows from devotion

John 21:16

He said again do you love Me, he said yes Lord You know I love You, He said shepherd My sheep

- † Repetition confirms restoration
- † The role expands from lambs to sheep
- † Care for the people of God is central

John 21:17

He said the third time do you love Me, Peter was grieved and said Lord You know all things You know I love You, Jesus said tend My sheep

- † Threefold restoration matches three denials
- † Peter's grief shows sincerity
- † Christ restores fully, not partially

John 21:18

Truly I say to you when you were younger you used to dress yourself and walk where you wished, but when you grow old you'll stretch out your hands and someone else will carry you where you don't wish

- † This predicts Peter's death
- † It shows the cost of following Christ
- † Fulfillment includes suffering within their lifetime

John 21:19

He said this to show by what kind of death he would glorify God, and after saying this He said follow Me

- † Death itself becomes testimony
- † Following Christ includes total commitment

† This happens within that generation

John 21:20

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them

† Comparison begins to enter Peter's mind

† This sets up a correction

† Each disciple has a distinct role

John 21:21

Peter said Lord what about this man

† Peter looks at another's path

† This reflects human tendency

† Christ redirects focus

John 21:22

Jesus said if I want him to remain until I come what is that to you, you follow Me

† Jesus speaks of His coming within their timeframe

† This ties directly to the coming judgment of that age (Matthew 16:27-28)

† The focus is personal faithfulness

John 21:23

So the saying spread that this disciple wouldn't die, yet Jesus didn't say that, but if I want him to remain until I come what is that to you

† Misunderstanding spreads quickly

† Jesus' words were about timing, not immortality

† This again confirms a near coming

John 21:24

This is the disciple who testifies to these things and wrote them, and we know his testimony is true

† The author affirms eyewitness truth

† This is grounded in real testimony

† The account is reliable

John 21:25

There are also many other things Jesus did, if they were written in detail I suppose the world itself wouldn't contain the books

† The works of Christ are vast beyond record

† What is written is sufficient for faith

† The focus remains on what was fulfilled and revealed

Historical References

† Josephus records the events leading up to the fall of Jerusalem, confirming the timeframe of judgment within that generation

† Irenaeus affirms apostolic testimony as grounded in eyewitness accounts

† Eusebius preserves early church understanding of these events happening in the first century

† Clement of Alexandria speaks of the apostles' roles and martyrdom within that period

How It Applies To Us Today

† We see that Christ's work is complete and proven, not waiting for fulfillment

† Our role is the same as Peter's, follow Him faithfully without distraction

† We don't compare callings, we walk in what we've been given

† The kingdom is established, and we live in the reality of that finished work

† His authority still directs our lives just as it directed theirs

Q & A Appendix:

Q: Did Jesus already come as He said in this passage?

A: Yes, Matthew 16:27-28 shows His coming would happen in their lifetime

Q: Why was Peter restored three times?

A: It matches his three denials and shows complete restoration

Q: What does the miracle of fish represent?

A: It shows success only comes through Christ's authority (John 15:5)

Q: Was the resurrection already active at this time?

A: Yes, Jesus appeared physically and interacted with them (Acts 1:3)

Q: Does this chapter point to future fulfillment?

A: No, it confirms events unfolding in their generation

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† John 21

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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