



Although the Christian fish symbol re-emerged in popularity during the 1960s, the symbol, also known as Ichthys, has historical characteristics that attributed to the spread and unity of Christianity long before it was popular in society today.

During the times of persecution by the Romans in the first centuries, the fish symbol was used among Christians in hiding to display meeting places for everyone to meet and worship. They could be spotted on trees or doorways or even tombs.

One story passed down about the fish symbol states that the fish was used as a way of communicating whether someone was a Christian or whether he/she was someone looking to persecute Christians. When two people encountered each other, the Christian would draw the first half of the fish in the sand. If the other person drew the remaining half of the fish, correctly, then the Christian knew he/she was with a fellow Christian. If it was drawn and the other person didn't finish the fish, it would look as though an innocent person was just drawing in the sand.

January 22, 2023

Psalm 27: 1, 4-9

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?**

⁴ One thing I asked of the LORD;
that I will seek after:

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in the Lord's temple.**

⁵ The Lord will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
and will set me high upon a rock.

**⁶ And now my head shall be lifted up
above my enemies round about me,
and I will offer sacrifices in the Lord's tent
with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

**⁸ "Come," my heart said, "seek the Lord's face!"
Your face, O LORD, I seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me.
Turn not your servant away in anger,
for you have been my help.

**Cast me off; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation!**

Isaiah 9: 1-4

Nevertheless, the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed,
As when at first He lightly esteemed
The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
And afterward more heavily oppressed her,
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan,
In Galilee of the Gentiles.

² The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,
Upon them a light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation
And increased its joy;
They rejoice before You
According to the joy of harvest,
As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For You have broken the yoke of his burden
And the staff of his shoulder,
The rod of his oppressor,
As in the day of Midian.

St Matthew 4: 12-23

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. ¹³ And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

¹⁵ "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,
By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles:
¹⁶ The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death
Light has dawned."

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

¹⁸ And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." ²⁰ They immediately left their nets and followed Him.

²¹ Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, ²² and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him. ²³ And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.