

This is a translation and a study of the Book of Haggai. This work presents the possible presence of a literary numbering system in Haggai. Following the PebbleCounting hypothesis, this numbering system appears to be inherent in the Ancient Hebrew and consistently used throughout Haggai, as it is in other books of Scripture.

This study is freely available at [www.pebblecounting.com](http://www.pebblecounting.com), along with studies/translations of other books of Scripture. If you haven't had a chance, the "Intro to PebbleCounting" PDFs are a good place to begin. © Steve, 2024-2026. Update: May 25, 2025.

- This major revision incorporates learning since the July 2025 version:
- Preference: place verbs of speech as the final elements of literary sets
  - Preference: place dual nouns as opening elements of literary sets
  - Count the implied pronoun subjects for imperative verbs, when nouns of direct address are also present.

- Other refinements:
- The statements "(there) was (the) word of YHWH to Haggai, the prophet, saying" (2:10, also 2:20) are counted to Haggai.
  - Macrostructural measures are updated.
  - Like the recent revision in Zechariah, Haggai demonstrates a clear possibility of Ancient Hebrew paragraph breaks serving as boundaries for chiasmic reflections, either simple or compound.

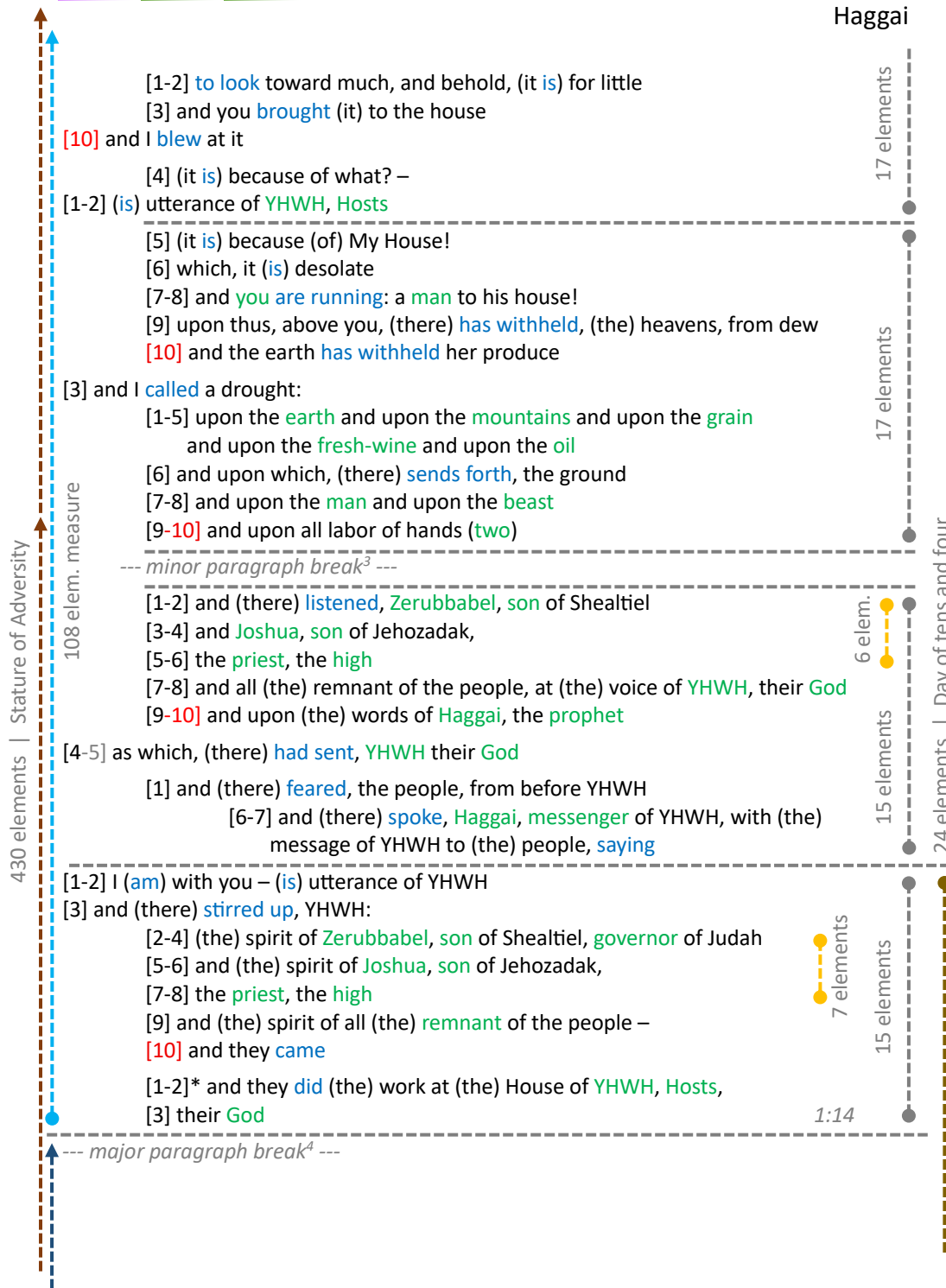
"in year of two to Darius the king" | See comments in Dan. 3 ("Nebuchadnezzar the king") that are applicable for counting the phrase *Darius the king*.

"(it is) not time of, to come – time of house of YHWH to be built..." | Haggai places the word *time* three times in this near context. The literary conversion for the word *time* is the same as for the word *month*: tenfold. Haggai may be correlating the three instances of *time* to correspond with threefold months that will take place shortly: the three months occurring between the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the sixth month (temple rebuild commences, 1:15) and the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the ninth month (foundations completed, 2:18).

"and (there) is not, to be intoxicated" | The combination of the particle "there is not" with an infinitive is counted as a single element.

"(you) set your heart" | This reflexive construction is counted as two elements (typical).

Haggai



[1-2] to look toward much, and behold, (it is) for little  
 [3] and you brought (it) to the house  
 [10] and I blew at it

[4] (it is) because of what? –  
 [1-2] (is) utterance of YHWH, Hosts

[5] (it is) because (of) My House!  
 [6] which, it (is) desolate  
 [7-8] and you are running: a man to his house!  
 [9] upon thus, above you, (there) has withheld, (the) heavens, from dew  
 [10] and the earth has withheld her produce

[3] and I called a drought:  
 [1-5] upon the earth and upon the mountains and upon the grain  
 and upon the fresh-wine and upon the oil  
 [6] and upon which, (there) sends forth, the ground  
 [7-8] and upon the man and upon the beast  
 [9-10] and upon all labor of hands (two)

--- minor paragraph break<sup>3</sup> ---

[1-2] and (there) listened, Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel  
 [3-4] and Joshua, son of Jehozadak,  
 [5-6] the priest, the high  
 [7-8] and all (the) remnant of the people, at (the) voice of YHWH, their God  
 [9-10] and upon (the) words of Haggai, the prophet

[4-5] as which, (there) had sent, YHWH their God

[1] and (there) feared, the people, from before YHWH  
 [6-7] and (there) spoke, Haggai, messenger of YHWH, with (the)  
 message of YHWH to (the) people, saying

[1-2] I (am) with you – (is) utterance of YHWH  
 [3] and (there) stirred up, YHWH:  
 [2-4] (the) spirit of Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah  
 [5-6] and (the) spirit of Joshua, son of Jehozadak,  
 [7-8] the priest, the high  
 [9] and (the) spirit of all (the) remnant of the people –  
 [10] and they came

[1-2]\* and they did (the) work at (the) House of YHWH, Hosts,  
 [3] their God

“and they did (the) work at (the) House of YHWH, Hosts, their God” | The total literary count reaches 108-fold at this beginning point of rebuilding the House of God. An identical literary measure may be given later, at 2:16. (See notes there.) This is the literary measure “from the day, the this” – which is the day one stone was first placed upon another in the work of rebuilding God’s temple – “and upward” (i.e., to the beginning of Haggai). The hundredfold measure may involve a literary stature for Zerubbabel and Joshua working in harmony: two tenfold literary statures multiplied, (10) x (10) = 100-fold. Notice the twenty elements shared between these two men (marked in orange, 7 + 6 + 7 = 20), which allow two tenfold literary identities to rise into action for the composite stature. A 100-fold stature here may correspond with the 100-fold in special numbers given in 2:16.

### Haggai

430 elements | Stature of Adversity

To: 108-element measure

[4-5] (it **was**) in (the) **day** of **tens** [twenty]  
[6-9] and **four** to **month**,  
**[10]** in **sixth**,  
[1-2] in **year** of **two** to Darius the king

1:15

20

[8] in (the) seventh [month],  
[9-10] in **tens** [twenty]

2:1

20

[1-2] and **one** to **month**, (there) **was**, (the) word of YHWH in  
(the) hand of **Haggai**, the **prophet**, **saying**:

[3-5] **speak** now to **Zerubbabel**, **son** of Shealtiel, **governor** of Judah  
[6-7] and **Joshua**, **son** of Jehozadak  
[8-9] the **priest**, the **high**  
**[10]** and (the) **remnant** of the people, **saying**

16 elements

[3] who among you, the **remaining** –  
[4-5] which, he **saw** the **House**, the **this**, in its glory –  
**[1]** the **first** – and what (**are**) you **seeing** (of) it, now?  
**[2-3]** **is** it not as if, it **is nothing** in your eyes (**two**)?  
[4-5] but now, (**you**) **be strong**, **Zerubbabel!**

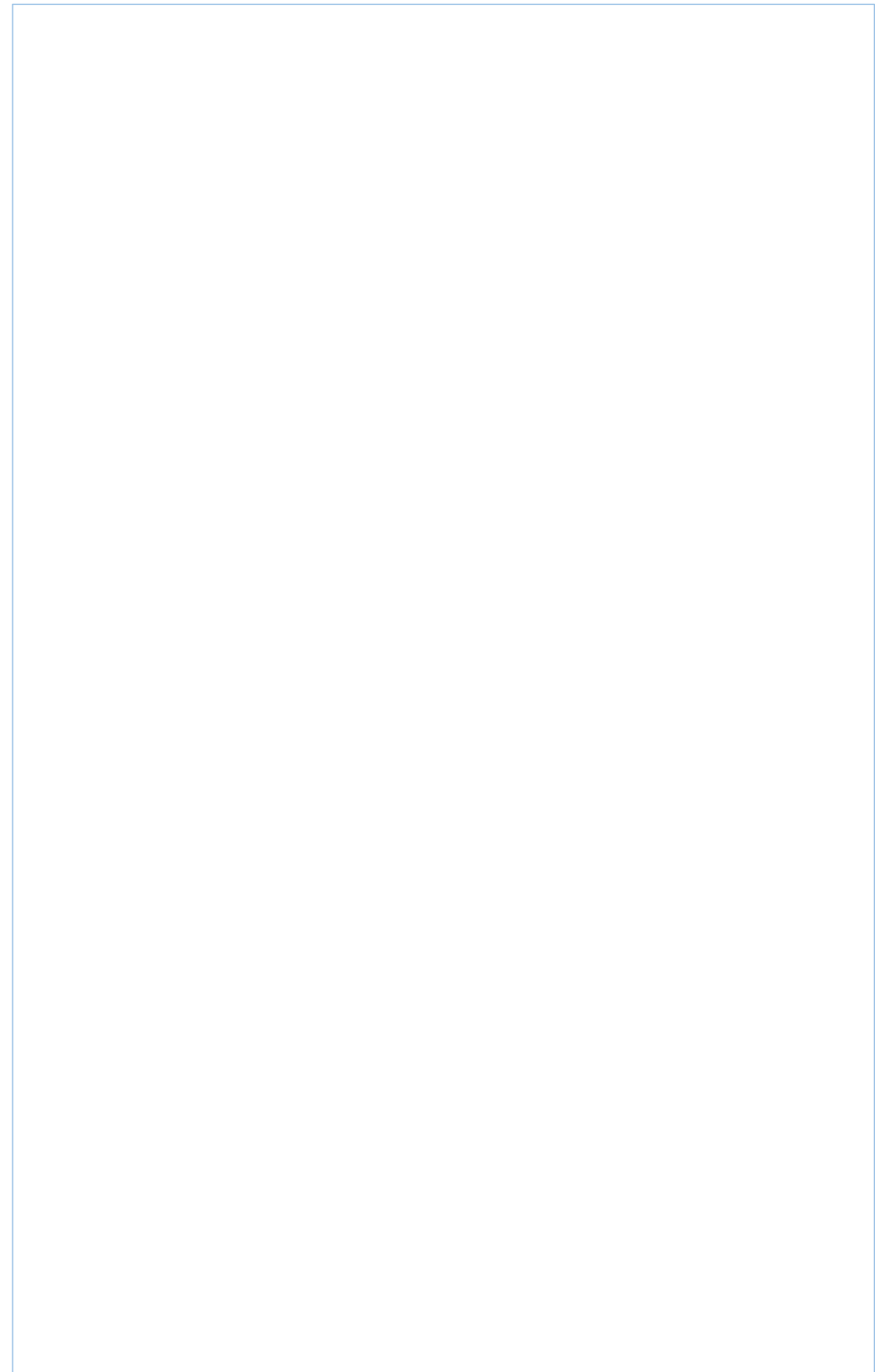
[4] (it **is**) utterance of YHWH  
[1-5] and (**you**) **be strong**, **Joshua**, **son** of Jehozadak, the **priest**, the **high!**  
[1-2] and (**you**) **be strong**, all (the) **people** of the land –

16 elements

[5] (it **is**) utterance of YHWH –  
[3] and **work!**  
[6-7] because I (**am**) with you – (**is**) utterance of **YHWH**, **Hosts** –  
[8] the word which I **have cut** [covenanted] with you  
[4] in your, **to go out** from Egypt  
[5] and My Spirit **is standing** in your midst  
[6] **do not fear!**

21 elements | twenty and one to month

--- minor paragraph break<sup>5</sup> ---



Haggai

[9-10] because thus (there) has said, YHWH, Hosts:

[1]\* yet one little (is) it –

[2-5] and I am shaking the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry-land

[6] and I will shake all the nations!

[7] and (there) will come, (the) delight of all the nations

[7-8] and I will fill the House, the this, (with) glory – has said YHWH,

[9] Hosts

[10] to Me (is) the silver!

[1-2] and to Me (is) the gold! – (is) utterance of YHWH, Hosts

[8-10] greater shall be (the) glory – of the House, the this – the last –

[1] than (was) the first

[3-4] (there) has said, YHWH, Hosts

[5-6] and in (the) place, the this, I will give peace – (is) utterance of YHWH,

[7] Hosts

--- major paragraph break<sup>6</sup> ---

[1-2] in tens [twenty]

[3-6] and four [days],

[7] to ninth [month],

[8-10] in year of two to Darius, (there) was (the) word of YHWH to Haggai, the prophet, saying

[8-9] thus (there) has said, YHWH, Hosts

[1-2] ask now the priests (about) (the) Law, saying

[2] behold, (there) carries, a man, meat of holiness in a fold of his garment

[3-7] and he touches with his fold to the bread and to the stew and to the wine and to oil and to any food

[8] does it become holy?

[9-10] and (there) answered, the priests, and said

[1] “no!”

[3] and (there) said, Haggai

[2-3] if (there) touches, an unclean-of-soul, at any of these, does it become unclean?

[4-5] and (there) answered, the priests, and said

[1] “it becomes unclean!”

[4-5] and (there) answered, Haggai, and said

[2-3] thus (is) the people, the this

[4-5] and thus (is) the nation, the this, before Me!

[10] (it is) utterance of YHWH

[1-2] and thus (is) all (the) work of their hands (two)

[3-4] and what they offer there – unclean, it (is)!

12 elements

12 elements

2:10

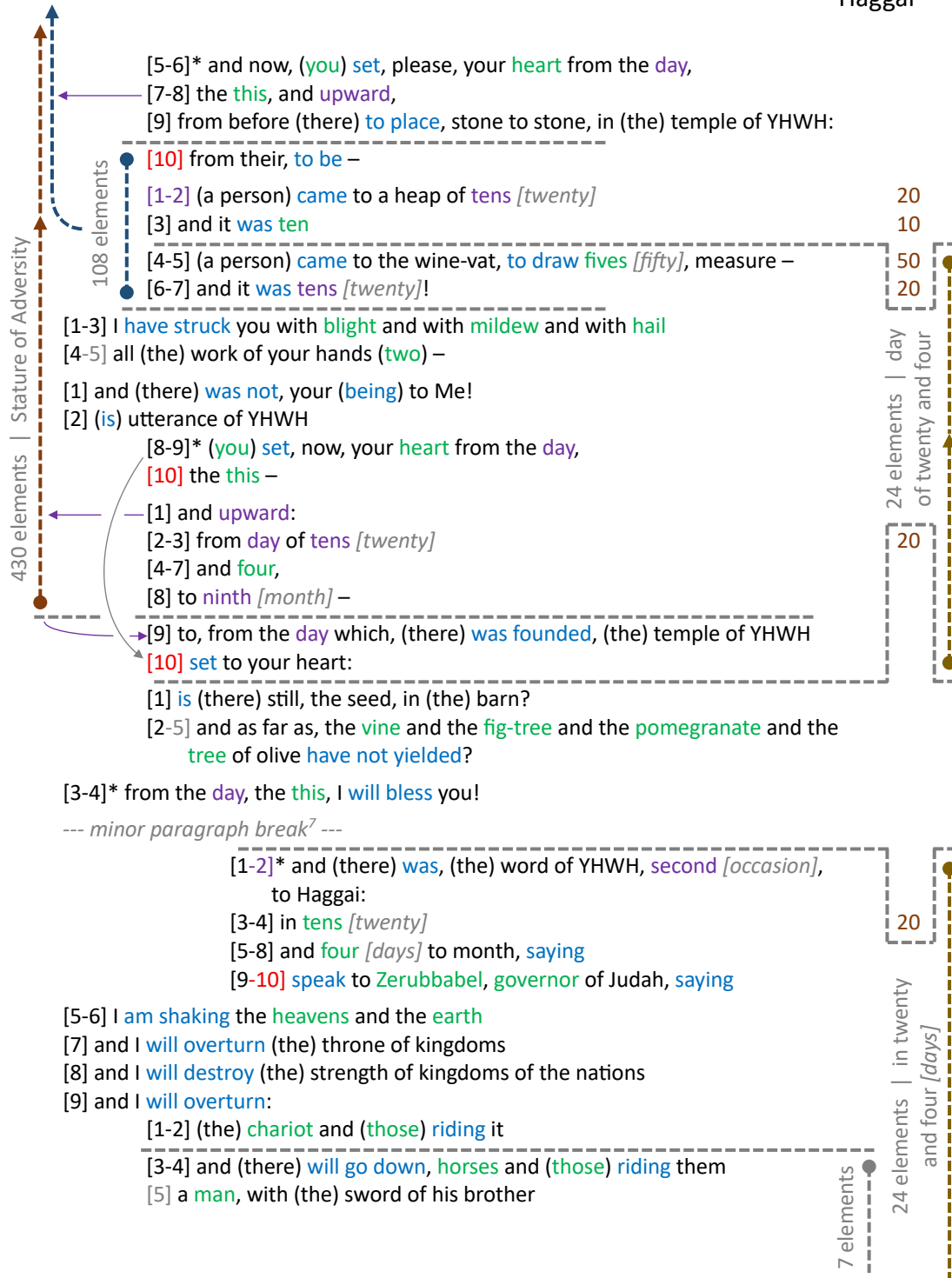
20

24 elements | in twenty and four [days]

430 elements | Stature of Adversity

To: 108 element measure

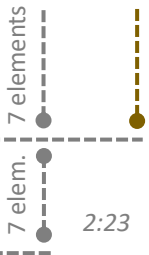
“yet one little (is) it” | John uses the mystery word *little* throughout his gospel. See comments below regarding the overall time conversion of Haggai, including this measure *one little*, in relation to John 21.



“and now, set, please, your heart from the day, the this, and upward” | Haggai may provide a literary reference point. “The day, the this” is the day one stone was first placed against another in the rebuilding of the temple foundation. That moment occurred at 1:14 (see notes, above). The directionality is to be measured upward (backwards) from this point, back to the very start of Haggai: 108-fold. Here in context, Haggai may provide the corresponding literary measure: the total of special numbers of expectation and of disappointment, 20 + 10 + 50 + 20 = 100-fold, plus the associated basic literary count, 8-fold. In essence, what took place before obedience was a 108-fold of vanity for the people pursuing their own interests.

“set, now, your heart from the day, the this, and upward” | Haggai may provide another of the same type of literary measure. In this case, Haggai defines “the day, the this” as being the day the temple foundations were completed. Three months have passed since the start of this work: 24<sup>th</sup> day of sixth month to 24<sup>th</sup> day of ninth month. Looking back from this vantage to the same beginning point, “and upward” (i.e., the beginning of Haggai), the total literary count has reached 430-fold. This is a well-established measure for adversity in Scripture. In context, God Himself has raised up adversity against the people while the Temple languished. Now, as the Temple foundations are completed, the period of adversity has concluded.

[10] in (the) day,  
 [1-2] the that – (is) utterance of YHWH, Hosts –  
 [3] I will take you –  
 [4-6] Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, My servant – (is) utterance of YHWH –  
 [7-8] and I will set you as a seal  
 [9-10] because you, I have chosen! – (is) utterance of YHWH, Hosts



Total Literary Counts

Heaven	70
Earth	305
<u>Haggai</u>	<u>115</u>
Total:	490

Subtotal of special numbers: 200

Time-based Conversions

“Day”	(1) + (24) + (1) + (1) + (24) + (1) + (1) + (1) = 54	→ 54x
“Month”	(tenfold)	(6x) → 60x
“Year”		(6x) → 6x
“Time”	(tenfold)	(3x) → 30x
“one little”	(threefold)	(1x) → 3x
Total:		153x

John may utilize this time conversion number in structuring the 153 fish narrative of chapter 21 of his gospel. He uses the word *little* in connection with *boat* in that passage, drawing on his significant usage of the word *little* elsewhere in his gospel (as in Revelation). See comments, John 21.