

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER!** **The Papou Study Bible** is a daily study provided by me to help



folks explore the depth and joy of the “conneXion” life of God. It’s my personal study, and is not intended as a doctrinal statement or statement of any church or denomination or congregation. It’s also my belief that “grace” works, and the servant of God should always want to go deeper. Multi-tasking as usual, I’m also calling this the “Papou Study Bible.” I’m writing it as if I were speaking to my girls Paige, Stephanie, and Ashley, and any descendant they have (particularly Nicole, Joey, Matthew, Dylan, Julianne, and Lizzie, who know me as “Papou”). And to anyone who wants to consider me a spiritual Dad or “Papou.” I want them to be able to study the Bible with Papou (grandpa in Greek) after I’m gone---and if they don’t, I’ll haunt them. The Scriptures say it’s noble to “search the Scriptures daily” to verify truth like the ancient Bereans did (Acts 17:11). My folks came from Berea. My incredible Dad (and your grandfather and great grandfather, guys), Vasil Charles Valekis taught me to do this like he did---every day until I die. He taught me and everyone I know to go to church no matter what and to put God first. While Mama (Maria Pagona Stratakis Valekis)

never really did this, she made sure we listened to Daddy on this one. She would have hit us with a spatula or frying pan or worse if we didn’t. This is a simple sharing my “daily search.” And I’d like to think it is a continuation of God’s life through my Dad through me. Both my “Dads” by the way. And a way to honor him, mama and our loving God. And for all of us to be together, in Spirit, even when we I join them in heaven. I like to use the Blue Letter literal, very “visual,” Greek translation a lot to help “visualize” these truths the beautiful way Greek enables you to view. And I like to share this with folks serving in an elder capacity, or any capacity, to grow them,

challenge them, and stretch them. But especially share it with my girls. And when you study these, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*

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**Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)**

<sup>27</sup>To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is

*Christ in you*, the hope of glory

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**Ezekiel 2<sup>2</sup>**

So Ezekiel gets this amazing glimpse of God, and The One seated on the throne says something to Him. Notice---it’s very typical for a “commissioning” to take place after someone truly “sees” the Lord.

This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

So what was God going to say to Ezekiel?

Let’s study Chapter 2, and see!

<sup>1</sup> NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.

<sup>2</sup> New International Version (NIV)

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(Author’s note: This translation, and the study notes that accompany it in The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 are also referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

## Ezekiel 2 New International Version (NIV)

### Ezekiel's Call to Be a Prophet

2 He said to me, “Son of man,<sup>[a]</sup>

**Note: The NIV study bible says the Hebrew phrase “ben adam” (“ben” means son of and “adam” means human) is the equivalent to our human being. It’s used 93 times in the book of Ezekiel. The phrase is only used two more times in the rest of the bible.**

Daniel 7:13	Daniel 8:17
<p><sup>13</sup>“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man,<sup>[a]</sup> coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.</p> <p><i>Footnotes:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Daniel 7:13</b> The Aramaic phrase <i>bar enash</i> means <i>human being</i>. The phrase <i>son of man</i> is retained here because of its use in the New Testament as a title of Jesus, probably based largely on this verse.</li></ol>	<p><sup>17</sup>As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. “Son of man,”<sup>[a]</sup> he said to me, “understand that the vision concerns the time of the end.”</p> <p><i>Footnotes:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Daniel 8:17</b> The Hebrew phrase <i>ben adam</i> means <i>human being</i>. The phrase <i>son of man</i> is retained as a form of address here because of its possible association with “Son of Man” in the New Testament.</li></ol>

**There is a possible association with phrase “son of man” in the New Testament, which is what Jesus used to refer to himself 78 times! Here are just a few samples.**

the **Son of Man** has no place to lay his head . . . the **Son of Man** has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the **Son of Man** comes. . . the **Son of Man** will be handed over to be crucified. . . The **Son of Man** will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the **Son of Man**! It would be better for him if he had not been born . . . the **Son of Man** is delivered into the hands of sinners. . . you will see the **Son of Man** sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

### Back to Ezekiel 2:

stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.” 2 As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.

**I love this Scripture. Let me share a new insight I just saw recently. This is an example of God giving a human a command, and then fully empowering the human to fulfill the command. The Spirit enable Ezekiel to stand and to hear.**

**The same is true for us. God may give us commands, but we don't even fill those of our own strength or power. We do it by the Sovereign God's Spirit, the one in whom we live and move and have our being and even have our ability to respond by!**

**It reminds me of this verse.**

### **Galatians 2:20 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in (actually, the faith **of**) the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**We live in and by and through God. Period.**

3 He said: "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me to this very day. 4 The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn. Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says.' 5 And whether they listen or fail to listen—for they are a rebellious people—they will know that a prophet has been among them.

**Note: That is very encouraging for me as biblical teacher and pastor. They may not have obeyed. But I'm pretty sure they knew I came from God.**

6 And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them or their words. Do not be afraid, though briars and thorns are all around you and you live among scorpions. Do not be afraid of what they say or be terrified by them, though they are a rebellious people. 7 You must speak my words to them, whether they listen or fail to listen, for they are rebellious.

**Note: Their ability to listen and respond doesn't define your success. Your obedience to God does.**

8 But you, son of man, listen to what I say to you. Do not rebel like that rebellious people; open your mouth and eat what I give you."

**So the prophet "ate" God's words. Words of lamentation and woe!**

9 Then I looked, and I saw a hand stretched out to me. In it was a scroll, 10 which he unrolled before me. On both sides of it were written words of lament and mourning and woe.

*Footnotes:*

1. **Ezekiel 2:1** The Hebrew phrase *ben adam* means *human being*. The phrase *son of man* is retained as a form of address here and throughout Ezekiel because of its possible association with “Son of Man” in the New Testament.