

**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 “Dad”---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

**graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER**  
**Ezekiel 28 Part 1<sup>2</sup>**

This is where it gets really interesting. The prophecy, in a dream like sequence, takes some shifts. Some fascinating shifts.

It seems to begin talking about something greater than just the city of Tyre. It seems to be talking about the force, the power, the “spiritual ruler of this age,” behind the city of Tyre---Satan himself.

Some feel it’s one of the rare Scriptures talking about Satan’s downfall from cherub to demon. Either way, it’s fascinating. Enjoy!

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

<sup>2</sup> New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (Author’s note: This translation, and the source for many of the study notes that accompany it, are taken from The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 . These notes re referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

## Ezekiel 28 New International Version (NIV)

### A Prophecy Against the King of Tyre

28 The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>“Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

Two things here. One, the Hebrew is simply interesting, because it sequences words and concepts differently than we do in our language. It reads like this:

*To To-say-of-me Yahweh word-of he-is-becoming . . .*

It’s just interesting to me that the literal says “God’s Word” (*Yahweh word-of*) “he” “is becoming”---God’s Word was living, vibrant, and it bubbled up in someone and just was in the state of “becoming.” Perhaps when the prophet spoke prophetically it “lifted him up” or “seized” him (although Paul said in Corinthians “The spirits of the prophets are subject to the control of the prophets.” In 1 Corinthians 14:32. I think that’s fascinating too, because while the Spirit may overwhelm someone physically, the “spiritual endowments” of the prophets (my literal Greek translation says this) are “subject to the prophet.”

So . . . the word is “becoming” in Ezekiel. And he is listening to it and “responding” as it is becoming.

“In the pride of your heart  
you say, “I am a god;  
I sit on the throne of a god  
in the heart of the seas.”

The Roman emperor saw himself as a son of the gods. Nebuchadnezzar apparently had visions of grandeur before God humbled him. God was going to make him acknowledge He is sovereign over all, and He has been given his throne by God’s power and will. He does the same with the ruler of Tyre being spoken to. And by the way, in this case the word ruler is:

**H5057** nagiyd naw-gheed'

or nagid {naw-gheed'};

from **H5046**; a commander (as occupying the front), civil,

<sup>29</sup> Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, <sup>30</sup> he said, **“Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”**

**Note his emphasis on what he (“I”) had done by his power! God’s reaction:**

<sup>31</sup> Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. <sup>32</sup> You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you **until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.”**

military or religious; generally (abstractly, plural), honorable themes.

KJV: captain, chief, excellent thing, (chief) governor, leader, noble, prince, (chief) ruler.

**This is significant, because as the “word” continue to “become” in Him, he will begin to address the “king” (melech) of Tyre, who may be a larger force than just a human.**

But you are a mere mortal and not a god,  
though you think you are as wise as a god.

<sup>3</sup> Are you wiser than Daniel<sup>[a]</sup>?

**The Daniel of the Bible and Ezekiel were contemporaries, and the NIV says it may be that this “Daniel” is actually a man known as “Danel,” a cultural hero, found in Ugaritic literature. Others disagree with this. At any rate, whoever he was, he was known for being wise.**

**Apparently the hubris of this “ruler” led him to believe he was smarter than everybody else as well. I wanted to emphasize that, because if you are mildly smart, it’s tempting to think the same about yourself. Such arrogance is definitely not wise!**

Is no secret hidden from you?

<sup>4</sup> By your wisdom and understanding  
you have gained wealth for yourself  
and amassed gold and silver  
in your treasuries.

<sup>5</sup> By your great skill in trading  
you have increased your wealth,  
and because of your wealth  
your heart has grown proud.

**Wealth is an incredible temptation. An incredible temptation. Money is not evil. But wealth often gets “bad press” in the Bible.**

**Here’s just a few verses warning about this:**

**Proverbs 11:28**

Those who trust in their **riches** will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

**Proverbs 23:5**

Cast but a glance at **riches**, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.

**Jeremiah 48:7**

Since you trust in your deeds and **riches**, you too will be taken captive, and Chemosh will go into exile, together with his priests and officials.

## Luke 8:14

The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, **riches** and pleasures, and they do not mature.

**Here is a summarization of Paul's approach to riches.**

But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup> Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. (1 Timothy 6)

<sup>6</sup>“Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“Because you think you are wise,  
as wise as a god,

<sup>7</sup> I am going to bring foreigners against you,  
the most ruthless of nations;  
they will draw their swords against your beauty and wisdom  
and pierce your shining splendor.

<sup>8</sup> They will bring you down to the pit,  
and you will die a violent death  
in the heart of the seas.

<sup>9</sup> Will you then say, “I am a god,”  
in the presence of those who kill you?

You will be but a mortal, not a god,  
in the hands of those who slay you.

<sup>10</sup> You will die the death of the uncircumcised  
at the hands of foreigners.

**Uncircumcised here is used in the sense of “barbarian” or “uncouth.”**

I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD.””

**The prophecy shifts, though. It now addresses the King of Tyre. And it seems to somehow be talking about someone who is “the seal of perfection” and “full of wisdom and beauty.” It references someone who was in Eden. Some think it's speaking of the fall of Lucifer, a special powerful cherub who became Satan.**

I'll share this article<sup>3</sup>, and we'll look at this more closely next time.

**Question: "Is the king of Tyre prophecy in Ezekiel 28 referring to Satan?"**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/King-of-Tyre.html>

**Answer:** At first glance, the prophecy in **Ezekiel 28:11–19** seems to refer to a human king. The city of Tyre was the recipient of some of the strongest prophetic condemnations in the Bible (**Isaiah 23:1–18; Jeremiah 25:22; 27:1–11; Ezekiel 26:1– 28:19; Joel 3:4–8; Amos 1:9, 10**). Tyre was known for building its wealth by exploiting its neighbors. Ancient writers referred to Tyre as a city filled with unscrupulous merchants. Tyre was a center of religious idolatry and sexual immorality. The biblical prophets rebuked Tyre for its pride brought on by its great wealth and strategic location. **Ezekiel 28:11–19** seems to be a particularly strong indictment against the king of Tyre in the prophet Ezekiel’s day, rebuking the king for his insatiable pride and greed.

However, some of the descriptions in **Ezekiel 28:11–19** go beyond any mere human king. In no sense could an earthly king claim to be “in Eden” or to be “the anointed cherub who covers” or to be “on the holy mountain of God.” Therefore, most Bible interpreters believe that **Ezekiel 28:11–19** is a dual prophecy, comparing the pride of the king of Tyre to the pride of Satan. Some propose that the king of Tyre was actually possessed by Satan, making the link between the two even more powerful and applicable.

**We’ll look at this fascinating passage next time.**