

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 who love me and any descendant they have that love their Papou too. 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 anyone I’ve ever brought to Christ and family members who truly love me. 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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Christ IN You Series

Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)

²⁷To 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 37 Part 1²

Dry bones! I love that old hymn that sings about it, and I love this mysterious chapter in the Scriptures. Dry bones . . .what message is the Lord sending us? And how might it connect to this Scripture in Romans 11: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,²⁶ and in this way all Israel will be saved.

Let’s see what we can learn.

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Ezekiel 37 New International Version (NIV)

The Valley of Dry Bones

37 The hand of the LORD was on me,

This is a phrase that occurs seven times in the book, and it indicates an overpowering experience of divine revelation. Wow. How wonderful it is to experience “an overpowering experience of divine revelation!” It sometimes knocked people off their feet! It knocked the elders in heaven down!

and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

Some take this symbolically, referring to the spiritual condition of a person, just like the son in the parable of Jesus about the “lost” son. But that doesn’t mean it has to be. What if this is speaking literally of all the Israelites that ever lived and were born and died? Could this be a miraculous picture of Christ, after His death and resurrection, raising the dead with Him? These people are good and dead, far beyond resuscitation.

I said, “Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

Did anyone ever expect the resurrection of the dead? Two Old Testament prophecies come to mind here. One by Job, and the other David.

Revelation 5:8
And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders **fell down** before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.

Revelation 5:14
The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders **fell down** and worshiped.

32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” Luke 15

Job 14	Psalm 16
<p>¹⁴ If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.</p>	<p>8 I keep my eyes always on the LORD.</p>
<p>Job 14:14 "If a man die, shall he live [again]? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come."</p> <p>Although Job speaks here about the finality of death in this age, Jesus taught that anyone who dies in this age will indeed “live again” in the next, either dwelling in the presence of Almighty God (John 11:23-26; 1 Cor. 15:3-57), or in the suffering and torment of hell (Rev. 20:13-15). Life is never finished at the grave for the Christian, the grave is</p>	<p>With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken.</p> <p>9 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, 10 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful^[b] one see decay. 11 You make known to me the path of life;</p>

<p>where real life begins.</p> <p>The answer to this is of course yes. It was as if Job was wanting the answer to that to be no. He wanted to depart to get out of his pain and suffering. He was looking to that time when he would be changed. His body of flesh would give way to his spiritual body.</p> <p>Job 14:15 "Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands."</p> <p>First, at death, thou shalt call my body to the grave and my soul to thyself, and I will cheerfully answer, "here I am". Gracious souls readily answer death's summons, and appear to his writ. Their spirits are not forcibly required of them, as was that of the rich man (Luke 12:20), but willingly resigned by them. And the earthly tabernacle not violently pulled down, but voluntarily laid down. Second at the resurrection thou shalt call me out of the grave by the voice of the archangel, and I will answer and come at thy call.</p> <p>http://www.bible-studys.org/Bible%20Books/Job/Job%20Chapter%2014.html</p>	<p>you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.</p> <p>Christ is the "Way, the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). He is the path of life for us. Our being in Him assures our Being in Life.</p>
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⁴ Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them,

The word for prophesy is shown in the text box. Ezekiel had previously prophesied to inanimate objects (see table below).

These included mountains and forests.

H5012 naba' naw-baw'
a primitive root;
to prophesy, i.e. speak (or sing) by inspiration (in prediction or simple discourse).

Ezekiel 6:2	Ezekiel 36:1	Ezekiel 20:47
2 "Son of man, set your face against the mountains of Israel; prophesy against them	"Son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say, 'Mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD.	⁴⁷ Say to the southern forest: 'Hear the word of the LORD. This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

Now, he speaks by inspiration to dry bones.

'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make

flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.”

The word for breath in Hebrew is the same word for spirit.

H7307 ruwach roo'-akh

wind; by resemblance breath, i.e. a sensible (or even violent) exhalation; figuratively, life, anger, unsubstantiality; by extension, a region of the sky; by resemblance spirit, but only of a rational being (including its expression and functions).

from **H7306**;

H7306 ruwach roo'-akh

a primitive root;

properly, to blow, i.e. breathe; only (literally) to smell or (by implication, perceive (figuratively, to anticipate, enjoy).

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

Let’s look at the words used for “bones” and “tendons” and “flesh” and “skin.”

Bones	Tendons	Flesh	Skin
<p>H6106 `etsem a bone (as strong); by extension, the body; figuratively, the substance, i.e. (as pron.) selfsame.</p> <p>from H6105;</p> <p>to bind fast, i.e. close (the eyes); intransitively, to be (causatively, make) powerful or numerous;</p>	<p>H1517 giyd gheed a thong (as compressing); by analogy, a tendon.</p> <p>probably from H1464;</p> <p>to crowd upon, i.e. attack.</p>	<p>H1320 basar flesh (from its freshness); by extension, body, person;</p> <p>From H1319 basar</p> <p>properly, to be fresh, i.e. full (rosy, (figuratively) cheerful);</p>	<p>H5785 `owr ore skin (as naked); by implication, hide, leather.</p> <p>from H5783</p> <p>H5783 `uwr oor to (be) bare.</p>

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

At this point, they are the bones of the slain, “a vast army.” Notice what happens next.

¹¹ Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’” ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel.’ ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”

This brings to mind this Scripture in John 5, and hearkens the words of Jesus:

²⁴ “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

Here is an alternate translation. It talks about “proceeding out of death into life.”

Word for proceeded:

G3327 metabaino to change place.

(CLV) Jn 5:24

"Verily, verily, I am saying to you that he ^{*}who is hearing My ^{*}word and believing Him ^{*}Who sends Me, ^lhas life eonian and is not coming [~] into judging, but has proceeded out of ^{*}death into ^{*}life.

²⁵ Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. ²⁷ And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

The Son is the life giver. When you hear His voice, it's life giving.

²⁸ “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned. (Literally “a resurrection of Judging”)

“Live”	Judging
G2198 zao dzah'-o to live (literally or figuratively).	G2920 krisis kree'-sis decision (subjectively or objectively, for or against); by extension, a tribunal; by implication, justice (especially, divine law).

We will evaluate this next time.

Footnotes:

1. **Ezekiel 37:5** The Hebrew for this word can also mean *wind* or *spirit* (see verses 6-14).
2. **Ezekiel 37:23** Many Hebrew manuscripts (see also Septuagint); most Hebrew manuscripts *all their dwelling places where they sinned*

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