

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*



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 2²

God is going to do more than just resurrect/resuscitate dry bones. He’s going to give them the life He always intended them to have. In Romans, Paul talks about God’s ancient and first people, Israel. He speaks about how a “hardening” in part has happened to them, until the fullness of other non-Israelite peoples come in. Then, after that, “all Israel” shall be saved. How?

Keep studying, and 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, 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.

I love the way you can travel in spirit with the Spirit. Here are a few other references.

Ezekiel 3:12	Ezekiel 8:3	1 Corinthians 5	2 Corinthians 3
¹² Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a loud rumbling sound as the glory of the LORD rose from the place where it was standing	3 He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of my head. The Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and in visions of God he took me to Jerusalem, to the entrance of the north gate of the inner court, where the idol that provokes to jealousy stood.	4 So when you are assembled and I am with you in spirit, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,	2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows. 3 And I know that this man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows— 4 was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things, things that no one is permitted to tell.

So in the Spirit, you can travel and be different places. And you can be with people “in spirit.” I love that! Even with your departed loved ones, I would think!

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?”

The last time I looked at this I saw this as being symbolic, perhaps referring to the “spiritually” dead. You can be chemically alive but spiritually dead.

Luke 15	1 Timothy 5
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.”	6 But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives

But what if this is talking about the actual dead? Dead in every way---physically, and spiritually.

That’s intriguing to think about that. Let’s hold to that thought. As I mentioned last time, these people are good and dead, far beyond resuscitation. Here’s a good way to answer back when you don’t know an answer.

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

Here’s what the ancients seemed to know about rising from the dead.

Job 14	Psalm 16	Daniel 12	John 11:23-26	Revelation 20:13-15
<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. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 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 (pious, holy, literally “kindly”) one see decay. 11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.</p>	<p>2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. That life I know live in the Body I live by faith that is of the Son of God</p> </div>	<p>²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”</p> <p>²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”</p> <p>²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”</p> <p>Note: I wonder if “believes in me” is not just “believing about me.” But literally living in and with Christ and believing by His belief. By the faith “of the</p>	<p>¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.</p>

			Son of God,” which is the correct translation of Galatians 2:20	
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⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them,

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

H7307 ruwach roo'-akh

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. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy 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. 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 ^owho is hearing My ^oword and believing Him ^oWho sends Me, ^lhas life eonian and is not coming [~] into judging, but has proceeded out of ^odeath into ^olife.

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).

So there is a judging that takes place. This Scripture calls it a “a resurrection of Judging.”

I’m getting a sense that there is some resurrecting of all peoples, of all generations. Nations and cities of the past will live with peoples of other ages. Consider these words of Jesus.

Matthew 10 (speaking to those who rejected Christ and/or His messengers	Matthew 11(how can it be “more bearable” for ancient Tyre, standing side by side with the Capernaum Jesus grew up in?	1 Corinthians 3
15 Truly I tell you, it will be more bearable	21 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you,	¹¹ For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood,

<p>for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.</p>	<p>Bethsaida! 22 But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. 23 And you, Capernaum . . . 24 . . . I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”</p>	<p>hay or straw,¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work.¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.</p>
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The Judgment Day---what is it? And how can people be saved and still judged? That’s what we’ll look at 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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