

**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)**

<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 37 Part 5 Wrap Up<sup>2</sup>**

So how do we come to some kind of closure on this chapter? Is it all metaphorical, or is there a literal bodily resurrection of the entirety of the ancient nation of Israel, wherein they will all live together and all will lived as the “saved” and “loved” people of God? Does this picture Christ gathering scattered people everywhere, and bringing them into one flock and one shepherd? Could this be speaking of what God will do through Christ and the church? Keep studying, and let’s see what we can learn.

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

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## **Yesterday, we left off here:<sup>3</sup>**

...there is a strong case to be made that Ezekiel 37 foreshadows a future bodily resurrection. Here are two reasons.

**...the rest of Ezekiel 37 has the new covenant in mind, which explicitly teaches a future bodily resurrection.**

The metaphor of two sticks in Ezekiel 37:15-28 builds on the vision in 37:1-14. God promised to not only return Israel to the land, but to also reunify the kingdoms of northern Israel and southern Judah (which split in 931 B.C.), making them one nation with one king (37:21-22). This reunification never literally happened, which suggests that it finds a broader fulfillment in the new covenant and the coming of Christ. (See Jeremiah 31:31, where the new covenant is made with “the house of Israel and the house of Judah.”)

### **Jeremiah 31:31 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>31</sup> “The days are coming,” declares the LORD,  
“when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel  
and with the people of Judah.

The two kingdoms of Israel find unification in Christ, who disciples “all nations” (Matthew 28: 19).

### **Matthew 28:19 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

This would include the scattered peoples of northern Israel who never returned from the Assyrian exile of 722 B.C. The Spirit unified these people in Christ at Pentecost in Acts 2. This is made clear in Acts 2:5—“Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem *Jews, devout men from every nation* under heaven.”

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<sup>3</sup>Source: <https://knowingscripture.com/articles/dry-bones-and-the-resurrection-of-the-dead-ezekiel-37-1-14>

**Now here is where I disagree with this author. The Jews that came back to Jerusalem were simply that---Jews, from the Southern Kingdom. There is no proof that Israelites that exiled in pre-synagogue days retained their cultural awareness and identity. They certainly wouldn't have seen themselves as Jews. But that notwithstanding, let's see where he goes with the rest of this.**

Furthermore, Ezekiel 37:24-25 speaks of David being king over Israel, a reference to Christ who comes from the Davidic line (Matthew 1:6; Romans 1:3). The vision of resurrection in Ezekiel 37:1-14 is thus followed by an expansive metaphor in 37:15-28 that finds fulfillment in the new covenant. Therefore, Ezekiel 37's ties with the new covenant suggest that the metaphor of resurrection also foreshadows a future bodily resurrection of the people of God.

**Yesterday we listed Old Testament passages that foretold a future bodily resurrection. I'll just include the last one here.**

CLV

+ From those sleeping in the soil of the ground many shall awake, these to eonian life and these to reproach for eonian repulsion.

עולם	אלה לים	אדמת	מישני	ורבים	12:2
oulm	l-chii ale	iqizu ophr - admth	m-ishni	u-rbim	
eon	to-lives-of these	they-shall- <sup>c</sup> awake soil	ground-of from-sleepers-of	and-many-ones	
		o : עולם	לדראון	לטרפות	ואלה
		s : oulm	l-draun	l-chrphuth	u-ale
		eon to-repulsion-of to. <sup>the</sup> -reproaches and-these			

**I like that phrase---sleepers in the soil of the ground! I also find this contrast fascinating:**

<b>Eon to-lives-of</b>	<b>Eon to-repulsion-of to reproaches</b>
<b>“eonian life”</b>	<b>“reproach for eonian repulsion”</b>
<b>Word for eon:</b> <b>H5769</b> `owlam o-lawm' from <b>H5956</b> ; properly, concealed, i.e. the vanishing point; generally, time out of mind	<b>Word for reproach:</b> <b>H2781</b> cherpah kher-paw'from <b>H2778</b> ;contumely, disgrace, the pudenda.

(past or future), i.e. (practically) eternity; frequently, adverbial (especially with prepositional prefix) always.	
<b>Word for life:</b> H2416 chay khah'-ee from H2421; alive; hence, raw (flesh); fresh (plant, water, year), strong; also (as noun, especially in the feminine singular and masculine plural) life (or living thing), whether literally or figuratively.	<b>Word for repulsion:</b> H1860 dra'own der-aw-one'or dera)own {day-raw-one; ; from an unused root (meaning to repulse); an object of aversion.

... the Jews of Jesus' day, who relied on the Old Testament, believed in a future bodily resurrection. This can be seen from the records of the New Testament. Even before the explicit teaching on resurrection from the Apostles, Martha said to Jesus regarding her brother Lazarus, "I know that he will rise again in *the resurrection on the last day*" (John 11:24).

### Here is how this article concludes:

#### Conclusion

All of this is to say that Ezekiel 37's allusion to bodily resurrection is consistent with other passages in the Old Testament and their failure to make the concept explicit. . .this supports the understanding that Ezekiel 37 also foreshadows a future bodily resurrection. It should also be noted that there were actual bodily resurrections in the Old Testament. Elijah raised a widow's son (1 Kings 17:17-24), Elisha raised the Shunammite's son (2 Kings 4:18-37), and a man who touched Elisha's bones was revived (2 Kings 13:20-21). This practice was continued in the New Testament with Jesus' raising of Lazarus (John 11:38-44).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> 1 Kings 17 - 21 Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the Lord, "Lord my God, let this boy's life return to him!" 22 The Lord heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived.

2 Kings 8 - <sup>32</sup> When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch. <sup>33</sup> He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the LORD. <sup>34</sup> Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy's body grew warm. <sup>35</sup> Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room

Of course, these were only *resuscitations*, as these people all died again. . .Bodily resurrection is the glorious hope of the Christian life, and it is gloriously tucked away throughout the Old Testament.

**Wrap-Up Thought: So there are two views expressed here. One is metaphorical, the other actual---that all Israelites will be bodily resurrected and live together under Jesus (the King in David's name) in their own land!**

**I guess the latter could be supported by Jesus' allusions to Capernaum and Sidon and Tyre and Sodom arising at the judgment and in some sense retaining their ancient identity. Another thought---what if God is speaking about the spiritual "Israel" that all will become? Could the Jews Jesus spoke to in His time, those that had retained their identity, be the "Jews" of the spiritual Israel that all people will become under Him, and the "Israelites" all other people of the world?**

#### John 10:15-16 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

#### John 11:50-52 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>50</sup> You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."

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and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. 2 Kings 13 - <sup>20</sup> Elisha died and was buried. Now Moabite raiders used to enter the country every spring. <sup>21</sup> Once while some Israelites were burying a man, suddenly they saw a band of raiders; so they threw the man's body into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the man came to life and stood up on his feet. John 11 - 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

<sup>51</sup> He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, <sup>52</sup> and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one.

### Galatians 6:16 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to<sup>[a]</sup> the Israel of God.

#### Footnotes:

1. **Galatians 6:16** Or *rule and to*

**The church---even Gentile believers---become part of Israel in one sense. Paul wrote to the Greek Christians in Corinth claimed as if they shared in Israel's history once they became the people of God.**

### 1 Corinthians 10 New International Version (NIV)

#### Warnings From Israel's History

10 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. <sup>2</sup> They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup> They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup> and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

**So what if a third alternative is true---this is a foreshadowing of God's "first people" (the Spiritual Jews) becoming one with "God's scattered people" to be "Israel proper" (the more secular of the two nations). And all of God's "Israel's" will be united under Jesus?**

**Oh well. I'll move on next week.**