

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER<sup>1</sup> 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)**

<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 38<sup>2</sup>**



The more I read Ezekiel, the more I see parts of it in the Book of Revelation. For example, this chapter is about “Gog and Magog” and some kind of end time battle that will take place before the Kingdom of God in its fullness. Revelation 20:7-9 (NIV) says:

<sup>7</sup> When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup> and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth—Gog and Magog—and to gather them for battle. In number they are like the sand on the seashore. <sup>9</sup> They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of God’s people, the city he loves. But fire came down from heaven and devoured them.

**What’s this all about? I want to try to understand.**

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

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## Ezekiel 38 New International Version (NIV)

### The LORD's Great Victory Over the Nations

38 The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>“Son of man,

**This phrase (son of man) is used 93 times in Ezekiel. It emphasizes the prophets humanity as he was addressed by a transcendent God. It is used in three other key places in the OT:**

<b>Psalm 8:4</b>	<b>Daniel 7:13</b>	<b>Daniel 8:17</b>
<p><sup>4</sup> What [is] man that Thou rememberest him? The son of man that Thou inspectest him?</p>	<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> <p><b>1. 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.</p>	<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> <p><b>1. 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.</p>

**This phrase is significant because of its use in the New Testament as a title of Jesus, most probably because of the verse in Daniel 7 above.**

set your face against Gog, of the land of Magog, the chief prince of<sup>[a]</sup> Meshek and Tubal; prophesy against him

**The foot note “prince of Rosh” instead of Meshek.**

**So who are these guys? Way back in some earlier iteration of my belief system, I associated “Rosh” with the word “Russia” and had a convoluted belief built upon that. The NIV study note says “identification with Russia is unlikely and in any case cannot be proven.” It also adds that “Meschek and Tubal” are sons of sons of Japheth (Genesis 10, one of the sons of Noah).**

## Genesis 10

10 This is the account of Shem, Ham and Japheth, Noah's sons, who themselves had sons after the flood.

2 The sons<sup>[a]</sup> of Japheth:

Gomer, Magog, Madai, Javan, Tubal, Meshek and Tiras.

**As for Magog, the study note on Genesis 10 says he was possibly the father of the Scythian people. Meshek and Tubal are not, it says, related to Moscow and Tobolsk. Tubal was probably in Pontus and Meshek was in "the Moschian" mountains. Their movement was eastern Asia Minor north to the Black Sea.**

**It may be that these people are simply symbolic of distant people opposed to God's people of all time. The study note implies that what is being discussed here is the "great battle of all age." The thought is the full restoration of the whole house of Israel under the reign of the Davidic King is going to evoke a massive coalition of world powers to destroy God's kingdom. The dead bodies will be strewn over the promised lands, which will become the cemetery of those who chose to invade it. The note continues to say two final truths will be made obvious:**

**1. God's people were not scattered and defeated because of God's inability to save them. They were defeated and scattered because of their sins---primarily of their being unfaithful to him.**

**2. Their restoration will prove to the nations their God is THE Holy One.**

**3. I will add this. All will see we're made righteous not because of our works, but because of God. And rather than strive to "become like God by the Tree of Knowledge" followed by our ability to "do" our way into reaching God's goal for us, we simply have faith in God and His love for us---and live simply and faithfully by the Tree of Life.**

**So let's let God dialogue with "Gog."**

<sup>3</sup> and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of<sup>[b]</sup> Meshek and Tubal. <sup>4</sup> I will turn you around, put hooks in your jaws and bring you out with your whole army—your horses, your horsemen fully armed, and a great horde with large and small shields, all of them brandishing their swords. <sup>5</sup> Persia, Cush<sup>[c]</sup> and Put will be with them, all with shields and helmets, <sup>6</sup> also Gomer with all its troops, and Beth Togarmah from the far north with all its troops—the many nations with you.

**Why do "the nations" hate God and resent His rule? Why do we all, in one sense, do the same?**

<sup>7</sup>“Get ready; be prepared, you and all the hordes gathered about you, and take command of them. <sup>8</sup>After many days you will be called to arms. In future years you will invade a land that has recovered from war, whose people were gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel, which had long been desolate. They had been brought out from the nations, and now all of them live in safety. <sup>9</sup>You and all your troops and the many nations with you will go up, advancing like a storm; you will be like a cloud covering the land.

<sup>10</sup>“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On that day thoughts will come into your mind and you will devise an evil scheme. <sup>11</sup>You will say, “I will invade a land of unwalled villages; I will attack a peaceful and unsuspecting people—all of them living without walls and without gates and bars. <sup>12</sup>I will plunder and loot and turn my hand against the resettled ruins and the people gathered from the nations, rich in livestock and goods, living at the center of the land.<sup>[d]</sup>”

**The Hebrew word for “center of the land” is literally “the navel of the land.” This is a graphic image for the belief that Israel was the vital link between God and the world. It’s reflected in this verse too.**

**Ezekiel 5:5**

<sup>5</sup>“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: This is Jerusalem, which I have set in the center of the nations, with countries all around her.

**Obviously Jesus is the ultimate “ConneXion.”**

<sup>13</sup>Sheba and Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish and all her villages<sup>[e]</sup> will say to you, “Have you come to plunder? Have you gathered your hordes to loot, to carry off silver and gold, to take away livestock and goods and to seize much plunder?””

**Note: I’ve made up a song about this. Here are the words.**

**Hear the battle call you heathen?**

**Listen unto what God says!**

**You who think to take a Kingdom?**

**With your horse fire fed.**

**With your army swift and cruel,**

**Think you take a Kingdom?**

**He will show you He does rule**

**His people will He free then!**

**Rejoice ye trees, break forth you into singing!**  
**Lift up your gnarled and ancient crooked hands!**  
**Rejoice ye hills, break forth you into singing!**  
**You are become the place of unwalled lands!**  
**You are again a tribute to your Maker!**  
**You are to men a symbol of His strength!**  
**You are restored to all your former beauty!**  
**His Kingdom rule, now covers all your breadth and length!**

<sup>14</sup>“Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say to Gog: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: In that day, when my people Israel are living in safety, will you not take notice of it? <sup>15</sup> You will come from your place in the far north, you and many nations with you, all of them riding on horses, a great horde, a mighty army. <sup>16</sup> You will advance against my people Israel like a cloud that covers the land. In days to come, Gog, I will bring you against my land, so that the nations may know me when I am proved holy through you before their eyes.

**I love that phrase. Proved holy “through” you! I want God to be holy through me!**

<sup>17</sup>“This is what the Sovereign LORD says: You are the one I spoke of in former days by my servants the prophets of Israel. At that time they prophesied for years that I would bring you against them. <sup>18</sup> This is what will happen in that day: When Gog attacks the land of Israel, my hot anger will be aroused, declares the Sovereign LORD. <sup>19</sup> In my zeal and fiery wrath I declare that at that time there shall be a great earthquake in the land of Israel. <sup>20</sup> The fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the beasts of the field, every creature that moves along the ground, and all the people on the face of the earth will tremble at my presence. The mountains will be overturned, the cliffs will crumble and every wall will fall to the ground. <sup>21</sup> I will summon a sword against Gog on all my mountains, declares the Sovereign LORD. Every man’s sword will be against his brother. <sup>22</sup> I will execute judgment on him with plague and bloodshed; I will pour down torrents of rain, hailstones and burning sulfur on him and on his troops and on the many nations with him. <sup>23</sup> And so I will show my greatness and my holiness, and I will make myself known in the sight of many nations. Then they will know that I am the LORD.’

**We’ll continue to explore the meaning of this next time!**

*Footnotes:*

1. **Ezekiel 38:2** Or *the prince of Rosh,*

2. **Ezekiel 38:3** Or *Gog, prince of Rosh,*
3. **Ezekiel 38:5** That is, the upper Nile region
4. **Ezekiel 38:12** The Hebrew for this phrase means *the navel of the earth.*
5. **Ezekiel 38:13** Or *her strong lions*