

**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

**graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER**

**Ezekiel 38 – Part 2<sup>2</sup>**



So---do all prophecies have to be fulfilled literally, to the word---or are some prophesied in the language of the day, but fulfilled in actuality in different ways? This prophecy about “Gog and Magog” shows up in the book of Revelation. How do we plumb it’s meaning?

<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. Revelation 20

I want to try to understand. We’ll start with Revelation version first.

<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.)

## Revelation 20 New International Version (NIV)

### **The Thousand Years**

20 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. <sup>2</sup> He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. <sup>3</sup> He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

<sup>4</sup> I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They (or “I also saw those who”) had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

### **The Judgment of Satan and the Attack of Gog and Magog**

<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. <sup>10</sup> And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

**Ok. It’s interesting (and probably NOT coincidental) that I’m going to be speaking on this on the First Sunday of Advent (this weekend). At least, I think I am! The first Sunday of Advent is about Hope, and it is supposed to begin with Christ’s Second “Advent” or coming, and work its way down to the birth.**

**But let’s let the NIV Study Bible notes (and some internet searches) help us flesh this out.**

**The NIV Study Bible says:**

**With regards to chapters 20 – 22 of Revelation.**

**“These last three chapters of reflect many of the subjects and themes of the first three chapters.” In the introduction, it mentions how numbers are used symbolically in the book of Genesis. Apparently this was a common use of numbers in other ancient texts. These numbers include:**

- 10

---

---

**Genesis 7:2**

Take with you **seven** pairs of every kind of clean animal, **Genesis 7:3** and also **seven** pairs of every kind of bird

**Genesis 7:4**

**Seven** days from now I will send rain on the earth

**Genesis 7:10**

And after the **seven** days the floodwaters came on the earth.

**Genesis 7:11**

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the **seventeenth** day of the second month

**Genesis 8:4**

and on the **seventeenth** day of the **seventh** month the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

**Genesis 8:10**

He waited **seven** more days and again sent out the dove from the ark.

**Genesis 8:12**

He waited **seven** more days and sent the dove out again, but this time it did not return to him.

---

---

○ **It is the number of sections into which the book is divided.**

○ **It is also the number of names of the genealogies appearing in Genesis 5 and Genesis 11.**

● **7**

○ **Seven is the number of completeness. Examples of it include:**

- **In the Hebrew version of Genesis 1:1, there are exactly 7 words.**
- **In the Hebrew version of Genesis 1:2, there are exactly 14 words (twice seven).**

▪ **7 days of creation. (Genesis 2:2 – “By the seventh day . . . then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy)**

- **7 names in the Genealogy of Genesis 4.**
- **Various 7's in the story of the flood.**
- **A seven fold promise to Abraham.**

Genesis 4

<sup>17</sup> Cain (2) made love to his wife, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Enoch (3). Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch. <sup>18</sup> To Enoch was born Irad (4), and Irad was the father of Mehujael (5), and Mehujael was the father of Methushael (6), and Methushael was the father of Lamech (7).

Genesis 12:1-3 The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

1. “I will make you into a great nation
2. and I will bless you;
3. I will make your name great,
4. and you will be a blessing.[<sup>a</sup>]
5. I will bless those who bless you,
6. and whoever curses you I will curse;
7. and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

▪ **7 years of abundance and 7 years of famine in Egypt.**

- **70 descendants of Jacob.**
- **70 times 7 curse for Lamech.**
- **777 years of a “complete and full” life for the**

**other Lamech.**

**Other symbolic numbers may include Enoch's 365 years (the exact number of days in a year, thus a full life). Since Genesis 1-3 and Revelation 20-22 parallel so dramatically, I wonder if that could**

**mean the numbers in Revelation are not so much spiritual as symbolic as well. Let's flesh this out further.**

## **The Thousand Years**

20 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. <sup>2</sup>He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. . .

<sup>4</sup>I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. . . They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. <sup>5</sup>(The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup>Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

**So what's the deal about the 1000 years? Again, going back to the NIV. The phrase the "millennium" refers to this. It's taken from the Latin word for "the 1000 year" reign of the Saints and the imprisonment of Satan (1000 – mille, annus - year). "Mille annus" somehow in English comes out "millennium."**

**It is taken different ways by different students of Scriptures. You might ask, "How can that be so?" Aren't prophecies more exact than that?**

**The answer is, they aren't. Some prophecies and sayings in the Bible mean things that we won't know what they mean until they are fulfilled by God and declared by Him to be fulfilled.**

**Here are some key examples.**

**1. In Exodus 3:6, God says: "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."**

**On the surface, it looks like God is simply saying I am the God of your fathers to the Israelites. But look at how Christ explains what He says is either (or both) a prophesy and a theological proclamation.**

### **Matthew 22:31-33 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>31</sup>But about the resurrection of the dead—have you not read what God said to you, <sup>32</sup>'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.'

**So this is a statement proving the resurrection of the dead. No one knew that's what it meant, until Christ proclaimed it to be that way.**

**2. The story of Jonah appeared to be just that---a historical account of what happened to Jonah. But Christ proclaimed it to be more, and showed it to be more. At His coming and especially at His death and resurrection, He showed it to mean that the Messiah would come alive from the dead after three days. Again, a case in point that you can't know the exact meanings of a prophecy until it's actually fulfilled and then to have God explain what it really meant in light of the fulfillment.**

### **Jonah 1:17**

[ *Jonah's Prayer* ] Now the Lord provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, **and** Jonah was in the belly of the fish **three days and three nights**.

### **Matthew 12:40**

For as Jonah was **three days and three nights** in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be **three days and three nights** in the heart of the earth.

**3. The Temple in the Bible was really a “type” or a prophecy about Christ and the church.**

### **John 2:19-22 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.”

<sup>20</sup> They replied, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?” <sup>21</sup> But the temple he had spoken of was his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

### **1 Peter 2:4-7 New International Version (NIV)**

#### **The Living Stone and a Chosen People**

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house<sup>1</sup>Or *into a temple of the Spirit*<sup>1</sup> to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

**4. Christ was the true Sabbath---again, the Sabbath wasn't about a day to be kept, as much as a Savior who's rest you were to enter.**

#### Hebrews 4 New International Version (NIV)

### **A Sabbath-Rest for the People of God**

4 Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. <sup>2</sup> For we also have had the good news proclaimed to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because they did not share the faith of those who obeyed.<sup>1</sup> *or because those who heard did not combine it with faith*<sup>1</sup> <sup>3</sup> Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said,

“So I declared on oath in my anger,  
‘They shall never enter my rest.’”

And yet his works have been finished since the creation of the world. <sup>4</sup> For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: “On the seventh day God rested from all his works.” <sup>5</sup> And again in the passage above he says, “They shall never enter my rest.”

<sup>6</sup> Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience, <sup>7</sup> God again set a certain day, calling it “Today.” This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted:

“Today, if you hear his voice,  
do not harden your hearts.”

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. <sup>9</sup> There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; <sup>10</sup> for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his.

#### Matthew 11:29 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

### **5. The Virgin Birth of Christ.**

**Taken in its original context, this verse had some actual historical meanings in the day of Isaiah.**

## Isaiah 7:14 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you<sup>[a]</sup> a sign: The virgin<sup>[b]</sup> will conceive and give birth to a son, and<sup>[c]</sup> will call him Immanuel.<sup>[d]</sup>

### Footnotes:

1. **Isaiah 7:14** The Hebrew is plural.
2. **Isaiah 7:14** Or *young woman*

**The NIV allows for this to possibly mean that Isaiah’s wife, a young woman (because the word can mean that), was going to have a son whose name “Immanuel” may be another name for “Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz.”**

**But look at what it ultimately meant.**

## Matthew 1:22-23 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”<sup>[a]</sup> (which means “God with us”).

**The point I’m making is this. We won’t know what some prophecies mean until they are actually fulfilled, and some way or another, God lets us know “That is what the prophecy meant!” So, this allows us to discuss (next time)---the possible meaning of the 1000 years. And then the possible meaning of God and Magog below.**

## Revelation 20

### The Judgment of Satan and the Attack of Gog and Magog

<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. <sup>10</sup> And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

**Always remember:**

## 1 Corinthians 13

<sup>8</sup> Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For **we know in part and we prophesy in part,** <sup>10</sup> but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. <sup>12</sup> For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror (or we're looking through a lens, or a prism)(or a "glass darkly"); then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

<sup>13</sup> And now these three remain: faith, **hope** and love. But the greatest of these is love.

**We have this hope---I am with you always, even unto the end of the age!**