

**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 – Part 3<sup>2</sup>**



I want to continue now with the various views of the Millennium. As we saw yesterday, Genesis is full of symbolic numbers. Apparently, Revelation is too! So to understand “Gog and Magog” in Ezekiel, I’m going to the Book of Revelation and see how it uncovers what is revealed in this prophecy. Something has occurred to me in my studies that I think may have merit. When Jesus was on earth, He “told them many things in parables.” (Matthew 13:3) Could perhaps more of the Old Testament be “parables” too? Let’s see if that holds true for Gog and Magog.

<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 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.

**As we saw yesterday, there were multiple examples of where God spoke to us “in parables” in the Old Testament.**

- **“I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.”**

**That verbal communication was a “parable” proving the resurrection of the dead!**

- **The story of Jonah.**

**Jonah was a parable of Christ (and of all humanity who Christ joined) running away from God all the way into death---and rising!**

- **The Temple in the Bible was really a parable about Christ and the church.**
- **The true Sabbath is a parable of a Savior who’s rest you were to enter.**
- **Isaiah’s prophecy about the birth of his son was a prophetic parable about Christ!**

**We also saw that we can’t really know what some prophecies actually mean until they’ve been fulfilled. Like the prophecy about Jesus, that a virgin would bear a child. Isaiah himself probably didn’t even know what that meant. In many cases the prophets wrote about things they didn’t understand.**

## 1 Peter 1:10-12 King James Version (KJV)

<sup>10</sup> Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

<sup>11</sup> Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

<sup>12</sup> Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

So . . . keeping all that in mind, let's first look at the possible meanings of "the 1000 years."

From the NIV study Bible:

**"The millennium (from the Latin *mille*, "thousand" and *annus*, "year"). It is taken literally by some as 1,000 actual years, while others interpret it metaphorically as a long but undetermined period of time. There are three basic approaches to the subject of the millennium:**

**(1) Amillennialism: The millennium describes the present reign of Christ in heaven over his realm (Matthew 28:18-20),**

**Matthew 28:18-20 King James Version (KJV)**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. **(In other words, I'm already ruling, now)**

<sup>19</sup> Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

<sup>20</sup> Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

**along with the souls of deceased believers and in the hearts and lives of living believers on the earth (see also note on 1 Corinthians 15:25)**

**1 Corinthians 15:25 King James Version (KJV)**

<sup>25</sup> For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.<sup>3</sup>

**The present form of God's kingdom will be followed by Christ's return, the general resurrection, the final judgment and Christ's continuing reign over the perfect kingdom on the new earth in the eternal state.**

**(2) Premillennialism: The present form of God's kingdom is moving toward a grand climax when Christ will return, the first resurrection will occur and his kingdom will find expression in a literal, visible reign of peace and righteousness on earth in space-time history. After the final resurrection, the last judgment and the renewal of the heavens and**

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<sup>3</sup> Note for this verse: For he must reign. During this process of Christ's destroying all dominion and handing over the kingdom to the Father, Christ must reign. Some take this to mean that Christ will literally reign with his people for 1,000 years on the earth. Others believe that this refers to Christ's reign over the course of history and the lives of his people, who are spiritually raised or born again. This reign is viewed as continuing through this present age. MY INTERJECTION: These folks must take the "1000" to be a symbolic numbers, like of a perfectly long period of time.

**the earth, this future, temporal Kingdom will merge into the eternal kingdom, and the Lord will reign forever and the new earth.**

**(3) Postmillennialism: The world will eventually be Christianized through the preaching of the gospel, resulting in a long period of peace and prosperity called the millennium. This future period will close with Christ's second coming, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgment and the eternal state.**

**Which is true? We may have to wait till it happens to find out. Either way, Christ reigns and we all live happily ever after with God.**

**So after this 1000 years this happens.**

### **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.

**Here's what the Study Bible says:**

**“Gog and Magog: Symbolize the nations of the world as they band together for a final assault on God.”**

**That's it. That's all it says. Is that true? Here's what happens to Gog and Magog after the attack.**

### **Ezekiel 39 New International Version (NIV)**

39 “Son of man, prophesy against Gog and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Gog, chief prince of<sup>[a]</sup> Meshek and Tubal. <sup>2</sup> I will turn you around and drag you along. I will bring you from the far north and send you against the mountains of Israel. <sup>3</sup> Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand. <sup>4</sup> On the mountains of Israel you will fall, you and all your troops and the nations with you. I will give you as food to all kinds of carrion birds and to the wild animals. <sup>5</sup> You will fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD. <sup>6</sup> I will send fire on Magog and on those who live in safety in the coastlands, and they will know that I am the LORD.

<sup>7</sup> “‘I will make known my holy name among my people Israel. I will no longer let my holy name be profaned, and the nations will know that I the LORD am the Holy One in Israel. <sup>8</sup> It is coming! It will surely take place, declares the Sovereign LORD. This is the day I have spoken of.

<sup>9</sup> “Then those who live in the towns of Israel will go out and use the weapons for fuel and burn them up—the small and large shields, the bows and arrows, the war clubs and spears. For seven years they will use them for fuel. <sup>10</sup> They will not need to gather wood from the fields or cut it from the forests, because they will use the weapons for fuel. And they will plunder those who plundered them and loot those who looted them, declares the Sovereign LORD.

<sup>11</sup> “On that day I will give Gog a burial place in Israel, in the valley of those who travel east of the Sea. It will block the way of travelers, because Gog and all his hordes will be buried there. So it will be called the Valley of Hamon Gog.<sup>[b]</sup>

<sup>12</sup> “For seven months the Israelites will be burying them in order to cleanse the land. <sup>13</sup> All the people of the land will bury them, and the day I display my glory will be a memorable day for them, declares the Sovereign LORD. <sup>14</sup> People will be continually employed in cleansing the land. They will spread out across the land and, along with others, they will bury any bodies that are lying on the ground.

“After the seven months they will carry out a more detailed search. <sup>15</sup> As they go through the land, anyone who sees a human bone will leave a marker beside it until the gravediggers bury it in the Valley of Hamon Gog, <sup>16</sup> near a town called Hamonah.<sup>[c]</sup> And so they will cleanse the land.’

<sup>17</sup> “Son of man, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Call out to every kind of bird and all the wild animals: ‘Assemble and come together from all around to the sacrifice I am preparing for you, the great sacrifice on the mountains of Israel. There you will eat flesh and drink blood. <sup>18</sup> You will eat the flesh of mighty men and drink the blood of the princes of the earth as if they were rams and lambs, goats and bulls—all of them fattened animals from Bashan. <sup>19</sup> At the sacrifice I am preparing for you, you will eat fat till you are glutted and drink blood till you are drunk. <sup>20</sup> At my table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers of every kind,’ declares the Sovereign LORD.

<sup>21</sup> “I will display my glory among the nations, and all the nations will see the punishment I inflict and the hand I lay on them. <sup>22</sup> From that day forward the people of Israel will know that I am the LORD their God. <sup>23</sup> And the nations will know that the people of Israel went into exile for their sin, because they were unfaithful to me. So I hid my face from them and handed them over to their enemies, and they all fell by the sword. <sup>24</sup> I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses, and I hid my face from them.

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will now restore the fortunes of Jacob<sup>[d]</sup> and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, and I will be zealous for my holy name. <sup>26</sup> They will forget their shame and all the unfaithfulness they showed toward me when they lived in safety in their land with no one to make them afraid. <sup>27</sup> When I have brought them back from the nations and have gathered them from the countries of their enemies, I will be proved holy through them in the sight of many nations. <sup>28</sup> Then they will know that I am the LORD their God, for though I sent them into exile among the nations, I will gather them to their own land, not leaving any behind. <sup>29</sup> I will no longer hide my face from them, for I will pour out my Spirit on the people of Israel, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

*Footnotes:*

1. **Ezekiel 39:1** Or *Gog, prince of Rosh,*
2. **Ezekiel 39:11** *Hamon Gog* means *hordes of Gog.*
3. **Ezekiel 39:16** *Hamonah* means *horde.*
4. **Ezekiel 39:25** Or *now bring Jacob back from captivity*