

graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER¹ 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 39²

So how do we wrap this up? So much of what happens in Ezekiel seems to find its way back into the book of Revelation, especially the chapters. What do these prophecies mean?

Today, I want to look at Ezekiel 39 and study it.

Then I want to see if I can summarize the meaning of these two chapters, especially in light of God’s revelation in Christ.

¹ **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

² 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 are referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

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^[a] Meshek and Tubal. ² 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. ³ Then I will strike your bow from your left hand and make your arrows drop from your right hand. ⁴ 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. ⁵ You will fall in the open field, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD. ⁶ 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.

⁷ “‘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. ⁸ It is coming! It will surely take place, declares the Sovereign LORD. This is the day I have spoken of.

⁹ “‘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. ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ “‘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.^[b]

¹² “‘For seven months the Israelites will be burying them in order to cleanse the land. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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, ¹⁶ near a town called Hamonah.^[c] And so they will cleanse the land.’

¹⁷ “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.

¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ At the sacrifice I am preparing for you, you will eat fat till you are gluttoned and drink blood till you are drunk. ²⁰ At my table you will eat your fill of horses and riders, mighty men and soldiers of every kind,’ declares the Sovereign LORD.

What a fascinating read. Again, and it reminds of what I read in the book of Revelation, at the end of time.

Revelation 19 After the fall of Babylon	Revelation 20 Gog and Magog Resurface
<p>¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God, ¹⁸ so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small.”</p> <p>¹⁹ Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army. ²⁰ But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur. ²¹ The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, and all the birds gorged themselves on their flesh.</p>	<p>When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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.</p>

How does this all work? I know John the Baptist was “Elijah” but he wasn’t the actual Elijah, or even a resurrection of Elijah.

Malachi 4:5	Matthew 11
<p>⁵ “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.</p>	<p>¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist . . . ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come.</p>

So the point is that “Gog and Magog” doesn’t have to be the actual “Gog and Magog.” They just represent a type. The NIV study bible says they symbolize the nations of the world as they band together for a final assault on God.

Obviously this next section visualizes all of God’s people, the spiritual Israel, gathered under Christ.

²¹ “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. ²² From that day forward the people of Israel will know that I am the

Numbers 6:25

the Lord make his **face shine** on you and be gracious to you;

Psalm 4:6

Many, Lord, are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity?” Let the light of your **face shine** on us.

Psalm 31:16

Let your **face shine** on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

Psalm 67:1

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his **face shine** on us—

Psalm 80:3

Restore us, O God; make your **face shine** on us, that we may be saved.

Psalm 80:7

Restore us, God Almighty; make your **face shine** on us, that we may be saved.

Psalm 80:19

Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your **face shine** on us, that we may be saved.

Psalm 119:135

Make your **face shine** on your servant and teach me your decrees.

LORD their God.²³ 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.

Obviously, you want the Lord’s face to shine on you, not be hidden from you. See sidebar. When the Lord hides His face from you, you get handed over to your enemies. See both Sidebars

²⁴ I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their offenses, and I hid my face from them.

²⁵ “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will now restore the fortunes of Jacob^[d] and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, and I will be zealous for my holy name.

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ 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.²⁸ 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.²⁹ 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.”

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*

Deuteronomy 31:17

And in that day I will become angry with them and forsake them; I will **hide** my **face** from them, and they will be destroyed. Many disasters and calamities will come on them, and in that day they will ask, ‘Have not these disasters come on us because our God is not with us?’

Deuteronomy 31:18

And I will certainly **hide** my **face** in that day because of all their wickedness in turning to other gods.

Deuteronomy 32:20

“I will **hide** my **face** from them,” he said, “and see what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, children who are unfaithful.

Psalm 69:17

Do not **hide** your **face** from your servant; answer me quickly, for I am in trouble.

Psalm 88:14

Why, Lord, do you reject me and **hide** your **face** from me?

Psalm 102:2

Do not **hide** your **face** from me when I am in distress. Turn your ear to me; when I call, answer me quickly.

Psalm 104:29

When you **hide** your **face**, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.

Isaiah 64:7

No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have **hidden** your **face** from us and have given us over to our sins.

Ezekiel 39:23

I **hid** my **face** from them and handed them over to their enemies they all fell by the sword.

Micah 3:4

Then they will cry out to the Lord, but he will not answer them. At that time he will **hide** his **face** from them because of the evil they have done.

So what does this all mean?

Obviously, it has larger symbolic meaning. Let me see if I can find a commentary that sheds light on this.

Here's from one source: <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/gog-and-magog/>

Gog and Magog refers to the enemies against whom God will wage an apocalyptic war at the dawn of the messianic age. The wars of Gog and Magog have come to be understood as essential to the Jewish eschatological vision of the end of days, a final battle between good and evil that will usher in a period of eternal peace. . . The wars of Gog and Magog, as the prophecy came to be referred to in later sources, are part of a larger belief that the messianic age will be preceded by a period of great suffering and upheaval — the so-called “birth pangs of the Messiah.” But in general, belief in the messianic age, while clearly part of Jewish belief and tradition, are not discussed in great detail in ancient rabbinic sources. Maimonides, who included belief in the coming of the Messiah as one of this 13 principles of the Jewish faith, nevertheless stated that the details of these future events are not fundamental to the religion and that one should not dwell on them, as their particulars were unknown even to the great sages. “Our sages have said that the spirit of those who calculate the Ends will expire,” Maimonides wrote in the Mishneh Torah. “Rather, one is to (simply) wait and believe in the principle of this matter, as we have explained.”

So that's how this Jewish scholar looks at it. Here's a brief Wikipedia summation.

Gog and Magog (/ˈɡɒɡ ... ˈmeɪɡɒɡ/; **Hebrew**: גֹּג וּמָגוּג; *Gōg ū-Māgōg*; **Arabic**: يَأْجُوجُ وَمَاجُوجُ; *Ya`jūj wa-Ma`jūj*) appear in the **Hebrew Bible** and **Quran** as individuals, tribes, or lands. In **Ezekiel 38**, Gog is an individual and Magog is his land;^[1] in Genesis 10 Magog is a man, but no Gog is mentioned; and centuries later Jewish tradition changed Ezekiel's "Gog from Magog" into "Gog and Magog",^[2] which is the form in which they appear in the Christian New Testament's **Book of Revelation**, although there they are peoples rather than individuals.^[3]

Here's a summation from “Got Questions.org”

Question: "What are Gog and Magog?"

Answer: Historically speaking, Magog was a grandson of Noah (**Genesis 10:2**). The descendants of Magog settled to the far north of Israel, likely in Europe and northern Asia (**Ezekiel 38:2**). Magog seems to be used to refer to "northern barbarians" in general, but likely also has a connection to Magog the person. The people of Magog are described as skilled warriors (**Ezekiel 38:15; 39:3-9**). . . The book of Revelation uses Ezekiel's prophecy about Magog to portray a final end-times attack on the nation of Israel (**Revelation 20:8-9**). The result of this battle is that all are destroyed, and Satan will find his final place in the lake of fire

(Revelation 20:10).

It is important to recognize that the Gog and Magog of **Ezekiel 38-39** is quite different from the one in **Revelation 20:7-8**. Below are some of the more obvious reasons why these refer to different people and battles.

1. In the battle of **Ezekiel 38-39**, the armies come primarily from the north and involve only a few nations of the earth (**Ezekiel 38:6, 15; 39:2**). The battle in **Revelation 20:7-9** will involve all nations, so armies will come from all directions, not just from the north.
2. There is no mention of Satan in the context of **Ezekiel 38-39**. In **Revelation 20:7** the context clearly places the battle at the end of the millennium with Satan as the primary character.
3. **Ezekiel 39:11-12** states that the dead will be buried for seven months. There would be no need to bury the dead if the battle in **Ezekiel 38-39** is the one described in **Revelation 20:8-9**, for immediately following **Revelation 20:8-9** is the Great White Throne judgment (20:11-15) and then the current or present heaven and earth are destroyed, replaced by a new heaven and earth (**Revelation 21:1**). There obviously will be a need to bury the dead if the battle takes place in the early part of the tribulation, for the land of Israel will be occupied for another 1,000 years, the length of the millennial kingdom (**Revelation 20:4-6**).
4. The battle in **Ezekiel 38-39** is used by God to bring Israel back to Him (**Ezekiel 39:21-29**). In **Revelation 20**, Israel has been faithful to God for 1,000 years (the millennial kingdom). Those in **Revelation 20:7-10** who are rebellious are destroyed without any more opportunity for repentance.

Recommended Resource: Understanding End Times Prophecy by Paul Benware

Long story short, the names “Gog and Magog” have become symbolic of those nations against God’s people. Perhaps, as one scholar suggests, it is also symbolic of the “red” and evil version of humanity in all of us, that will be destroyed by Christ’s presence in us at the judgment. It’s based on the assumption that the binaries in Scripture, “the good” and “the wicked,” the “sheep” and the “goats,” represent the good and bad side of us all. That’s a fascinating way of looking at it. What’s evil about us will again try to rear its ugly head in us, even after Christ has conquered sin and reigns in us for the perfect period of time in our first heaven experience of the church age, where our good lives side by side with our evil.

But even though the evil rises in us again after years of Christ’s rule in our hearts, it won’t win! God will destroy it!

I think I like this interpretation the best!