

**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*

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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

**graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER**

**Ezekiel 44 Part 5<sup>2</sup>**

**The priests had a duty. It was described in verse 23 of this chapter. They were:**

<sup>23</sup> They are to teach my people the difference between the holy and the common and show them how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean.

**There is a difference between the holy and the common. There is a difference between the clean and unclean. We concluded yesterday that as priests of God in Jesus Christ, we’re to do the same thing. Teach the people the difference between the holy and the common. Show them the difference between the clean and unclean. What else were priests supposed to do?**

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

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# Ezekiel 44

<sup>24</sup> “In any dispute, the priests are to serve as judges and decide it according to my ordinances.

**God’s ancient governmental system was a system of judges. Judging is described above---it means to “decide according to God’s ordinances.”**

**The bible talks about Jesus coming to “judge” the earth. Often time we think it means to condemn people. But it’s not necessarily that. Jesus is coming to “judge” the earth. “To rule.” To decide in accordance with God’s ordinances. Let’s read some verses about that.**

## Acts 10:42

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as **judge** of the living and the dead.

**This is not a bad thing, but a good thing. He’ll judge even the dead, who are in some sense living. His 12 apostles will be assigned important positions of judging (ruling) over the tribes of Israel. Note the Scripture in the text box.**

## Acts 13:20

All this took about 450 years. “After this, God gave them **judges** until the time of Samuel the prophet.

**God ruled Israel through judges. They would save them from their enemies, and sit in judgment for them, settling disputes and overseeing them but never overlording them. The apostles will rule the spiritual Israel forever. <sup>3</sup> He’ll do it from His holy city.**

## Revelation 21

21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I

Matthew 19

<sup>27</sup> Peter answered him, “**We have left everything to follow you!** What then will there be for us?”

<sup>28</sup> Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, **you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones**, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.

<sup>3</sup> I believe this refers to the spiritual Israel that the church has become. Romans 9:6 For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Galatians 6:16 Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God.

heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

### **Acts 17:31**

For he has set a day when he will **judge** the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

### **Romans 2:16**

This will take place on the day when God **judges** people’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

### **Romans 3:6**

Certainly not! If that were so, how could God **judge** the world?

### **1 Corinthians 4:4**

My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who **judges** me.

### **1 Corinthians 4:5**

Therefore **judge** nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

**God doesn’t necessarily judge the action. He exposes the motivations of the heart. And based on that, each will receive their praise from God!**

### **1 Corinthians 5:12**

What business is it of mine to **judge** those outside the church? Are you not to **judge** those inside?

**In one sense we’re supposed to help judge “those inside.” That means those “in” the body of Christ, the church. We judge and strengthen one another. We live in community with each other, and encourage each other to live righteously and to live with patient endurance.**

### **1 Corinthians 5:13**

God will **judge** those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”

**Here is a fuller exposition in that passage.**

<sup>12</sup> What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? <sup>13</sup> God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”

**There are several Scriptures in the Old Testament that use that phrase. It makes for an interesting study.**

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**Hebrews 10:24**

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and **patient endurance** that are ours in Jesus

**Revelation 1:9**

### 1 Corinthians 6:2

Or do you not know that the Lord's people will **judge** the world? And if you are to **judge** the world, are you not competent to **judge** trivial cases?

### 1 Corinthians 6:3

Do you not know that we will **judge** angels? How much more the things of this life!

**So we will judge angels and the world. How beautiful!**

### 1 Corinthians 6:5

I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to **judge** a dispute between believers?

### 2 Timothy 4:1

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will **judge** the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

### 2 Timothy 4:8

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous **Judge**, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

**Our judge will not only decide disputes; He will reward and in some cases, as the next verse shows, repay.**

### Hebrews 10:30

For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will **judge** his people."

### Hebrews 12:23

to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the **Judge** of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

### Hebrews 13:4

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will **judge** the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

### James 3:1

[ *Taming the Tongue* ] Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be **judged** more strictly.

### James 5:9

Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be **judged**. The **Judge** is standing at the door!

### 1 Peter 2:23

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who **judges** justly.

**That is what King David did. Notice the Scripture in 2 Samuel 16.**

<sup>5</sup> As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul's family came out from there. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out. <sup>6</sup> He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones. . . <sup>7</sup> As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you murderer, you scoundrel!" <sup>8</sup> The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The LORD has given the kingdom into the hands of your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a murderer!"

<sup>10</sup> . . .the king said, ". . . If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?'" . . . Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. <sup>12</sup> It may be that the LORD will look upon my misery and restore to me his covenant blessing instead of his curse today."

### **1 Peter 4:5**

But they will have to give account to him who is ready to **judge** the living and the dead.

**Jesus' brother Jude says this will happen. Jude** - <sup>14</sup> Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about them: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones <sup>15</sup> to judge everyone, and to convict all of them of all the ungodly acts they have committed in their ungodliness, and of all the defiant words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

### **Revelation 6:10**

They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you **judge** the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

"Do not take revenge, my dear friends," Paul wrote to the Romans in chapter 12:19. He, added: "But leave room for God's wrath, for it is written, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay."

### **Revelation 18:8**

Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her: death, mourning and famine. She will be consumed by fire, for mighty is the Lord God who **judges** her.

### **Revelation 18:20**

"Rejoice over her, you heavens! Rejoice, you people of God! Rejoice, apostles and prophets! For God has **judged** her with the judgment she imposed on you."

### **Revelation 19:11**

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he **judges** and wages war.

### **Revelation 20:4**

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 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.

### **Revelation 20:12**

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were **judged** according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

### **Revelation 20:13**

The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was **judged** according to what they had done.

**So just like priests will judge the restored Israel, we, God's kingdom of priests and holy nation, will judge (rule) the world---and angels. How cool! Here are other things priests will do.**

They are to keep my laws and my decrees for all my appointed festivals, and they are to keep my Sabbaths holy.

They are to keep my laws and my decrees for all my appointed festivals, and they are to keep my Sabbaths holy.

**Sabbaths and holy days (festivals) were shadows of Christ. So this is a euphemism for focusing on the Reality that Jesus is.<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>25</sup> “A priest must not defile himself by going near a dead person; however, if the dead person was his father or mother, son or daughter, brother or unmarried sister, then he may defile himself. <sup>26</sup> After he is cleansed, he must wait seven days. <sup>27</sup> On the day he goes into the inner court of the sanctuary to minister in the sanctuary, he is to offer a sin offering (purification offering) for himself, declares the Sovereign LORD.

<sup>28</sup> “I am to be the only inheritance the priests have. You are to give them no possession in Israel; I will be their possession. <sup>29</sup> They will eat the grain offerings, the sin offerings and the guilt offerings; and everything in Israel devoted<sup>[given over irrevocably]</sup> to the LORD will belong to them. <sup>30</sup> The best of all the firstfruits and of all your special gifts will belong to the priests. You are to give them the first portion of your ground meal so that a blessing may rest on your household. <sup>31</sup> The priests must not eat anything, whether bird or animal, found dead or torn by wild animals. **God is holy. We, His priests are holy! You are what you eat! I’ll briefly comment on this next time and move on.**

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<sup>4</sup> Colossians 2:16-18 New International Version (NIV) 16 Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

