

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*

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

graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER
Ezekiel 46 Part 2²

As I listened to this chapter repeatedly over the weekend, more and more seem to be coming out so I’m going to back up and start from the beginning with new insights. I kind of feel like the “Forrest Gump” of theologians at worst or a talented primitive theologian (“Grandpa Moses😊” at best. I do have a Masters in Biblical studies, but I don’t have an endless stream of degrees after my name and I really am not a disciplined academic. I would like to think I don’t just study about the early church fathers, but study and believe like the early church fathers. In other words, I think all this stuff is ‘real.’ God is real, and the bible is really His word, and he really speaks to us directly through it. So rather than just study those who study, I want to study and mainline a message I hear. If anyone

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.)

else reads this and it blesses them, great. If not, great. I'm desperately hungry for God's presence, and reading His word in this way helps me feel full! And if some descendant of mine discovers this stuff someday on the web and is blessed by it, more power to them---and all glory to the God who loves us all!

Ezekiel 46 New International Version (NIV)

46 “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: The gate of the **inner court facing east** is to be shut on the six working days, but on the Sabbath day and on the day of the New Moon it is to be opened.

We no longer worship God in the context of commanded “days and months and seasons and years.” The Scripture in the text box from Paul’s writing in the New Testament clearly shows that. So what might this Scripture mean to me as a New Covenant Christian? Here’s my current thought.

On “working days,” God is always with you. But when we “sabbath”---and by that I mean, declare a holy time and get together to “evoke” a holy time by our assembly, it seems like our awareness of God’s presence---our access to Him, our emotional and physical experience of Him, is greater. The “gate” that is always there is opened a bit wider when we worship. And that’s what is supposed to happen at these holy times!

2 The prince is to enter from the outside through the portico of the gateway and stand by the gatepost. The priests are to sacrifice his burnt offering and his fellowship offerings. He is to bow down in worship at the threshold of the gateway and then go out, but the gate will not be shut until evening.

Like I said last time, I like that visual. The prince standing outside and worshipping and bowing down while the priest offers sacrifice. And here’s an additional insight I didn’t share. I worship with God’s people on Sunday morning. We bow down in worship at the “threshold of the gateway”---God’s gathering of His people.

In ancient times, they designated two regularly scheduled times that were special---Sabbaths and “new moons” (that was their way of saying the beginning of the new month, calibrated in time with the moons monthly cycles).

³ On the Sabbaths and New Moons the people of the land are to worship in the presence of the LORD at the entrance of that gateway.

Galatians 4

⁹ But now that you know God—or rather are known by God—how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces^[a]? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? ¹⁰ You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! ¹¹ I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.

1. **Galatians 4:9** Or *principles*

⁹ “On the Sabbath day, make an offering of two lambs a year old without defect, together with its drink offering and a grain offering of two-tenths of an ephah^[a] of the finest flour mixed with olive oil.

Numbers 28:9Footnotes:

1. **Numbers 28:9** That is, probably about 7 pounds or about 3.2 kilograms; also in verses 12, 20 and 28

So they would have a special worship at the beginning of each month. Should we? Maybe “should” is not the right question. But “could” might be---what would be wrong of designating a special start to each month with a special worship of God?

⁴The burnt offering the prince brings to the LORD on the Sabbath day is to be six male lambs and a ram, all without defect.

⁵The grain offering given with the ram is to be an ephah,^[a] and the grain offering with the lambs is to be as much as he pleases, along with a hin^[b] of olive oil for each ephah.

Ok, so what is a burnt offering for me? To me it is something that I give to the Lord that is all His, whether it be time, talent or treasures. The CSB study Bible, which I’ll quote from this point on, renders verse 5 it this way.

⁵The grain offering will be half a bushel with the ram, and the grain offering with the lambs will be whatever he wants to give, as well as a gallon of oil for every half bushel.

A half bushel would be 4 gallons of grain. Some estimates place that at 30 pounds of grain. A gallon of oil is designated for 30 pounds of flour. Ok, so this is dumb (old Forrest now is coming out), but are there any recipes we could connect to that are just made of “oil and flour.” I’m going to ask my “Lucky Eight Ball” in the Cloud, the web. And guess what was at the top of the list?

Flour Tortillas Made With Olive Oil³

3 cups all-purpose flour
1.5 teaspoons baking powder (optional)
1/4 cup olive oil
1.5 teaspoons salt
1 cup warm water

So now I have proof positive that the Temple was really a Mexican Restaurant for those lucky enough to be priests. Ole! But if you follow the gist of the rest of the Scriptures, they ate a lot of lamb and occasionally, some beef (no chicken, I’m afraid).

⁵The grain offering will be half a bushel^[a] with the ram, and the grain offering with the lambs will be whatever he wants to give, as well as a gallon^[b] of oil for every half bushel. ⁶On the day of the New Moon, the burnt offering is to be a young, unblemished bull, as well as six lambs and a ram without blemish.

So the Holy Ole! Diet included beef once a month. And again, just the right amount of extra lamb. The priests had a special God feast once a month. It was associated with a special meal. Eating was inextricably combined with worship.

³ <https://www.mexicanplease.com/flour-tortillas-made-olive-oil/>

I am enjoying God more and more as I get older.

⁷ He will provide a grain offering of half a bushel with the bull, half a bushel with the ram, and whatever he can afford with the lambs, together with a gallon of oil for every half bushel. ⁸ When the prince enters, he is to go in by way of the gate's portico and go out the same way.

So the prince goes out the same way He came in. To me, that indicates that our Prince, Jesus, who by the way “is” the gate, goes in the same way He came out! This is because He obviously belongs there. We don't! Notice the next Scripture. The comment that follows is a repeat from my last look at this chapter.

⁹ “When the people of the land come before the LORD at the appointed times,^[c] whoever enters by way of the north gate to worship is to go out by way of the south gate, and whoever enters by way of the south gate is to go out by way of the north gate. No one may return through the gate by which he entered, but is to go out by the opposite gate.

Ok. So let's say this part of the parable represents our life journey with God. In Acts 17 it says this:

Acts 17:26 New International Version (NIV)

²⁶ From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands.

The Hebrew for Appointed Times specifically means a festival. Or a fixed time or season.

H4150 mow`ed mo-ade'

or moled {mo-ade'};

or (feminine) moweadah (2 Chronicles 8:13) {mo-aw-daw'}; from **H3259**; properly, an appointment, i.e. a fixed time or season; specifically, a festival; conventionally a year; by implication, an assembly (as convened for a definite purpose); technically the congregation; by extension, the place of meeting; also a signal (as appointed beforehand).

So here's a thought. Could a person's appointed “time” (his coming to Christ, his coming to an awareness of God, His “New Moon” or new beginning or new birth, or a special time he sets apart for the Lord, etc.) picture His journey in life with an awareness of God (or a special time in His life designated for God). And the message here---once you start the journey, don't go out the way you came. Finish the journey. See it all the way through. Remember Lot's wife! She looked back longingly at Sodom, and turned into a pillar of salt (Luke 17:32, Genesis 19:26). And also, see where God is taking you next! It was like this for Samuel, who was bummed because Saul didn't work out as he expected.

²⁶ But Lot's wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

Genesis 19:26

1 Samuel 16:1

[*Samuel Anoints David*] The Lord said to **Samuel**, “How long will you **mourn** for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”

Have you ever tried one thing and it failed, but you simply can't let it go? It seems to me the Bible says “get over it.” Move on. After all, as Scarlett O'Hara says, tomorrow is another day!

¹⁰ When the people enter, the prince will enter with them, and when they leave, he will leave.

Christ is at one with His people! Whatever He does, they do. Whatever they do, He does.

¹¹ At the festivals and appointed times, the grain offering will be half a bushel with the bull, half a bushel with the ram, and whatever he wants to give with the lambs, along with a gallon of oil for every half bushel.

¹² “When the prince makes a freewill offering, whether a burnt offering or a fellowship offering as a freewill offering to the LORD, the gate that faces east is to be opened for him. He is to offer his burnt offering or fellowship offering just as he does on the Sabbath day. Then he will go out, and the gate is to be closed after he leaves.

Does this indicate special access to the Lord when you do something “special” and uncalled for by Him? Just like David pleased God when he wanted to build God a temple, even though God did not ask him too.

¹³ “You are to offer an unblemished year-old male lamb as a daily burnt offering to the LORD; you will offer it every morning.

Ok, here is what I've always taken this to be---offer God your daily “burnt offering”---a daily prayer in the morning.

¹⁴ You are also to prepare a grain offering every morning along with it: three quarts,^[d] with one-third of a gallon^[e] of oil to moisten the fine flour—a grain offering to the LORD.

It would be interesting to consider how long this would take to do.

This is a permanent statute to be observed regularly. ¹⁵ They will offer the lamb, the grain offering, and the oil every morning as a regular burnt offering.

I get from this that we should offer God a sacrifice of prayer and praise every morning.

Hebrews 13:15

2 Samuel 7:7 King James Version (KJV)

⁷ In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel spake I a word with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a **sacrifice of praise**—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

Ok. Time to stop.

- a. **46:5** Lit *an ephah*, also in vv. 7,11
- b. **46:5** Lit *a hin*, also in vv. 7,11
- c. **46:9** Or *the festivals*
- d. **46:14** Lit *one-sixth of an ephah*
- e. **46:14** Lit *one-third of a hin*
- f. **46:22** Hb obscure
- g. **46:22** Lit *40 cubits*
- h. **46:22** Lit *30 cubits*
- i. **46:23** Or *a row*

Ok. I know this was a reprise of the last study. But I was just hungry for it. I'll do more next time. It's about our inheritance, believe it or not, our piece of the Cosmic God pie. Which God ensures stays ours, even by limiting His Sons!