

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*

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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 46 Part 2²

Let the Glory of The Lord Rise Among Us!

God is an amazing Father, and He teaches us in so many ways. Today He is going to teach us about equity in the land, and in the distribution of His inheritance for us. God wants us to have our piece of the pie! This section deals with how God is intent on making sure the Prince doesn’t have all the land, but only that which is assigned to Him. If our Prince is Jesus, how wonderful is God to look at like this. He loves us so much, that He makes sure we have our inheritance too! The older I get, the more I realize about knowing how much God loves us! Let’s love Him back with all we’ve got!

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 46 (CSB)

Transfer of Royal Lands

16 “This is what the Lord GOD says: If the prince gives a gift to each of his sons as their inheritance, it will belong to his sons. It will become their property by inheritance.

So Ezekiel is picturing a hereditary rulership. The Prince will have sons. So this argues to me against this “Prince,” whoever he is being Christ---unless, of course, His disciples and followers are considered His heirs. There is a Scripture that speaks of Christ’s “children.” (See the text box.)

However, I just showed how the Bible can be misread by the way I misread it! The NIV study Bible says that the word “children” refers to the children of God that He gave to Jesus to be His brothers and sisters. See Matthew 11:20 in the text box.

But perhaps in another sense we are His “little Children” under His care. And in Isaiah, Jesus is called “Everlasting Father.” So in that sense this could be talking about us as the “Prince’s” children. But in the next section, there is a difference made---between the Prince’s children and the Prince’s servants. What does that symbolize, if the Prince is Jesus?

17 But if he gives a gift from his inheritance to one of his servants, it will belong to that servant until the year of freedom, when it will revert to the prince. His inheritance belongs only to his sons; it is theirs.

Here’s what I’m thinking at this point. We are often called God’s servants, and in one sense we always will be. But we are not “slaves” any more, but sons and daughters.

Galatians 4:3

So also, when we were underage, we were in **slavery** under the elemental spiritual forces of the world.

Galatians 4:25

Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in **slavery** with her children.

Galatians 5:1

Isaiah 8:18

Here am I, and the **children** the Lord has **given me**. We are signs and symbols in Israel from the Lord Almighty, who dwells on Mount Zion.

Hebrews 2:13

And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again he says, “Here am I, and the **children** God has **given me**.”

Hebrews 2:12

He says, “I will **declare your name** to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing **your praises**.”

Matthew 12:50

For **whoever does the will of my Father** in heaven is **my brother** and sister and mother.”

John 13:33

“**My children**, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor**, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

[*Freedom in Christ*] It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of **slavery**.

We are not slaves! We are children! What's the difference?

Galatians 4:24-26 New International Version (NIV)

²⁴ These things are being taken figuratively:

The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and **bears children who are to be slaves**: This is Hagar. ²⁵ Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because **she is in slavery with her children**.

²⁶ But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.

Back to Ezekiel.

18 The prince must not take any of the people's inheritance, evicting them from their property. He is to provide an inheritance for his sons from his own property, so that none of my people will be displaced from his own property."

I'm fascinated to consider this. We have an "inheritance," or an allotment from the Lord. This picture of the perfect eternity shows the Prince uniquely possessing His, but ours is "ours" for eternity by the decree of God. God will preserve our inheritance, our destiny. No matter what happens in this life, when it's all said and done, our destiny will revert back to us. God has made us for a specific purpose. He will see to it that it is accomplished! There are good things we are decreed to be walking in!

(CLV) Eph 2:10

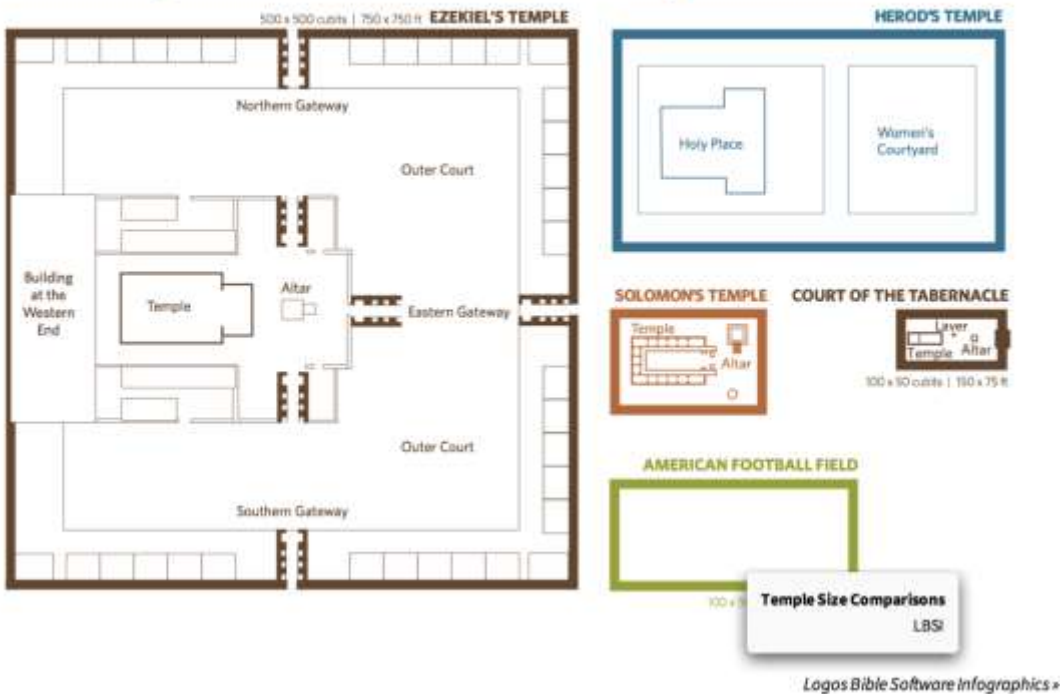
For His achievement are we, being created in Christ Jesus ^{on}for good works, which *God makes ready beforehand, that we should be walking in them.

Now, back to God's Mexican Restaurant called the Temple.

The Temple Kitchens

19 Then he brought me through the entrance that was at the side of the gate, into the priests' holy chambers, which faced north. I saw a place there at the far western end.

Temple Size Comparisons



20 He said to me, “This is the place where the priests will boil the guilt offering and the sin offering, and where they will bake the grain offering, so that they do not bring them into the outer court and transmit holiness to the

people.”

Now this is a part that might put a “kink” in the wrench of my understanding. In this example, holiness is shown to be protected from inadvertent transmission. Why?

Hebrews 9 may offer something of insight here.

“The Holy Spirit was showing by this that the way into the Most Holy Place had not yet been disclosed as long as the first tabernacle was still functioning.”

This does not negate the other lessons we could derive from the Temple.

Perhaps it shows the “shadow” aspects of the Truths being communicated. Both shadows of “coming things” and visuals of the superiority of Christ’s ministry. I wonder still if in heaven a version of this Temple will forever function. I think that would be cool, except for the animals who end up being sacrifices.

21 Next he brought me into the outer court and led me past its four corners. There was a separate court in each of its corners. 22 In the four corners of the outer court there were enclosed^[^f] courts, 70 feet^[^g] long by 52½ feet^[^h] wide. All four corner areas had the same dimensions. 23 There was a stone wall^[ⁱ] around the inside of them, around the four of them, with ovens built at the base of the walls on all sides.

Here is the CLB translation that makes more sense to me.

(CLV) Ezk 46:23

+ There was a row of stone round about in them, round about for these four, and there were cooking places ^dmade ^{l f u}below the rows round about.

24 He said to me, “These are the kitchens where those who minister at the temple will cook the people’s sacrifices.”

Tortillas and rich red meat. Ole! Ole! Ole! Is the Lord Almighty!

Footnotes:

1. **46:5** Lit *an ephah*, also in vv. 7,11
2. **46:5** Lit *a hin*, also in vv. 7,11
3. **46:9** Or *the festivals*
4. **46:14** Lit *one-sixth of an ephah*
5. **46:14** Lit *one-third of a hin*
6. **46:22** Hb obscure
7. **46:22** Lit *40 cubits*
8. **46:22** Lit *30 cubits*
9. **46:23** Or *a row*

