

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 47 Part 3²

The Temple is restored, the River of Life is flowing, leaves are there for the healing of the nations, prophets swim in the River of Life, and now the tribes of Israel are about to receive their allotted inheritance.

The concept of inheritance is huge in the Scripture. In fact, the New Testament speaks often about receiving “an allotment” from the Lord, and “inheriting the Kingdom of God.”

I want to press that concept, to understand the OT roots of the concept, and more importantly, what it means to us today. Enjoy!

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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 47 New International Version (NIV)

13 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: “These are the boundaries of the land that you will divide among the twelve tribes of Israel as their inheritance, with two portions for Joseph.

14 You are to divide it equally among them. Because I swore with uplifted hand to give it to your ancestors, this land will become your inheritance.

The following boundaries in Ezekiel closely resemble the boundaries described in Numbers 34:1-12, pictured to the left.



Numbers 34:1-12 (NIV)

34 The LORD said to Moses,² “Command the Israelites and say to them: ‘When you enter Canaan, the land that will be allotted to you as an inheritance is to have these boundaries:³ “Your southern side will include some of the Desert of Zin along the border of Edom. Your southern boundary will start in the east from the southern end of the Dead Sea,⁴ cross south of Scorpion Pass, continue on to Zin and go south of Kadesh Barnea. Then it will go to Hazar Addar and over to Azmon,⁵ where it will turn, join the Wadi of Egypt and end at the Mediterranean Sea.⁶ “Your western boundary will be the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. This will be your boundary on the west.⁷ “For your northern boundary, run a line from the Mediterranean Sea to Mount Hor⁸ and from Mount Hor to Lebo Hamath. Then the boundary will go to Zedad,⁹ continue to Ziphron and end at Hazar Enan. This will be your boundary on the north.¹⁰ “For your eastern boundary, run a line from Hazar Enan to Shepham.¹¹ The boundary will go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east side of Ain and continue along the slopes east of the Sea of Galilee.¹² Then the boundary will go down along the Jordan and end at the Dead Sea.

As much as I would love to, I don't have time to focus on the names and areas listed here.



Figure 1map. <http://bible.ucg.org/bible-reading-program/imagesbrp/ezekiel/ez47promisedlandL.jpg>

But let's now compare that to the allotment shared by Ezekiel.

“This will be your land, with its boundaries on every side.”

“On the north side it will run from the Mediterranean Sea by the Hethlon road past Lebo (the word means entrance to) Hamath to Zedad, 16 Berothah and Sibraim (which lies on the border between Damascus and Hamath), as far as Hazer Hattikon, which is on the border of Hauran. 17 The boundary will extend from the sea to Hazar Enan, along the northern border of Damascus, with the border of Hamath to the north. This will be the northern boundary.

18 “On the east side the boundary will run between Hauran and Damascus, along the Jordan between Gilead and the land of Israel, to the Dead Sea and as far as Tamar (this means “Place of Palms”). This will be the eastern

boundary.

19 “On the south side it will run from Tamar as far as the waters of Meribah Kadesh (the name means “Quarreling at Kadesh” and it’s the place where Moses angrily struck the Rock and lost his opportunity to inherit the land), then along the Wadi of Egypt to the Mediterranean Sea. This will be the southern boundary.

20 “On the west side, the Mediterranean Sea will be the boundary to a point opposite Lebo Hamath. This will be the western boundary.

21 “You are to distribute this land among yourselves according to the tribes of Israel. 22 You are to allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the foreigners residing among you and who have children. You are to consider them as native-born Israelites; along with you they are to be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel. 23 In whatever tribe a foreigner resides, there you are to give them their inheritance,” declares the Sovereign LORD.

Ok. This is an amazing concept. The word for inheritance is:

H5157 nachal naw-khal'

a primitive root;

to inherit (as a (figurative) mode of descent), or (generally) to occupy; causatively, to bequeath, or (generally) distribute, instate.

Once the Israelites made the journey out of Egypt, or later on, their captivity, they would be “allotted” the land of the Kingdom. They would inherit it! Even the foreigners who resided among them and had children there would be allotted an inheritance!

This gives us pause to think about our approaches to foreigners who have given birth in this country.

Let’s take a quick read through now of all the Scriptures in the New Testament that speak of our inheritance of God’s “kingdom.” We’ll zero in on them more closely next time.

Matthew 5:5

Blessed are the meek, for they will **inherit** the earth.

Matthew 19:29

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.

Matthew 21:38

“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his **inheritance**.’”

Matthew 25:34

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your **inheritance**, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”

Mark 10:17

[*The Rich and the Kingdom of God*] As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. “Good teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to **inherit** eternal life?”

Mark 12:7

“But the tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and the **inheritance** will be ours.’”

Luke 10:25

[*The Parable of the Good Samaritan*] On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he asked, “what must I do to **inherit** eternal life?”

Luke 12:13

[*The Parable of the Rich Fool*] Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the **inheritance** with me.”

Luke 18:18

[*The Rich and the Kingdom of God*] A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to **inherit** eternal life?”

Luke 20:14

“But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the **inheritance** will be ours.’

Acts 7:5

He gave him no **inheritance** here, not even enough ground to set his foot on. But God promised him that he and his descendants after him would possess the land, even though at that time Abraham had no child.

Acts 13:19

and he overthrew seven nations in Canaan, giving their land to his people as their **inheritance**.

Acts 20:32

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an **inheritance** among all those who are sanctified.

1 Corinthians 6:9

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not **inherit** the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men

1 Corinthians 6:10

nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will **inherit** the kingdom of God.

1 Corinthians 15:50

I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot **inherit** the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable **inherit** the imperishable.

Galatians 3:18

For if the **inheritance** depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

Galatians 4:30

But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the **inheritance** with the free woman’s son.”

Galatians 5:21

and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not **inherit** the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 1:14

who is a deposit guaranteeing our **inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:18

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious **inheritance** in his holy people,

Ephesians 5:5

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any **inheritance** in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

Colossians 1:12

and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the **inheritance** of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

Colossians 3:24

since you know that you will receive an **inheritance** from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Hebrews 1:4

So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has **inherited** is superior to theirs.

I want to press what “inheritance” means in a Biblical construct.