

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 48 Part 1²

As I mentioned yesterday, 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. I’ve included this time the Scriptures I briefly scanned yesterday, and I’m going to savor them a bit and move on.

Enjoy!

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 48 is going to speak about the “allotment” of the land of Israel to the future people of God. It’s interesting to me that Paul speaks of Christians as being “the Israel” of God.

Galatians 6:16

Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the **Israel of God**.

The NIV says this about this concept:

Israel of God. In contrast to “Israel according to flesh (a literal rendering of the Greek for “people of Israel” in 1 Corinthians 10:18)

CLV

Observe *Israel according to the flesh. Are not *those eating the sacrifices participants with the altar?

10:18	βΛΕΠΕΤΕ	ΤΟΝ	ισραηλ	κατα	σαρκα	ουχι	οι	εσθιοντες	τας
	blepete	ton	israEl	kata	sarka	ouchi	hoi	esthiontes	tas
	YE-BE-lookING	THE	ISRAEL	accORDING_to	FLESH	NOT ^(emph.)	THE ^(pl)	ones-EATING	THE ^(pl)
	be-observing ^(p) !	the	Israel	according-to	flesh	not ^(emph.)	the	ones-eating	the

ΘΥΣΙΑΣ	ΚΟΙΝΩΝΟΙ	ΤΟΥ	θυσιαστηριου	ΕΙΣΙΝ
thusias	koinOnoi	tou	thusiastEriou	eisin
SACRIFICES	communionERS	OF-THE	SACRIFICE- <i>place</i>	THEY-ARE-BEING
sacrifices	participants	of-the	altar	are

At any rate, the NIV study bible says that “the Israel of God” is “the NT Church, made up of believing Jews and Gentiles.” It is “the new seed of Abraham and the heir according to the promise (3:29, Romans 9:6, Php 3:3).”

Galatians 3:29	Romans 9:6	Philippians 3:3
²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.	⁶ It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.	3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

Now the NIV acknowledges that this verse is seen by some to limit the “Israel of God” to Christian Jews. They cite the textual not, which renders it slightly differently. (See if you notice the nuance).

Galatians 6:19 NIV (preferred translation)	Galatians 6:19 NIV (textual note translation)
¹⁶ Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God.	¹⁶ Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule and to the Israel of God.

Notice the ever so slight difference? It speaks of two groups in the latter translation---“all who follow this rule” and to “the Israel of God.”

Here is the actual Greek, and you can decide which translation makes the most sense.

CLV

And whoever shall observe the ^lelements by this ^rrule, peace be on them, and mercy, also on the Israel of ^rGod.

6:16	ΚΑΙ	ΟΣΟΙ	ΤΩ	ΚΑΝΟΝΙ	ΤΟΥΤΩ	ΣΤΟΙΧΗΣΟΥΣΙΝ	ΕΙΡΗΝΗ	ΕΠΙ	ΑΥΤΟΥΣ
	kai	hosoi	to	kanoni	touto	stoichEsousin	eirEnE	ep	autous
	AND	as_many_as	to-THE	RULE	this	THEY-SHALL-BE-elementING	PEACE	ON	them
	and	whoever	to-the	rule	this	shall-be-observing-the-fundamentals	peace	on	them

ΚΑΙ	ΕΛΕΟΣ	ΚΑΙ	ΕΠΙ	ΤΟΝ	ΙΣΡΑΗΛ	ΤΟΥ	ΘΕΟΥ
kai	eleos	kai	epi	ton	israEl	tu	theou
AND	MERCY	AND	ON	THE	ISRAEL	OF-THE	God (PLACER)
and	mercy	also	on	the	Israel	of-the	God

I personally think this allows for the “peace” Paul wishes to be on those who are following the “rule” his espousing, and in a larger way, the whole church---the Israel of God.

That’s what I think he means.

Either way, it seems there is plenty of support for the church being a “spiritual Israel.”

So, since our Israel in Ezekiel 48 are about to be given their allotment of tribes . . .

Ezekiel 48 New International Version (NIV)

The Division of the Land

48 “These are the tribes, listed by name: At the northern frontier, Dan will have one portion; it will follow the Hethlon road to Lebo Hamath; Hazar Enan and the northern border of Damascus next to Hamath will be part of its border from the east side to the west side.

²“Asher will have one portion; it will border the territory of Dan from east to west.

³“Naphtali will have one portion; it will border the territory of Asher from east to west.

⁴“Manasseh will have one portion; it will border the territory of Naphtali from east to west.

⁵“Ephraim will have one portion; it will border the territory of Manasseh from east to west.



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

⁶“Reuben will have one portion; it will border the territory of Ephraim from east to west.

⁷“Judah will have one portion; it will border the territory of Reuben from east to west.

Here is a map that depicts this.

Notice how Dan, Asher, Naphtali and Manasseh all get bigger portions of the land. Notice how they are all stacked on each other in a very orderly way in this “God” version of their reality (the contrasting map of the original assignments reflected a lot of different human “at the time” considerations).

This seems to support a “multi-dimensional” approach to reality, understanding there is God’s version of the “original” (Genesis 1 and the “original man”) and then there is a “this world” version impacted by human choices and even discrepancies.

That being said, 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.”

The Greek word for inheritance is:

G2816 kleronomeo klay-ron-om-eh'-o

from **G2818**;

to be an heir to (literally or figuratively).

It stems from this word:

G2818 kleronomos klay-ron-om'-os

from **G2819** and the base of **G3551** (in its original sense of partitioning, i.e. (reflexively) getting by apportionment);

a sharer by lot, i.e. inheritor (literally or figuratively); by implication, a possessor.

So that is why I see such a link between our inheritance in the New Testament. It's our apportionment. It's getting our "share" of the Kingdom, our plot of territory.

Matthew 5:5

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

The earth, eventually, is ours! We are to "reign" on the earth.

Notice the Scripture in the text box.

<p>¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. Revelation 5:10</p>

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.

The Mark version of this Scripture adds a few more nuances to these.

Mark 10:29-30 King James Version (KJV)

²⁹ And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, ³⁰ But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

So in this age, you receive a spiritual family. In the world to come, eternal life. Look at the Greek here.

CLV

who should not be getting back a hundredfold now, in this *era, houses and brothers and sisters and mother and father and children and fields, with persecutions, and in the coming~ *eon, life eonian.

10:30	εαν	μη	απελαβη		εκατονταπλασιονα	νυν	εν	τω	καιρω	τουτω
	ean	mE	apelabE		hekatontaplasiona	nun	en	tO	kairO	toutO
	IF-EVER	NO	he-MAY-BE-FROM-GETTING		HUNDREDFold	NOW	IN	THE	SEASON	this
	if-ever	no	may-be-getting-back		hundred-fold	now	in	the	era	this

οικιας	και	αδελφους	και	αδελφας	και	μητερας	και	πατερα	και	τεκνα	και	αγρους
oikias	kai	adelphous	kai	adelphas	kai	mEteras	kai	patera	kai	tekna	kai	agrous
HOMES	AND	brothers	AND	sisters	AND	MOTHERS	AND	FATHER	AND	offsprings	AND	FIELDS
houses	and	brothers	and	sisters	and	mothers	and	father	and	children	and	fields

μετα	διωγων	και	εν	τω	αιωνι	τω	ερχομενω	ζωην	αιωνιον
meta	diOgmOn	kai	en	tO	aiOni	tO	erchomenO	zOEn	aiOnion
WITH	CHASings	AND	IN	THE	eon	THE	COMING~	LIFE	eonian
with	persecutions	and	in	the	eon	the	coming	life	eonian

So those of us who have left home or brothers or sisters or mother and father or children of fields for Christ and his gospel:

- **“may-be-getting-back” 100-fold of “houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers and children and fields”---with persecutions.**
- **And in the eon coming, life eonian----age lasting life!**

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.

Our inheritance has been prepared from the foundation 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?”

We enjoy the allotment of eternal life. Or else we reject it. The scripture above indicate it is to be given us in the eon coming. But some Scripture (John 17:3) indicate it can be ours now.

Acts 13:19

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

The literal says He gave them the land by allotment. We can get an allotment now---the Kingdom of heaven, which is near.

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.

The Word of God’s grace can give it to us.

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 **Do we really believe that? That this things cause us to not inherit the kingdom of God either now, or in the future.**

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.

But this seems to limit our “inheritance” until we are no longer flesh and blood.

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.

Perhaps that means we shall not inherit it in the future, no participate in it in whatever capacity God makes that possible for us in the now!

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.

This indicates the full inheritance comes later---we’ve just been given a deposit, a foretaste.

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,

God wants us to be aware of our inheritance.

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.

Here is the fuller quote here from Ephesians 5:

³ But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people. ⁴ Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 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. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient. ⁷ Therefore do not be partners with them.

⁸ For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord.

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.

It's ours now! But not in its fullness.

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.

You will! There is a future aspect of this.

Hebrews 1:4

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

Ok, that's my rabbit trail for the day! I guess I see us as inheriting (getting our allotment) fully in the "then," but having participatory access to it in the now!