

**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*

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)**

<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 48 Part 2<sup>2</sup>**

So I’m cautiously optimistic that I’ll be finishing up Ezekiel in a study or two. What a fascinating journey!

It started with an amazing vision of God’s throne. It’s ending up with a beautiful vision of a restored Israel, replete with a Temple and tribal allotments and all kinds of descriptions of the “perfect” version of life in that ancient land as God’s law envisioned it. These things are fascinating word pictures, prophetic parables, of our life in Christ. Today, we’ll see something very encouraging. Our destiny, our inheritance, is secure in Him. Let’s finish the book up! Enjoy!

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.)



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

occupies his historical location in this vision.

This again is a vision of a “restored” people of God. One interesting thing to me is that when the tribes of Israel are listed in the Book of Revelation, Dan is not listed with them! I wonder why? He is listed here though!

Dan will have one portion;

In the NIV study bible, it says that there are two possible reasons why Dan wasn’t listed in the Book of Revelation. One is that this tribe had an early connection to idolatry.

## Ezekiel 48 New International Version (NIV)

### The Division of the Land

48 “These are the tribes, listed by name: At the northern frontier,

The Hebrew translated “frontier” is more literally translated “extremity.”

There was a phrase used in the Scripture to describe Israel--- “from Dan to Beersheba.” It simply was a way of saying from the farthest northern boundary to the southernmost boundary, like we would say “from California to the Bangor, Maine.”

### So Dan

20 Then all Israel from Dan to Beersheba and from the land of Gilead came together as one and assembled before the LORD in Mizpah. (Judges 20:1)

20 And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD. (1 Samuel 3:20)

Then I heard the number of those who were sealed: 144,000 from all the tribes of Israel.

<sup>5</sup> From the tribe of Judah 12,000 were sealed,  
 from the tribe of Reuben 12,000,  
 from the tribe of Gad 12,000,  
<sup>6</sup> from the tribe of Asher 12,000,  
 from the tribe of Naphtali 12,000,  
 from the tribe of Manasseh 12,000,  
<sup>7</sup> from the tribe of Simeon 12,000,  
 from the tribe of Levi 12,000,  
 from the tribe of Issachar 12,000,  
<sup>8</sup> from the tribe of Zebulun 12,000,  
 from the tribe of Joseph 12,000,  
 from the tribe of Benjamin 12,000.

Revelation 7:3-8

## Judges 18:30

<sup>30</sup> There the Danites set up for themselves the idol, and Jonathan son of Gershom, the son of Moses,<sup>[a]</sup> and his sons were priests for the tribe of Dan until the time of the captivity of the land.

**But here Dan is granted property.**

..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.



Figure 2map. <http://bible.ucg.org/bible-reading-program/imagesbrp/ezekiel/ez47promisedlandL.jpg>

**Dan was born to Rachel's maidservant Bilhah. , about 15 miles northeast of Baalbek.**

**Lebo Hamath apparently exists today. It is identified with modern Lebweh. Lebo means "entrance to." The NIV study bible says it must have been a fortress guarding the southern route of Hamath. It too is identified in Scripture with the northern border of Israel.**

<sup>2</sup> "Asher will have one portion; it will border the territory of Dan from east to west.

<sup>3</sup> "Naphtali will have one portion; it will border the territory of Asher from east to west.

<sup>4</sup> "Manasseh will have one portion; it will border the territory of Naphtali from east to west.

**It's interesting how methodical this apportionment is. It has no deviations required by special human requests like the apportionment of ancient Israel did.**

**This vision is very "clean"----and by that I mean, clean, according to plan, sequential. It ties in with the amazingly balanced symmetry of the Temple depicted in the chapters earlier. It's a perfect vision of a perfect nation with no "messiness" from acquiescence to individualized requests (like the accommodation made Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh in Numbers 34:13-15). I note this, wondering what it might mean. I find it fascinating that God is so accommodating with the human "persons" He has created, and allows them to interject and change is original "will." What a gracious Being the God of Grace is!**

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

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

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

**By the time you get to Reuben and Judah, the width of the land narrows and is confined to the Jordan River. I will comment on that more next time.**