

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*



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 4²

I’m considering an official rabbit trail this morning. The book of Ezekiel is echoed so much in the Book of Revelation. As I finish the book, I wanted to press that connection a little further, and see what shakes out.

Prophecies about a River of Life, Tress of Life, and eternal Temples parallel each other. Obviously, they all have their meaning in Christ! What can we learn by making such a comparison? How are Christians who know of God’s fulfillment of all things in Christ to use these prophecies, and not abuse them? I’ll finish Ezekiel 48 today, rabbit trail a bit into the book of Revelation! 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 48 (NIV)

Last time, we focused on the “holy donation” in the center of the newly apportioned land of Israel. Dead in the center of it, was the Temple. But there was also a zone for the “city.” We drew a comparison between that and the “Heavenly City” that is going to descend to earth from heaven---a city whose Builder and Maker is God. We’re talking here about the “suburbs” allocated for that city in this prophecy

¹⁵“The remaining area, $1\frac{2}{3}$ miles wide and $8\frac{1}{3}$ miles long, will be for common use by the city, for both residential and open space. The city will be in the middle of it. ¹⁶These are the city’s measurements: $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the north side; $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the south side; $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the east side; and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the west side.

¹⁷ The city’s open space will extend: 425 feet to the north, 425 feet to the south, 425 feet to the east, and 425 feet to the west.

¹⁸“The remainder of the length alongside the holy donation will be $3\frac{1}{3}$ miles to the east and $3\frac{1}{3}$ miles to the west. It will run alongside the holy donation. Its produce will be food for the workers of the city. ¹⁹ The city’s workers from all the tribes of Israel will cultivate it. ²⁰ The entire donation will be $8\frac{1}{3}$ miles by $8\frac{1}{3}$ miles; you are to set apart the holy donation along with the city property as a square area.

Look at how “the city of God” is spoken of in Revelation.

Revelation 3:12

The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and the name of the **city** of my God, the new Jerusalem, which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and I will also write on them my new name.

Revelation 21:2

I saw the Holy **City**, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

Revelation 21:10

And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy **City**, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

Revelation 21:23

The **city** does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

Revelation 22:2

down the middle of the great street of the **city**. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

Revelation 22:3

No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the **city**, and his servants will serve him.

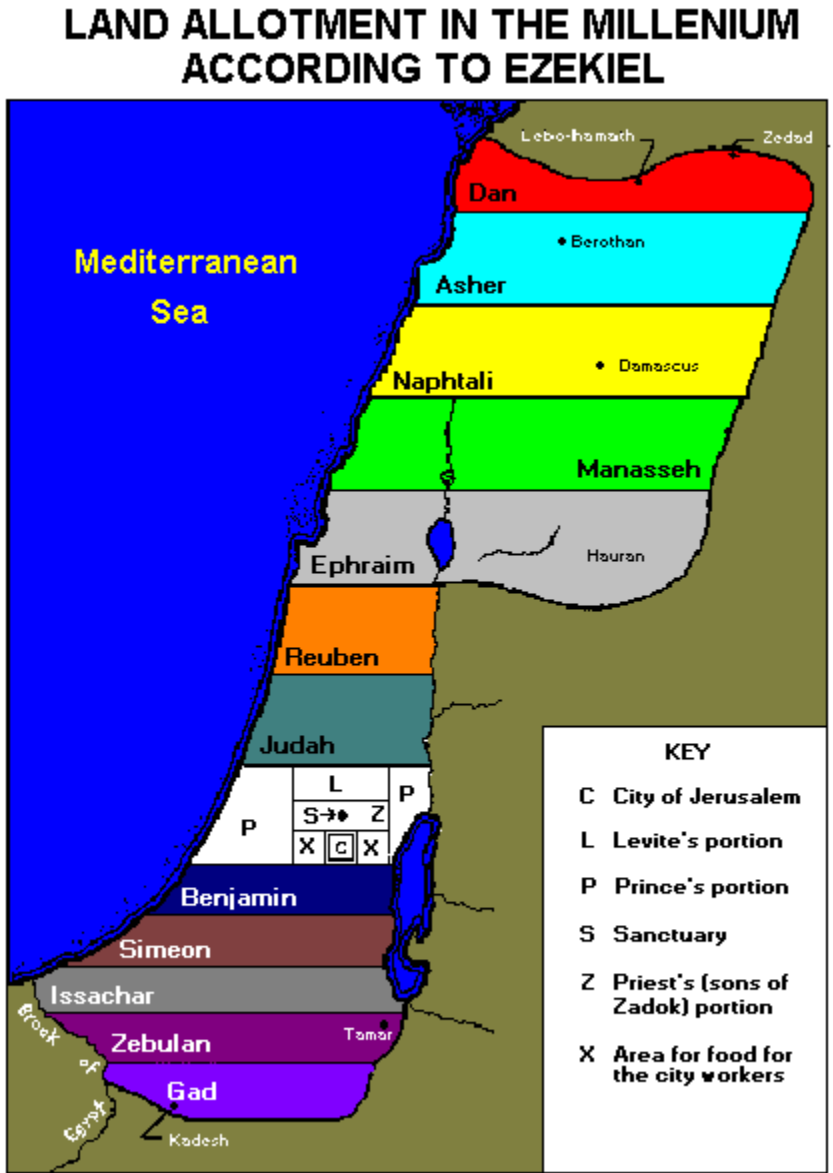
Revelation 22:14

“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the **city**.”

This city figures prominently in the book of Revelation.

²¹ “The remaining area on both sides of the holy donation and the city property will belong to the prince. He will own the land adjacent to the tribal portions, next to the 8½ miles of the donation as far as the eastern border and next to the 8½ miles of the donation as far as the western border. The holy donation and the sanctuary of the temple will be in the middle of it. ²² Except for the Levitical property and the city property in the middle of the area belonging to the prince, the area between the territory of Judah and that of Benjamin will belong to the prince.

Here is a map I found on the Web that pictures this. It’s source is noted at the bottom of the picture.



Adapted from map prepared by Lambert Dolphin © 1996

Meribath-kadesh, to the Brook of Egypt, and out to the Mediterranean Sea. ²⁹ This is the land you are to allot as an inheritance to Israel’s tribes, and these will be their portions.” This is the declaration of the Lord GOD.

²³ “As for the rest of the tribes:

From the east side to the west, will be Benjamin—one portion.

²⁴ Next to the territory of Benjamin, from the east side to the west, will be Simeon—one portion.

²⁵ Next to the territory of Simeon, from the east side to the west, will be Issachar—one portion.

²⁶ Next to the territory of Issachar, from the east side to the west, will be Zebulun—one portion.

²⁷ Next to the territory of Zebulun, from the east side to the west, will be Gad—one portion.

²⁸ Next to the territory of Gad toward the south side, the border will run from Tamar to the Waters of

The New City

³⁰“These are the exits of the city:

On the north side, which measures 1½ miles, ³¹ there will be three gates facing north, the gates of the city being named for the tribes of Israel: one, the gate of Reuben; one, the gate of Judah; and one, the gate of Levi.

³² On the east side, which is 1½ miles, there will be three gates: one, the gate of Joseph; one, the gate of Benjamin; and one, the gate of Dan.

³³ On the south side, which measures 1½ miles, there will be three gates: one, the gate of Simeon; one, the gate of Issachar; and one, the gate of Zebulun.

³⁴ On the west side, which is 1½ miles, there will be three gates: one, the gate of Gad; one, the gate of Asher; and one, the gate of Naphtali.

³⁵ The perimeter of the city will be six miles, and the name of the city from that day on will be The LORD Is There.”

Here is Revelation’s take on the gates.

Revelation 21:12-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹² It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

These gates have 12 angels, as well as written on them the 12 tribes of Israel. It also says the apostle’s names are on the twelve foundations. That ties in with this thought

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Now I want to read Revelation 21 – 22 and see what of Ezekiel seems to show up in this book. I’ll place it in a table, and then comment as things stand out. I may do this for a few days.

Revelation 21	Comments
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Revelation 21 New International Version (NIV)

A New Heaven and a New Earth

21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”^[a] for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes.

There will be no more death^[b] or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

⁵He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. ⁸But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

The New Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb

1. **Revelation 21:20** The precise identification of some of these precious stones is uncertain

a. Isaiah 65:17

17 “See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind

The name of Ezekiel’s city is “The Lord is there.” (Ezekiel 48:35) There will be no more death.

b. Isaiah 25:8

⁸ he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. The LORD has spoken.

Some Scriptures speak of death as a the great “swallower.” Here, death will be swallowed up by life!

Here God is shown as restoring, renewing all of creation. If anyone is in Christ, He is a “new creation.” The old has gone, the new is here!

Hell.

We’ll stop here for Today, and pick up tomorrow.