

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/Revelation Part 2²

I’m putting my focus on Revelation 21 – 22, and contrast it and compare it to Ezekiel.

I’m simply surveying it, and commenting, but I’m primarily looking for how it compares and contrasts to Ezekiel.

I won’t spend too long on this, but I want to see what I can discern from the process. I’ll pick up today where I left off yesterday.

Enjoy!

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Yesterday, we learned of the Holy City descending from heaven. There were some parallels to Ezekiel, but not many. Today I want to press for more parallels. I'll pick up about where I stopped yesterday, with only a bit of an overlap.

Revelation 21

The New Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb

9 One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And he carried me away **in the Spirit**

Other prophets had experiences "in the Spirit."

Ezekiel 11:1

[*God's Sure Judgment on Jerusalem*] Then the **Spirit** lifted me up and brought me to the gate of the house of the Lord that faces east.

1 Corinthians 5:4

So when you are assembled and I am with you **in spirit**, and the power of our Lord Jesus is present,

2 Corinthians 12:2

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was **in the body** or out of the body I do not know—God knows.

Revelation 1:10, 4:2, 17:3

On the Lord's Day I was **in the Spirit**, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet . . . At once I was **in the Spirit**, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. . . Then the angel carried me away **in the Spirit** into a wilderness.

to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

EZEKIEL CONNEXION: Again, a Holy City. The one in Ezekiel is in the middle of the New Israel. It comes from heaven!

11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that

In the spirit means a state of spiritual exaltation by the power of the Spirit. It's not a dream, but a vision like Peter's in Acts 10:10.

Acts 10:10

¹⁰ He became hungry and wanted something to eat, and while the meal was being prepared, he fell into a trance.

The Greek word for trance is "extasia" and literally means "out-standing." Like standing (spiritually) outside of yourself!

Hebrews 11:10

For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 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.

EZEKIEL CONNEXION: The names of the 12 tribes are written on the gates. The foundations have on them the names of the 12 apostles.

15 The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. 16 The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide.

EZEKIEL CONNEXION: The angel does the same for Ezekiel, but the measurements are more “human” than these. One thing I missed the first time was the reference to the very high mountain mentioned here. The NIV study bible says that Mount Zion is seen as “extraordinarily high.” Isaiah 2:2 says: the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills. . . **Zechariah 14:11 says:** The whole land. . . south of Jerusalem, will become like the Arabah. But Jerusalem will be raised up high

Ezekiel 48 and the gates of the city:

³²“On the east side . . .the gate of Joseph, the gate of Benjamin and the gate of Dan.³³“On the south side. . . the gate of Simeon, the gate of Issachar and the gate of Zebulun.³⁴“On the west side . . .the gate of Gad, the gate of Asher and the gate of Naphtali.

Christ told the apostles they would rule over the 12 tribes of Israel.

Luke 22:28-30 (NIV)

²⁸ You are those who have stood by me in my trials.
²⁹ And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me,³⁰ so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Ezekiel 40:1-3

after the fall of the city—on that very day the hand of the LORD was on me and he took me there. 2 In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel and set me on a very high mountain, on whose south side were some buildings that looked like a city. He took me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like **bronze**; he was standing in the

He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia^[c] in length, and as wide and high as it is long. 17 The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits^[d] thick.^[e] 18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. 19 The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.^[f] 21 The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

EZEKIEL CONNEXION: These embellishments are not included in Ezekiel. Nor are the following assertions.

22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 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. 24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. 25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. 26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into

gateway with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand.

The NIV study bible says the city will be 1,400 mile long and wide and high. The wall is 200 feet thick. To top it off, it's made of jasper!

So to me this is either obviously:

- 1. Symbolic**
- 2. Operating according to the multi-dimensional rules of heavenly existence (like for example, when Jesus can see all the kingdoms of the world in one "instant." (Luke 4:5)**

(CLV) Lk 4:5

And, leading Him up into a high mountain, the Adversary shows Him all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth in a second of time.

G4743 stigme stig-may'

feminine of **G4742**;

a point of time, i.e. an instant.

it. 27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

EZEKIEL CONNEXION: The Ezekiel vision has a temple. Is that “vision” describing something about God, where perfect sacrifices in a perfectly symmetrical temple are being made always? I’ve been calling that temple a prophetic parable of Jesus, who ever lives to intercede for His people as their High Priest, always offering Himself, the fulfillment of all sacrifices, on our behalf.

The gates of this city are never shut. Always open. And there is no night there. The glory and the honor of the nations are brought into it.

We’ll continue and try to summarize and dig out some commentaries on this next time.

Footnotes:

1. **Revelation 21:1** Isaiah 65:17
2. **Revelation 21:4** Isaiah 25:8
3. **Revelation 21:16** That is, about 1,400 miles or about 2,200 kilometers
4. **Revelation 21:17** That is, about 200 feet or about 65 meters
5. **Revelation 21:17** Or *high*
6. **Revelation 21:20** The precise identification of some of these precious stones is uncertain.