

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 3²

So we did Revelation 21, and found some interesting ConneXions with the prophecies in the book of Ezekiel. We actually found some embellishments that weren’t in that prophecy. Amazing material. So now we’ll go into Revelation 22, and I’ll use the same format. Simply study the Scripture, absorb it, but also look for clear cut connections to the material in Ezekiel. I’ll try to dig up some summary statements about the connection between the two. God is so amazing, and I love being in God University---the everyday study of His amazing word. Of course, in the Presence of the Living Word, Jesus. Enjoy!!

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I'll pick up about where I stopped yesterday, with only a bit of an overlap.

Revelation 21

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.

This is a huge concept biblically, especially in the writings of John. Look at these Scriptures.

John 1:4

In him was life, and that life was the **light** of all mankind.

John 1:5

The **light** shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:7

He came as a witness to testify concerning that **light**, so that through him all might believe.

John 1:8

He himself was not the **light**; he came only as a witness to the **light**.

John 1:9

The true **light** that gives **light** to everyone was coming into the world.

See sidebar. God does more than just give us light. He enlightens us---brightens us up, literally. He is like the sun, we are like the moon. As we mirror His glory, we are lightened up.

John 3:19

This is the verdict: **Light** has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of **light** because their deeds were evil.

John 3:20

Everyone who does evil hates the **light**, and will not come into the **light** for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

John 3:21

But whoever lives by the truth comes into the **light**, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 5:35

John was a lamp that burned and gave **light**, and you chose for a time to enjoy his **light**.

So here is a significant concept. John was a “vessel” who burned and gave light. He wasn’t the light. But he was a

Greek word for “overcome” in John 1:5

G2683 kataskiazō kat-as-kee-ad'-zo

from **G2596** and a derivative of **G4639**;

to overshadow, i.e. cover.

An alternate translation of John 1:9:

(CLV) Jn 1:9

It was the true *light—which is enlightening every ^hman—coming[~] into the world.

Word for “enlightening”

G5461 photizō fo-tid'-zo

from **G5457**;

to shed rays, i.e. to shine or (transitively) to brighten up (literally or figuratively).

(CLV) 2Co 3:18

Now we^l all, with ^ouncovered[~] face, mirroring[~] the Lord's glory, are being transformed[~] into the same image, from glory^{io} to glory, even as from the Lord, the spirit.

vessel in whom was the light. Jesus is the “Lamp” of the City in Revelation---the container in which the “Light” (that He also is shines). That is huge! The Word became flesh. He not only only was the Light of Life, He was the created “vessel” or container in which the light could shine. That supports Genesis 1 being the first incarnation of Christ.

John 8:12

[*Dispute Over Jesus’ Testimony*] When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the **light** of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the **light** of life.”

John 9:5

While I am in the world, I am the **light** of the world.”

John 11:9

Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s **light**.

John 11:10

It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no **light**.”

John 12:35

Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the **light** just a little while longer. Walk while you have the **light**, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going.

John 12:36

Believe in the **light** while you have the **light**, so that you may become children of **light**.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

Wow. I want to be one of the Children of Light. See Ephesians Scripture in the second column.

John 12:46

I have come into the world as a **light**, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

So there will be nations and splendor to be brought into it. Creation was meant to endure forever and be “liberated from its bondage to decay.”

Romans 8

²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and

Ephesians 5

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.

¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.

¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on
you.”

G5356 phthora fthor-ah'

from **G5351**;

decay, i.e. ruin
(spontaneous or inflicted,

brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

See sidebar for definition of the word for decay.

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 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, whoever 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.

literally or figuratively).

The book of Life in Scripture:

Psalm 69:28

May they be blotted out of the **book of life** and not be listed with the righteous.

Philippians 4:3

Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the **book of life**.

Revelation 3:5

The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the **book of life**, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

Revelation 13:8

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's **book of life**, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

Revelation 17:8

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the **book of life** from the creation of the world will be

astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

Revelation 20:12

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the **book of life**. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

Revelation 20:15

Anyone whose name was not found written in the **book of life** was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:27

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**.