

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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Daniel 7 & The Early Church²

So how did the early church fathers view the end time? It’s fascinating to “commune” with these passionate saints and see how their lives were impacted by Scriptures such as these. They weren’t selling best-sellers on speculative ideas that proved to be bogus after a period of time. They were banking on solid truths, and things that made a real difference in the lives of the people of their day!

Are we doing the same? We’re going to try to! Enjoy!

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Daniel 7

¹³“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

I’m going to use a source I’ve found on the Web and used before found at [Bible Truths \(earlychurch.net\)](http://BibleTruths.earlychurch.net)

It claims its mission is “Focusing on the Primitive Church.”

I don’t know a lot about this group, but from what I can tell their research seems respectable and I will share what I think is valuable from their sight. Here’s an intro to their website on their home page. I’ll include it because it has Scriptures to reference, and I want to get into the Scriptures.

The Way: Before the disciples were called "Christians" they were known merely as followers of the "The Way" ([see Acts 9:2; 19:9,23; 22:4 24:14](#)). This section deals with the Apostolic church and the Patristic writers that faithfully carried on that tradition. You will find a comprehensive source that answers specific questions about what that early church believed and practiced.

Acts 9:2	Acts 19:9	Acts 19:23	Acts 22:4	Acts 24:14
² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way , whether men or	⁹ But some of them became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had	²³ About that time there arose a great disturbance about the Way.	⁴ I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison,	¹⁴ “Then he said: ‘The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his

women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.	discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.			mouth.
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About the Second Coming, it says this:

1) The ante-Nicene church unanimously agreed that Christ would return bodily to the earth, and establish his Kingdom on the earth. His Kingdom would be eventually given up to God the Father, which would consummate all of time by our reckoning. As far as the popular labels go, we could classify the ante-Nicene church as "Premillennial". (believing in a personal return of Christ before his 1000 year reign.)

2) Christ's return would involve cataclysmic events that would be evident to all of the world. The actual specifics of these events are in dispute, but the essence is that they are purposed for the destruction of the wicked and unrighteous. His subsequent physical return would be seen by all.

Here are some Scriptures in the Epistles referring to the Second Coming in the books of Timothy and Titus.

1 Timothy 6:14

to keep this command without spot or blame until the **appearing** of our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 Timothy 1:10

but it has now been revealed through the **appearing** of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy 4:1

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his **appearing** and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

2 Timothy 4:8

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his **appearing**.

Titus 2:13

while we wait for the blessed hope—the **appearing** of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

Second Coming in the book of Acts

Acts 1:11

“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will **come** back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

Acts 3:21

Heaven must receive him until the time **comes** for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

Romans 13:11

[*The Day Is Near*] And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already **come** for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

1 Corinthians 4:5

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord **comes**. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart. At that time each will receive their praise from God.

1 Corinthians 11:26

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he **comes**.

1 Corinthians 13:10

but when completeness **comes**, what is in part disappears.

1 Corinthians 15:23

But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he **comes**, those who belong to him.

1 Corinthians 15:24

Then the end will **come**, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

1 Corinthians 16:22

If anyone does not love the Lord, let that person be cursed! **Come**, Lord!

1 Thessalonians 3:13

May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus **comes** with all his holy ones.

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord himself will **come** down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 5:2

for you know very well that the day of the Lord will **come** like a thief in the night.

2 Thessalonians 1:10

on the day he **comes** to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

2 Thessalonians 2:2

not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already **come**.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not **come** until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

1 Timothy 4:8

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to **come**.

Hebrews 13:14

For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to **come**.

These are just few of the verses that validate the early church was still looking for the Lord to come. These are obviously statements written while the Scriptures were still being written (before 100 A.D.). But what about after that, during the time of the early church fathers?

Although there is nothing here that is foreign to what now is commonly held, one must note that there is absolutely no evidence that anyone in the early church believed in anything having any resemblance to a pre-tribulational rapture. As a matter of fact, it is virtually impossible to find the classifications and categories in the early church that are commonly associated with eschatology today. The eschatology of the church

ran on to primary modes of thought; one that emphasized the victory of the church in the last days, and one that emphasized the struggle of the church against the antichrist before Christ's final victory. The former view has some general things in common with the opinion of dominion/ reconstructionist theologians of today, while the latter has some resemblance to a "post-tribulational" viewpoint, although the correlation breaks down in many places.. An important yardstick is the interpretation of Daniel 9:24-27, the text which lays out the "70 week " prophecy regarding the coming of Christ. Much modern eschatology uses this text to support the idea that there is a future seven year period in which God will revert back to His covenantal terms with Israel, chastise the world with a "Great Tribulation", and unleash an antichrist who will destroy a rebuilt Jewish temple in Jerusalem. Almost every post-apostolic Christian would take issue with these concepts. Most early church fathers up until the early third century assumed that the prophecy of Daniel was fulfilled when the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D.

Next time we'll look at “some extended quotes from the earliest writers on the Second Coming of Christ” and we'll add Scriptures to them so it can be a true bible study.