

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 9 Part 2²

So now let’s get into the meat of the chapter. A very specific prophesy is given--- one that is very specific about the coming of the Messiah, and what He is to do. Here’s a particular phrase that comes to mind---the Messiah will:

finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place

That’s the beauty of the Easter season, and the truth it conveys. Enjoy!

¹ **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

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We'll pick up where we left off. Daniel's corporate prayer on behalf of God's people. Of note to me is that he prayed as if he was responsible for them all--a very Jesus like thing to do!

It makes me think of how we should be willing to confess for "our nation" with some ownership of its issues, even if we personally aren't "guilty" of some the crimes we've collectively committed.

9 ⁴I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:

"Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, ⁵we have sinned and done wrong.

Now Daniel was in captivity. He was taken captive as a very young man. He suffered because of the sins of his fathers. Yet instead of whining like a victim, he's taking ownership like a Son of God. He's confessing on their behalf, and using "we" language. I'll bullet this section at all the "we's" used.

- **We** have been wicked and have rebelled;
- **we** have turned away from your commands and laws.
- ⁶**We** have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

So here are sin's confessed: being

1. wicked

2. rebelling

3. turning away from commands and laws

4. Not listening to prophets.

I'll continue bolding the "we" language, but I'll italicize the wrong actions so we can understand what truly is "sin" in the spirit of what Paul wrote about (see the text box).

I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." Romans 7

⁷"Lord, you are righteous, but this day

- **we** are covered with shame—the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of *our unfaithfulness to you*.
- ⁸**We** and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame, LORD, because we have sinned against you. ⁹The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though
- **we** have *rebelled against him*;
- ¹⁰**we** *have not obeyed* the LORD our God *or kept the laws* he gave us through his servants the prophets. ¹¹All Israel has *transgressed your law* and *turned away, refusing to obey* you.

Key words that stand out:

1. Unfaithfulness

2. Rebellion

3. Disobedience

4. Not "keeping" laws

5. Transgressing law (overstepping boundaries)

6. Turning away

7. Refusing to obey

"Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you. ¹²You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing on us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem.

I've noticed that before myself. Israel was the only ancient nation I've known about that had a God they wanted to "trade in" for some kind of other deity.

He's the only God I guess I know of that had so much to say about morality and ethical considerations.

He's the only God I know of that has met so much "resistance" and contempt from His own people.

To me this is an intriguing thought---why would a group of people "invent" a God they didn't like? One that proscribed a morality they apparently hated?

My answer---they didn't invent Him!

He was the real thing! Unlike other gods, made in their own image.

Daniel continues:

¹³Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come on us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth.

Notice this: "seeking the favor of the LORD! How?"

1. Turning from your sins

2. Giving attention to the truth

¹⁴The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster on us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.

Wow. There's a concept that defies modern sensibilities. To say that the LORD is righteous in everything that He does!

¹⁵"Now, Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong. ¹⁶Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our ancestors have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

Godly “confession” seems to include a full admission of the ramifications of your sins, like Daniel is doing here----“Our sins and . . . iniquities . . . have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.”

¹⁷“Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary. ¹⁸Give ear, our God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy. ¹⁹Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name.”

“Give ear, our God, and hear!”

“Open your eyes and see!”

Sounds like the story in Mark where Jesus was asleep, and the disciples woke Him up because they were afraid (needlessly, it turns out)!

“Lord, listen.”

“Lord, forgive!”

“Lord, hear!”

“Lord, act!”

“Do not delay!”

Why? For your people and your city “bear your Name!”

We’ll study how God responded next time.

PS: Daniel had to be at least in his 70’s at this time, possibly in his 80’s. No retirement for Daniel from God! He was always a servant “in active duty.”

New International Version (NIV)