

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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Hosea 1 Part 2²



This book is turning out to be a fascinating read. Hosea has to marry not one but at least two women who have, shall we say, “been around the block” a time or two. And he has to name his children things that depict Israel’s sin and profligacy.

We live in a culture where parents are considered abusive if they don’t go to every single baseball game or soccer match their kid plays. Pity the poor parent, who in service to God, named their kid something like “Not My People” and “Not Loved.” It was such a different world, and their minds---and maybe it should be this way in our minds too---God has right to call the shots.

Let’s jump in deeper today. Enjoy.

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2 Kings 9

14 So Jehu son of Jehoshaphat, the son of Nimshi, conspired against Joram. (Now Joram and all Israel had been defending Ramoth Gilead against Hazael king of Aram, 15 but King Joram had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds the Arameans had inflicted on him in the battle with Hazael king of Aram.) Jehu said, "If you desire to make me king, don't let anyone slip out of the city to go and tell the news in Jezreel." 16 Then he got into his chariot and rode to Jezreel, because Joram was resting there and Ahaziah king of Judah had gone down to see him. . . 24 Then Jehu drew his bow and shot Joram between the shoulders. The arrow pierced his heart and he slumped down in his chariot. . . 27 When Ahaziah king of Judah saw what had happened, he fled up the road to Beth Haggan.[c] Jehu chased him, shouting, "Kill him too!" They wounded him in his chariot on the way up to Gur near Ibleam, but he escaped to Megiddo and died there.

Hosea 1 New International Version (NIV)

To summarize what we studied yesterday, Israel was like "an adulterous" guilty of "unfaithfulness." She conceives and has a child, and bears him a son.

⁴Then the LORD said to Hosea, "Call him Jezreel, because I will soon punish the house of Jehu for the massacre at Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel. ⁵In that day I will break Israel's bow in the Valley of Jezreel."

Jezreel means "God scatters." Here it reinforces the announcement of judgment on the reigning dynasty. Jeroboam II was of the dynasty of Jehu. That dynasty was established at Jezreel by the overthrow of Ahab's son Joram. (2 Kings 9:14-29) It's a complicated story that would distract us a bit much, so let's just leave it at that. Israel's "bow" was broken at the Valley of Jezreel. Joram, its king, was killed by a bow shot in his back.

⁶Gomer conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the LORD said to Hosea, "Call her Lo-Ruhamah (which means "not loved"), for I will no longer show love to Israel, that I should at all forgive them.

Wow. I find this interesting from two perspectives.

1. Imagine naming a kid "not loved." In our culture with its entitlement sensitivities, that would go over like a lead balloon. Imagine marrying a prostitute and having a child named "not loved." Maybe he didn't love her.

Boy, what would today's counseling program do with that!

2. God apparently saw it as a legitimate form of judgment to reverse the love (compassion) that God had earlier show to Israel.

Exodus 33:19	Deuteronomy 7:6-8
<p>¹⁹And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.</p>	<p>⁶For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.</p> <p>⁷The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.</p>
<p>Look at the Hebrew word for "set his affection."</p> <p>H2836 chashaq khaw-shak' to cling, i.e. join, (figuratively) to love, delight in; elliptically (or by interchangeable for H2820) to deliver.</p> <p>Look at the Hebrew word for "The LORD loved you."</p> <p>H158 'ahab ah'-hab affection (in a good or a bad sense).</p> <p>Both mean "have affection for."</p> <p>Just a side note. A lot is made of the different Greek words used for love, and that almost a segmentation can be made in the kind of love God (and you and I) are supposed to have. But recent scholarship suggests the words are much more interchangeable than we imagined, and</p>	

that actually the one considered “affectionate love” in Greek may be the higher form in some cases.

1. *Phileo*, when used often involves a deeper connection. Don Wilkins (one of the translators of the NASB) writes, “PHILEO is a higher form of love than AGAPAO. AGAPAO seems to be a ‘charitable’ love in that one provides for another’s needs, without developing a relationship as a friend to the other person (i.e. no personal ties). PHILEO, on the other hand, implies the close connection between friends and the related obligations that were so important in the ancient world.”

Is “Agape” a special kind of love? – Discover the Bible (wordpress.com)

⁷Yet I will show love to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the LORD their God, will save them.”

This is the beauty of this book. God shows the results of their sin---a self-imposed alienation from God’s affection. But God reiterates His ultimate intent over and over again----to show love, and to save.

⁸After she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, Gomer had another son. ⁹Then the LORD said, “Call him Lo-Ammi (which means “not my people”), for you are not my people, and I am not your God.^[b]

This name represents a break in the covenant relationship between the LORD and Israel.

Exodus 6:7	Jeremiah 7:23
⁷ I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.	²³ but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you.

This wasn’t going to be a permanent break though.

¹⁰“Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ they will be called ‘children of the living God.’ ¹¹The people of Judah and the people of Israel will come together; they will appoint one leader and will come up out of the land, for great will be the day of Jezreel.^[c]

To me this is fascinating from several perspectives. One, they will fulfill the promises made to Abraham and Jacob.

Genesis 22:17	Genesis 32:12	Jeremiah 33:22
<p>¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,</p>	<p>¹²But you have said, 'I will surely make you prosper and will make your descendants like the sand of the sea, which cannot be counted.'"</p>	<p>²²I will make the descendants of David my servant and the Levites who minister before me as countless as the stars in the sky and as measureless as the sand on the seashore.'"</p>

Children of adultery will be contrasted with children of the living God. And the living God is distinguished by idols.

¹⁷They sacrificed to false gods, which are not God—
 gods they had not known,
 gods that recently appeared,
 gods your ancestors did not fear.

Footnotes:

- a. **Hosea 1:1** Hebrew *Joash*, a variant of *Jehoash*
- b. **Hosea 1:9** Or *your I AM*
- c. **Hosea 1:11** In Hebrew texts 1:10,11 is numbered 2:1,2.