

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 2 Part 1²



Fascinating insights are shared sometimes incidentally in read like the Book of Hosea. In this chapter, we’ll follow up on the “marriage” that God commanded Hosea to do---a marriage to a “promiscuous woman.” As we remember, God even had Hosea give the children that resulted names like “Lo-Ruhamah” (“not loved”) and “Lo-Ammi” (not my people). He did this to picture the broken relationship His people had with Him because of their sin. But other things are spoken of in this chapter too---like what a marriage should be and shouldn’t be, what a husband should be and shouldn’t be. God’s word is amazing, and the more you dig in, the more you learn!

Let’s jump in deeper today. Enjoy.

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² New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (Author’s note: This translation, and the source for many of the study notes that accompany it, are taken from The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 . These notes are referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

Hosea 2 New International Version (NIV)

2 ^[a]“Say of your brothers, ‘My people,’ and of your sisters, ‘My loved one.’”

Note: In spite of his righteous and justifiable anger, the LORD just can't stay mad at his people very long! Almost immediately He drops the negatives! Say to your brothers, not “NOT my people,” but “MY people!” Say to your sisters, not “NOT my loved one” but “MY loved one!”

Israel Punished and Restored

²“Rebuke your mother, rebuke her,
for she is not my wife,
and I am not her husband.

This is interesting. The marriage was broken by unfaithfulness. But the LORD sought reconciliation, not divorce. Look at how He describes her, and her affectation for other gods---in terms again of “promiscuity.”

Let her remove the adulterous look from her face
and the unfaithfulness from between her breasts.

³Otherwise I will strip her naked
and make her as bare as on the day she was born;
I will make her like a desert,
turn her into a parched land,
and slay her with thirst.

Ezekiel makes the same analogy in Ezekiel 16, and uses graphic sexual terminology.

⁴I will not show my love to her children,
because they are the children of adultery.

Again, look at this contrast:

Hoseas 2:4	Hosea 1:10
“Children of adultery”	“Children of the living God”

⁵Their mother has been unfaithful
and has conceived them in disgrace.
She said, 'I will go after my lovers,
who give me my food and my water,
my wool and my linen, my olive oil and my drink.'

Note the similarity with Ezekiel 16.

Ezekiel 16

⁷You also took the fine jewelry I gave you, the jewelry made of my gold and silver, and you made for yourself male idols and engaged in prostitution with them. ¹⁸And you took your embroidered clothes to put on them, and you offered my oil and incense before them. ¹⁹Also the food I provided for you—the flour, olive oil and honey I gave you to eat—you offered as fragrant incense before them. That is what happened, declares the Sovereign LORD. . . ²⁶You engaged in prostitution with the Egyptians, your neighbors . . . ²⁸You engaged in prostitution with the Assyrians too, because you were insatiable; and even after that, you still were not satisfied. ²⁹Then you increased your promiscuity to include Babylonia, a land of merchants, but even with this you were not satisfied.

We don't have that sense of purity and wholesomeness in our sexual mores of the day. Women are depicted as being capable of being as lustful as men these days, to want sex with anybody just for sex sake. And in a completely unexplainable way, males sexuality is both deified and condemned at the same time. God's values and mores simply don't get articulated these days. God did punish (discipline) His people for this.

⁶Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes;
I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way.

Ever have a day like that? Maybe God is trying to tell you something!

⁷She will chase after her lovers but not catch them;
she will look for them but not find them.

Then she will say,

Leviticus 26:19

I will break down your **stubborn** pride
Judges 2:19

the people . . . They refused to give up their evil practices
and **stubborn** ways.
Psalm 78:8

They would not be like their ancestors— a **stubborn** and
rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God,
whose spirits were not faithful to him.
Psalm 81:12

So I gave them over to their **stubborn** hearts to follow their
own devices.
Isaiah 46:12

Listen to me, you **stubborn**-hearted, you who are now far
from my righteousness.
Isaiah 48:4

For I knew how **stubborn** you were; your neck muscles were
iron, your forehead was bronze.
Jeremiah 5:23

But these people have **stubborn** and rebellious hearts; they
have turned aside and gone away.
Jeremiah 7:24

But they did not listen or pay attention;
instead, they followed

the **stubborn** inclinations of their evil hearts.
They went backward and not forward.
Ezekiel 2:4

The people to whom I am sending you are
obstinate and **stubborn**. Say to them, 'This is
what the Sovereign LORD says.'
Hosea 4:16

The Israelites are **stubborn**, like
a **stubborn** heifer. How then can
the LORD pasture them like lambs in a
meadow?
Mark 3:5

He looked around at them in anger and,
deeply distressed at their **stubborn** hearts,
Mark 16:14

*Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were
eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith
and their **stubborn** refusal to believe those
who had seen him after he had *risen*.*

'I will go back to my husband as at first,
for then I was better off than now.'

⁸She has not acknowledged that I was the one
who gave her the grain, the new wine and
oil,
who lavished on her the silver and gold—
which they used for Baal.

**Why are we like this? Why are we
created, and simply can't acknowledge
God? What is in us that makes us so self-
willed, so stubborn, so rebellious? Is it
Satan's attitude projected into us? Is it
our attitude alone? What gives? I looked
up the word "stubborn" and how many
times it shows up in the NIV. See the
sidebar.**

⁹"Therefore I will take away my grain when it
ripens, and my new wine when it is ready.
I will take back my wool and my linen,
intended to cover her naked body.

¹⁰So now I will expose her lewdness
before the eyes of her lovers;
no one will take her out of my hands.

¹¹I will stop all her celebrations:
her yearly festivals, her New Moons,
her Sabbath days—all her appointed
festivals.

¹²I will ruin her vines and her fig trees,
which she said were her pay from her lovers;
I will make them a thicket,
and wild animals will devour them.

¹³I will punish her for the days
she burned incense to the Baals;
she decked herself with rings and jewelry,
and went after her lovers,

but me she forgot,"
declares the LORD.

But look at what the LORD will do after that. To me, this speaks of what a husband should always be doing. I'll highlight the key words.

¹⁴"Therefore I am now going **to allure her**;

Hebrew: "entice" here

I will lead her into the wilderness
and speak tenderly to her.

Hebrew: "speak to her heart"

¹⁵There I will give her back her vineyards,
and will make the Valley of Achor^(b) a door of hope.

Achor means "trouble." He will turn her trouble into hope!

There she will respond^(c) as in the days of her youth,

She will not be stubborn. She will be responsive.

as in the day she came up out of Egypt.

¹⁶"In that day," declares the LORD,
"you will call me 'my husband';

Simply, "my man."

you will no longer call me 'my master.'^(d)

Husbands were "owners" of their wives. In Hebrew, the word meant "My Possessor."

¹⁷I will remove the names of the Baals from her lips;
no longer will their names be invoked.

You are what you worship. When she worshipped "Baal" she took on His traits. He was cruel and possessive. God is not like that!

¹⁸In that day I will make a covenant for them
with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky
and the creatures that move along the ground.

Bow and sword and battle

I will abolish from the land,
so that all may lie down in safety.

⁷⁴to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear
⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. Luke 1

God wants us to have safety and peace and not fear. Zechariah said that in the famous "song" he said when John the Baptist was born.

Now look at this beautiful statement of what marital love should be. I'll highlight key words.

¹⁹I will betroth you to me **forever**;
I will betroth you **in^[e] righteousness and justice**,
in^[f] love and compassion.

²⁰I will betroth you **in^[g] faithfulness**,
and you will acknowledge the LORD.

²¹"In that day **I will respond**,"
declares the LORD—

"I will respond to the skies,
and they will respond to the earth;
²²and the earth will respond to the grain,
the new wine and the olive oil,
and they will respond to Jezreel.^[h]

²³**I will plant her** for myself in the land;
I will show my love to the one I called 'Not my loved one.^[i]'
I will say to those called 'Not my people,^[i]' 'You are my people';
and they will say, 'You are my God.'"

I'll look up the Hebrew meaning of these words next time!

Footnotes:

- a. **Hosea 2:1** In Hebrew texts 2:1-23 is numbered 2:3-25.
- b. **Hosea 2:15** *Achor* means *trouble*.
- c. **Hosea 2:15** Or *sing*
- d. **Hosea 2:16** Hebrew *baal*
- e. **Hosea 2:19** Or *with*
- f. **Hosea 2:19** Or *with*
- g. **Hosea 2:20** Or *with*
- h. **Hosea 2:22** *Jezreel* means *God plants*.
- i. **Hosea 2:23** Hebrew *Lo-Ruhamah* (see 1:6)
- j. **Hosea 2:23** Hebrew *Lo-Ammi* (see 1:9)