

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*

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

graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER

Hosea 3²



I was almost dreading reading the minor prophets. But I repent! They are fascinating. In this next chapter God has Hosea go deeper into his already compromised marital situation. His wife is “loved by another man.”

God tells her to show love to her!

It’s of course a parable about God’s rocky “marriage” to Israel. But it teaches us a lot about how to “hang in there” in a difficult marriage, even one that has been compromised by adultery.

Let’s jump in deeper again today. Enjoy.

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

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.)

3 The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes."

In Ephesians 5:25-28, the apostle Paul says "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husband ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."

So I like this phrase, "Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes." Christ loved the church while "she" was killing Him, and said "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Luke 23:34 New International Version (NIV)

³⁴Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."^[a] And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Again, Gomer's unfaithful love to Hosea illustrated Israel's unfaithful love to God, and God's faithful love to Israel is illustrated by Hosea's faithful love to Gomer. God's love for Israel is the basic theme of this book.

Hosea 11:1	Hosea 14:4
<p>11 "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.</p>	<p>⁴"I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.</p>
<p>The word for freely in Hosea 14:4</p> <p>H5071 ndabah ned-aw-baw' - properly (abstractly) spontaneity, or (adjectively) spontaneous; also (concretely) a spontaneous or (by inference, in plural) abundant gift.</p>	

God loves us “spontaneously” and freely. How beautiful

²So I bought her for fifteen shekels^[a] of silver and about a homer and a lethek^[b] of barley.

The NIV says “Gomer had evidently become a slave, and Hosea bought her back. In Exodus 21:32 (see text box) the usual price of a slave was “30 shekels of silver.” It appears he paid half the price in silver, the other half in the barely. I’ve never even heard of the word “lethek” before. The NIV study bible says a homer and a lethek possibly weighed 430 pounds.

³²If the bull gores a male or female slave, the owner must pay thirty shekels^[a] of silver to the master of the slave, and the bull is to be stoned to death. Exodus 21

³Then I told her, “You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you.”

Apparently God is going to analogize His “reconciliation” relationship with Israel. The NIV says “live with” suggests a period of isolation comparable to Israel’s exile. Harkening back to Hosea 2:6, rather than punish Israel, God planned on isolating her, especially from her adulterous loves, and so she would long for her husband (God) and go back to Him.

⁶Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes;
I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way.
⁷She will chase after her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them.
Then she will say,
‘I will go back to my husband as at first, for then I was better off than now.’ Hosea 2

It also says “Israel’s exile would not be forever.” There would be an “afterward” and a “future.”

Jeremiah 29:11

¹For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

⁴For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. ⁵Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

Since this is a short chapter, let's analyze in detail, following all the Scripture notes suggested by the NIV study bible.

With regard to the word king, there seems to be a consistent theme that Israel would lose its sovereignty as a nation, and be both without a kingdom and king.

Hosea 1:4	Hosea 5:1	Hosea 8:4, 10	Hosea 10:15	Hosea 13:10-11
<p>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.</p>	<p>"Hear this, you priests! Pay attention, you Israelites! Listen, royal house! This judgment is against you: You have been a snare at Mizpah, a net spread out on Tabor.</p>	<p>⁴They set up kings without my consent; they choose princes without my approval. With their silver and gold they make idols for themselves to their own destruction.</p> <p>¹⁰Although they have sold themselves among the nations, I will now gather them together. They will</p>	<p>¹⁵So will it happen to you, Bethel, because your wickedness is great. When that day dawns, the king of Israel will be completely destroyed.</p>	<p>⁹Where is your king, that he may save you? Where are your rulers in all your towns, of whom you said, 'Give me a king and princes'?</p> <p>¹¹So in my anger I gave you a king, and in my wrath I took him away.</p>

		begin to waste away under the oppression of the mighty king.		
--	--	--	--	--

Indeed, both their kings and their princes had become profligate.

Hosea 7:3, 5

³“They delight the king with their wickedness, the princes with their lies.

⁴They are all adulterers, burning like an oven whose fire the baker need not stir from the kneading of the dough till it rises.

⁵On the day of the festival of our king the princes become inflamed with wine, and he joins hands with the mockers.

⁶Their hearts are like an oven; they approach him with intrigue.

Their passion smolders all night; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.

Here is the more literal translation I like to use on that one.

(CLV) Ho 7:6

^fIndeed they ⁷are kindled ~ like a stove; Their heart, it ~ consumes within them ~; All the night ~ their anger ~ is asleep; In the morning it is consuming like a blazing fire.

⁷All of them are hot as an oven; they devour their rulers.

All their kings fall, and none of them calls on me.

With regard to “sacred stones” the NIV says they were “stone pillars, bearing a religious significance, that were placed next to altars. The use of such pillars were common among the Canaanites, but was explicitly forbidden to the Israelites in the Mosaic law.

Exodus 23:24	Leviticus 26:1	Deuteronomy 16:21-22
²⁴ Do not bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices. You	26 “Do not make idols or set up an image or a sacred stone for yourselves,	¹ Do not set up any wooden Asherah pole beside the altar you build to

must demolish them and break their sacred stones to pieces.	and do not place a carved stone in your land to bow down before it. I am the LORD your God.	the LORD your God, ²² and do not erect a sacred stone, for these the LORD your God hates.
---	---	--

But notice what all this will lead Israel to do. To “return” (a consistent theme in Hosea) “seek” the LORD. Instead of persistent stubborn rebellion, they will seek the LORD their God and David, “their king,” the “Messianic King from David’s dynasty.

And notice this phrase:

“They will come trembling to the LORD, and His blessings” “in the last days.

The Hebrew word for “trembling” is:

H6342 pachad paw-kkad'

to be startled (by a sudden alarm); hence, to fear in general.

There is a proper fear of the LORD! It leads to right living!

2 Corinthians 5:10-12 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. ¹¹Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others.

Yet our God desires more!

1 John 4:18 [Full Chapter]

There is no **fear** in love. But perfect love drives out **fear**, because **fear** has to do with punishment.

Praise our God. Let’s love, adore, fear, and come to Him always in perfect love!

- a. **Hosea 3:2** That is, about 6 ounces or about 170 grams
- b. **Hosea 3:2** A homer and a lethek possibly weighed about 430 pounds or about 195 kilograms.