

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 4²



So the prophet goes more deeply into the “issues” God was having with Israel. And in this chapter, He will get into His “charges” against her---lack of faithfulness, love or acknowledgment of God in the land.

There is an interesting phrase he uses that reminds me of our society we live in. “They break all bounds.” We seem to pride ourselves in that---breaking all bounds. How crazy our desire to break any limits that are imposed upon us.

Is that a good thing or a bad thing? Let’s consider that this morning.

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 4 New International Version (NIV)

4 Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites, because the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land:

Note: The Hebrew word for charges:

H7379 riyb reeb

or rib {reeb};

from **H7378**; a contest (personal or legal).

What is that bothers God so badly?

“There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land.

Look at the things that God had issues with:

- **Faithfulness**

H571 'emeth eh'-meth

contracted from **H539**;

stability; (figuratively) certainty, truth, trustworthiness.

- **Love**

H2617 checed keh'-sed

from **H2616**;

kindness; by implication (towards God) piety: rarely (by opposition) reproof, or (subject.) beauty.

- **Acknowledgment**

H1847 da`ath dah'-ath

from **H3045**;

knowledge.

So what did this husband want? Faithfulness from His wife. Stability. Truth. Trustworthiness. Love from His wife! Kindness, piety, sometimes rebuke---but how about this one---beauty! And acknowledgment. He wanted His wife to "know" Him and to understand Him. But what did He get instead?

²There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery;

This was a "contentious" marriage. The word for cursing means "to pronounce a curse on." God had a tough marriage! But I hearken back to His love for us when I read the words we read yesterday in Hosea 3: "Go, show love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man."

they break all bounds,

Now this is an interesting phrase to me. "They break all bounds."

The Hebrew comes from this word:

H6555 parats paw-rats' a primitive root;

to break out (in many applications, direct and indirect, literal and figurative).

I think it's interesting to consider how many "bounds" we're wanting to break up! If there is a boundary out there, we want to cross it. What are some of the boundaries people are crossing in our day? When I typed this in , all I got was endless number of articles teaching people to protect themselves with "boundaries." But I did run across this from the Huffington Post:

In the modern culture of mainstream America, most people live in nuclear families: Mom and Dad and 2.5 kids. Many have only occasional contact with family members outside the immediate household. Young people quickly learn that their importance depends on how many and what kind of things they can control. Eventually they learn that power — personal, economic, social, political, religious, whatever — gets things done.

Modern culture has a tendency to spread out, to build empires, to capitalize on as many resources as possible. Modern culture seems to be held together by power and things, not by people and relationships.

In modern culture people learn that business life is separate from personal life, for example that church and state can be kept apart. We learn to compartmentalize our lives. During the week we can be shrewd business-makers in a competitive marketplace where there are happy winners and tragic losers. On the weekend we can go to church or temple and ask forgiveness for our transgressions, and then go back on Monday and start all over again. We learn (in some form) two key phrases: "It's nothing personal, but..." and "It's just business."

But in traditional culture things are not that simple — business life and personal life are often the same thing. Partners in trade and other economic activities are generally the same people as one's kin relations. Similarly, the principles and values that guide spiritual and ceremonial life are the same principles and values that guide political life. Thus in traditional culture, the compartmentalizing or separating of business and personal life, of religious and political life, would not work. You cannot separate how you treat your trade partners from how you treat your cousins if they are the same people. You cannot separate your spiritual values from your political values if they are the same values.

This is a great article. You can read more at: [Traditional Culture and Modern Culture: Man's Fall from Grace | HuffPost](#)

and bloodshed follows bloodshed. ³Because of this the land dries up, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the fish in the sea are swept away.

Wow. Without looking into it, look at what is happening to our world, our environments, our landscapes, even many species of our animals. It seems like they are being "swept away."

The NIV Study Bible says God’s judgments on human sin affects all living things in the world. Here are a few Scriptural references.

Isa 24:3-6	Jer 4:23-28	Isa 19:8	Jer 4:12	Jer 15:9	Joel 1:10
<p>³The earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The LORD has spoken this word.</p> <p>⁴The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the heavens languish with the earth.</p> <p>⁵The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting</p>	<p>²³I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone.</p> <p>²⁴I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying.</p> <p>²⁵I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown</p>	<p>⁸The fishermen will groan and lament, all who cast hooks into the Nile; those who throw nets on the water will pine away.</p>	<p>¹²Although they fast, I will not listen to their cry; though they offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Instead, I will destroy them with the sword, famine and plague.”</p>	<p>The mother of seven will grow faint and breathe her last. Her sun will set while it is still day; she will be disgraced and humiliated . I will put the survivors to the sword before their enemies,” declares the LORD.</p>	<p>¹⁰The fields are ruined, the ground is dried up; the grain is destroyed, the new wine is dried up, the olive oil fails.</p>

<p>covenant. ⁶Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left.</p>	<p>away. ²⁶I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger. ²⁷This is what the LORD says: "The whole land will be ruined, though I will not destroy it completely ." ²⁸Therefore the earth will mourn and the heavens above grow dark, because I have</p>				
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	spoken and will not relent, I have decided and will not turn back.”				
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Wow. What a horrible tragedy for God’s people. Some of the same things seem to be happening in our world. What are we to do?

We’ll continue to study this in Hosea.