

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 4 Part 2²



One amazing thing that happens when you read the Bible through is that you learn from bits and pieces and snippets and scraps of phrases that appear in books in the New Testament that Paul and others wrote, or even in things Jesus said. An example in this chapter: “they exchanged their glorious God for something disgraceful” (verse 7). Doesn’t that remind you of what the apostle Paul wrote in the book of Romans (1:23): they “. . .exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. The apostles and early church fathers read their bibles like it was a life and death read. Do you?

Let’s read His Word this morning.

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

**Again, the literal translation says “no knowledge of God in the land,”
but this is a fair translation, I think. Do we acknowledge God in our
land?**

²There is only cursing,^[a] lying and murder,
stealing and adultery;

**Again, the footnote in the NIV study bible text
says “to pronounce a curse on” for “cursing.”**

**That’s interesting. We call cursing using foul
language. They called cursing to pronounce
curses upon. That’s what Peter did when he
was denying that he knew Jesus (was friends
with Him and a follower of Him). At any rate, I
feel somewhat convicted by this Scripture.
Why? Because all the detective shows I like to
watch are mostly about “cursing,^[a] lying and
murder,
stealing and adultery”**

they break all bounds,

**We love to defy norms. We simply love it.
“Eternity” does indeed inhabit our hearts. But
we should try to break the limits of death, not
the rules and mores of God!**

and bloodshed follows bloodshed.

Matthew 26:72-74 New
International Version (NIV)

⁷²He denied it again, with
an oath: “I don’t know the
man!”

⁷³After a little while, those
standing there went up to
Peter and said, “Surely you
are one of them; your
accent gives you away.”

⁷⁴Then he began to call
down curses, and he swore
to them, “I don’t know the
man!”

Call down curses:

**AN INTENSE FORM OF
THE WORD FROM WHICH
WE DERIVE**

“ANATHEMATIZE”: to
declare or vow under penalty of
execration.

Immediately a rooster
crowed.

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.

This is where we left off yesterday. The environment is affected by our sin.

⁴“But let no one bring a charge,
let no one accuse another,
for your people are like those
who bring charges against a priest.

Priests were supposed to be guardians of God’s law and to furnish religious instruction. Notice the instructions in the law given to God’s priests.

Leviticus 10:11

And so you can teach the Israelites all the decrees the LORD has given them through Moses.
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Deuteronomy 31:9-13

So Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD and to all the elders of Israel. Then Moses commanded them: “At the end of every seven years, in the year for canceling debts, during the Festival of Tabernacles, when all Israel comes to appear before the LORD your God at the place he will choose, you shall read this before them in their hearing. Assemble the people---men, women, children, and the foreigners residing in your towns---so they can listen and learn to fear the LORD your God and follow carefully all the words of this law. Their children, who do not know this law, must hear it and learn to fear the LORD your God as long as you live in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess.
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Deuteronomy 33:10

He teaches your precepts to Jacob and your law to Israel. He offers incense before you and whole burnt offerings on your altar.

2 Chronicles 17:9-10

With them were certain Levites . . .and the priests . . .they went around to all the towns of Judah and taught the people.
--

Ezra 7:6

He was a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses
--

Jeremiah 18:18

They said, "Come, let's make plans against Jeremiah: for the teaching of the law by the priest will not cease, nor will counsel from the wise nor the word from the prophets. Some come let's attack him with our tongues, and pay not attention to anything he says . . .

⁵You stumble day and night,
and the prophets stumble with you.
So I will destroy your mother—
⁶ my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.
"Because you have rejected knowledge,
I also reject you as my priests;
because you have ignored the law of your God,
I also will ignore your children.

The priests had failed to teach the Word of God, and the law of God. The priests should have been promoting this. Instead, they were promoting a self-oriented perspective.

⁷The more priests there were,
the more they sinned against me;
they exchanged their glorious God^[b] for something disgraceful.

This is what I brought up in the introduction to this study. Look at these two verses side by side.

Hosea 4:7	Romans 1
they exchanged their glorious God ^[b] for something disgraceful.	²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Note the use of the word "exchanged."

⁸They feed on the sins of my people
and relish their wickedness.

What an indictment. A priesthood that had become totally self focused. The NIV study bible says this:

“Priests devoured the sacrifices, profiting from the continuation of sin rather than helping to cure it.” These Scriptures were referenced.

1 Samuel 2:13-17	Hosea 8:13
¹³ Now it was the practice of the priests that, whenever any of the people offered a sacrifice, the priest’s servant would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand while the meat was being boiled	¹³ Though they offer sacrifices as gifts to me, and though they eat the meat, the LORD is not pleased with them. Now he will remember their wickedness and punish their sins: They will return to Egypt.

⁹And it will be: Like people, like priests.
I will punish both of them for their ways
and repay them for their deeds.

Even in the New Testament, God holds us accountable for our deeds and for things we have done.

2 Corinthians 5:10

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.

John 5:28-29 New International Version (NIV)

²⁸“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.

Sin will also produce misery in this life.

¹⁰“They will eat but not have enough;
they will engage in prostitution but not flourish,

because they have deserted the LORD to give themselves ¹¹to prostitution; old wine and new wine take away their understanding.

¹²My people consult a wooden idol, and a diviner's rod speaks to them.

A spirit of prostitution leads them astray; they are unfaithful to their God.

The Hebrews often speak of their inner tendencies in terms of spirit.

¹³They sacrifice on the mountaintops and burn offerings on the hills, under oak, poplar and terebinth, where the shade is pleasant.

A place often chosen for the pagan idols.

Therefore your daughters turn to prostitution and your daughters-in-law to adultery.

¹⁴"I will not punish your daughters when they turn to prostitution, nor your daughters-in-law when they commit adultery, because the men themselves consort with harlots and sacrifice with shrine prostitutes—

Shrine prostitutes are women who served as partners for men in sexual activity that was part of their religious ritual.

a people without understanding will come to ruin!

¹⁵"Though you, Israel, commit adultery, do not let Judah become guilty.

"Do not go to Gilgal; do not go up to Beth Aven.^[c]

And do not swear, 'As surely as the LORD lives!'

¹⁶The Israelites are stubborn, like a stubborn heifer.

How then can the LORD pasture them like lambs in a meadow?

God doesn't want a stubborn people. He wants to pasture His people like lambs in a meadow.

¹⁷Ephraim is joined to idols; leave him alone!

¹⁸Even when their drinks are gone, they continue their prostitution; their rulers dearly love shameful ways.

¹⁹A whirlwind will sweep them away, and their sacrifices will bring them shame.

Footnotes:

- a. **Hosea 4:2** That is, to pronounce a curse on
- b. **Hosea 4:7** Syriac (see also an ancient Hebrew scribal tradition); Masoretic Text *me; / I will exchange their glory*
- c. **Hosea 4:15** *Beth Aven* means *house of wickedness* (a derogatory name for Bethel, which means *house of God*).