

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER<sup>1</sup> 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)**

<sup>27</sup>To 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 7<sup>2</sup>**



I love the way God’s personality is revealed in the prophets. And the gems of historical and spiritual wisdom that emerges. I’ve always loved “ancient” things. Even as a kid, I reveled in studying Ancient Greek culture and had an identity at a very early age of being associated with the glory of ancient Greece.

Perhaps this has stood me in good stead in my study of God’s word. But watch out for fascinating parabolic visuals that this chapter offers---phrases like “inflamed with wine” and hearts that are like ovens smoldering with anger all through the night and flare up during the day. Ah, what poets---and what brilliant definers of life---Spirit-inspired prophets were and still are! Enjoy.

<sup>1</sup> **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

<sup>2</sup> 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 7 New International Version (NIV)

**7** <sup>1</sup> whenever I would heal Israel, the sins of Ephraim are exposed and the crimes of Samaria revealed. They practice deceit, thieves break into houses, bandits rob in the streets; <sup>2</sup> but they do not realize that I remember all their evil deeds. Their sins engulf them; they are always before me.

**Ok, so in case you don't know it, Samaria is another name for the northern 10 tribes comprising Israel. It was the name of the royal city chosen by the Israelite King Omri to be his capital city.**

**There is an interesting back story to this city. It was seven miles northwest of Shechem, and rose up about 300 feet above the surrounding fertile valleys. These valleys were referred to as a "wreath" in Isaiah 28:1.**

Isaiah 28:1 New International Version (NIV)

## Woe to the Leaders of Ephraim and Judah

**28** Woe to that wreath, the pride of Ephraim's drunkards, to the fading flower, his glorious beauty, set on the head of a fertile valley— to that city, the pride of those laid low by wine!

**The site provided an ideal location for a nearly impregnable capital city for the northern kingdom. It was important to the northern kingdom in that it provided the kings of the north with a citadel-like capital like the southern kingdom had (Judah with the city of Jerusalem). Archaeologists have also discovered that Kings Omri and Ahab adorned it with magnificent structures to rival those King Solomon had put in Jerusalem. Excavators of Samaria have found ivory inlays in the ruins of some of the buildings.**

**1 Kings 22:39**

As for the other events of Ahab's reign, including all he did, the **palace** he built and adorned with **ivory**, and the cities he fortified, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel?

<sup>3</sup>“They delight the king with their wickedness, the princes with their lies.

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

**The northern Kingdom had a bloody history(2 Kings 15:8-30). According to verse 5-7 below, this included entertaining kings while planning to stab them in the back!**

**But notice further the analogies conveyed in the verse. The fire analogy, the NIV study Bible says, is “perhaps a metaphor for political intrigue . . .” In the process of making bread, the fire was banked until ready for use; then it broke out. So the adulterers were like a “banked” fire, ready to explode at a given moment. Sin is like that when nurtured and retained.**

<sup>5</sup>On the day of the festival of our king

**Probably a coronation or a birthday that turned into an orgy.**

the princes become inflamed with wine, and he joins hands with the mockers. <sup>6</sup>Their hearts are like an oven; they approach him with intrigue. Their passion smolders all night; in the morning it blazes like a flaming fire.

**Sin and passion can “smolder all night.” It can spring into trouble later.**

<sup>7</sup>All of them are hot as an oven; they devour their rulers.

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

**The northern kingdom had an incredibly bloody history, filled with political intrigue. I’ll just include some of the ones that surfaced in a brief study taken from 2 Kings 15:8-30.**

- <sup>10</sup>Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against Zechariah. He attacked him in front of the people,<sup>[a]</sup> assassinated him and succeeded him as king.
- <sup>13</sup>Shallum son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of Uzziah king of Judah, and he reigned in Samaria one month. <sup>14</sup>Then Menahem

son of Gadi went from Tirzah up to Samaria. He attacked Shallum son of Jabesh in Samaria, assassinated him and succeeded him as king.

- . . . Menahem son of Gadi became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria ten years. . . <sup>20</sup>Menahem exacted this money from Israel. . . Pekahiah son of Menahem became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned two years. . . <sup>16</sup>At that time Menahem, starting out from Tirzah, attacked Tiphseh and everyone in the city and its vicinity, because they refused to open their gates. He sacked Tiphseh and ripped open all the pregnant women.
- Pekahiah son of Menahem became king of Israel in Samaria . . . One of his chief officers, Pekah son of Remaliah, conspired against him. Taking fifty men of Gilead with him, he assassinated Pekahiah . . .
- Pekah son of Remaliah became king of Israel in Samaria . . . <sup>9</sup>Then Hoshea son of Elah conspired against Pekah son of Remaliah. He attacked and assassinated him

**What a blood ridden capital city! God would never fuse with that!**

<sup>8</sup>“Ephraim mixes with the nations;  
Ephraim is a flat loaf not turned over.

**This is a metaphor describing unwise policies. Baked on hot stones, a loaf was burned on the bottom and undone on the top! So were their policies.**

<sup>9</sup>Foreigners sap his strength,  
but he does not realize it.  
His hair is sprinkled with gray,  
but he does not notice.  
<sup>10</sup>Israel’s arrogance testifies against him,  
but despite all this  
he does not return to the LORD his God  
or search for him.  
<sup>11</sup>“Ephraim is like a dove,  
easily deceived and senseless—  
now calling to Egypt,  
now turning to Assyria.

<sup>12</sup>When they go, I will throw my net over them;  
I will pull them down like the birds in the sky.  
When I hear them flocking together,  
I will catch them.

<sup>13</sup>Woe to them,  
because they have strayed from me!  
Destruction to them,  
because they have rebelled against me!  
I long to redeem them  
but they speak about me falsely.

<sup>14</sup>They do not cry out to me from their hearts  
but wail on their beds.  
They slash themselves,<sup>1</sup> appealing to their gods  
for grain and new wine,  
but they turn away from me.

**Talking about their broken approach to God with their self-made religion.**

<sup>15</sup>I trained them and strengthened their arms,  
but they plot evil against me.

<sup>16</sup>They do not turn to the Most High;  
they are like a faulty bow.  
Their leaders will fall by the sword  
because of their insolent words.  
For this they will be ridiculed  
in the land of Egypt.

**They plotted evil against God, their Father! How loving He was to save them still through Jesus!**

**Footnotes:**

- a. **Hosea 7:14** Some Hebrew manuscripts and Septuagint; most Hebrew manuscripts *They gather together*

