

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 8²



Our God is a romantic poet!

How He woos His bride, Israel. How He reasons with her.

And it’s not just “her” He’s speaking to. We’ve all been “Israel” in one way or another---both beloved and rebellious, both endearing yet something to be endured.

I’m excited to see what God has in this next chapter, and what shakes out I this study. Enjoy.

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Hosea 8 New International Version (NIV)

8 "Put the trumpet to your lips!

An eagle is over the house of the LORD
because the people have broken my
covenant
and rebelled against my law.

The NIV says "eagle" can also mean "vulture." They see it as referring Assyria, who had its eye on the land of Israel.



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²Israel cries out to me, 'Our God, we acknowledge you!' ³But Israel has rejected what is good; an enemy will pursue him.

Assyria is the enemy. It's interesting that Israel wanted to claim to acknowledge the Lord, but their worship of the Lord was thoroughly corrupted by pagan notions and practices.

Amos 2:4,7-8	Amos 3:14	Amos 5:26
<p>⁴This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not relent. Because they have rejected the law of the LORD and have not kept his decrees, because they have been led astray by false gods, the gods their ancestors followed, ⁷They trample on the heads of the poor as on the dust of the ground and deny justice to the oppressed. Father and son use the same girl and so profane my holy name. ⁸They lie down beside every altar on garments taken in pledge. In the house of their god they drink wine taken as fines.</p>	<p>¹⁴"On the day I punish Israel for her sins, I will destroy the altars of Bethel; the horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground.</p>	<p>²⁶You have lifted up the shrine of your king, the pedestal of your idols, the star of your god^[a]— which you made for yourselves.</p>

Their religion was "mixed." They worshipped their "gods," but wanted to keep "tight" with the LORD. Here is a New Testament warning from Christ.

Matthew 15:9	Mark 7:7	Colossians 2:22
But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.	Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.	Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

⁴They set up kings without my consent;
they choose princes without my approval.

God was not involved in their selection of rulers. They lived "independently" from God. Acknowledged His existence, but didn't involve Him.

With their silver and gold
they make idols for themselves
to their own destruction.

Idolatry leads to a personal destruction. What does the New Testament say about idolatry?

Colossians 3:5
Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry :

⁵Samaria, throw out your calf-idol!

What is it about Israel and "calf idols"? That's what Israel did in Exodus 32 when Moses went to Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments.

Exodus 32 New International Version (NIV)	1 Kings 12:25-33 New International Version (NIV)
<p>The Golden Calf</p> <p>32 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."</p> <p>²Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." ³So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods,^[b] Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."</p>	<p>Golden Calves at Bethel and Dan</p> <p>²⁸After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." ²⁹One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. ³⁰And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other.^[b]</p> <p>³¹Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites. ³²He instituted a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival held in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. This he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he had made. And at Bethel he also installed priests at the high places he had made. . . the festival for the Israelites and went up to the altar to make offerings.</p>



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The NIV Study Bible says that pagan gods of the Arameans and Canaanites were often represented as standing on calves and bulls as symbols of their strength and fertility.

Here is an interesting observation by one writer: Israel's construction of the golden calf related directly to their desire for Yahweh's presence as they continued their journey to the Promised Land. Their actions, although extremely sinful, were

perfectly consistent with their ancient cultural context.

They allowed their culture to pervert their understanding of Yahweh and his ways as well as their worship of him.

As modern Christians, we should ask ourselves, "How does our culture pervert our understanding of Yahweh and his ways?" Our churches are not constructing calf idols and labeling them the God who redeemed us from sin, but our churches may be worshiping other cultural idols alongside Yahweh or may describe Yahweh in terms of our culture's idols. We have the same heart problem the ancient Israelites had, and if we do not guard our hearts, we too will quickly seek security and satisfaction in our culture's idols.

Israel's Golden Calf Idolatry - Credo Magazine

My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of purity?

- ⁶ They are from Israel! This calf—a metalworker has made it; it is not God. It will be broken in pieces, that calf of Samaria.

- Hosea 10:13 - You have planted wickedness, you will reap evil.
- Job 4:8 – those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it
- Ps 126:5 – Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.
- Pr 11:18 – A wicked person earns deceptive wages but the one who sows righteousness reap a sure reward
- Pr 22:8 – Whoever sows injustice reaps a calamity
- 2 Co 9:6 – Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
- Gal 6:7 - Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

⁷“They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.

A familiar proverb about the result of doing evil. Other such metaphors are found in the sidebar.

The stalk has no head; it will produce no flour. Were it to yield grain, foreigners would swallow it up.

⁸Israel is swallowed up; now she is among the nations like something no one wants.

⁹For they have gone up to Assyria like a wild donkey wandering alone. Ephraim has sold herself to lovers.

¹⁰Although they have sold themselves among the nations, I will now gather them together. They will begin to waste away under the oppression of the mighty king.

¹¹“Though Ephraim built many altars for sin offerings, these have become altars for sinning.

¹²I wrote for them the many things of my law, but they regarded them as something foreign.

¹³Though 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.

¹⁴Israel has forgotten their Maker and built palaces; Judah has fortified many towns. But I will send fire on their cities that will consume their fortresses.”

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