

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 10 Part 2²



This struck me as fascinating yesterday:

. . . even if we had a king, what could he do for us?”

⁴They make many promises, take false oaths and make agreements; therefore lawsuits spring up like poisonous weeds in a plowed field.

It’s interesting to consider that “politics” have been “politics” forever. The northern kingdom did not keep the Davidic king. They were, in effect, on their own. They “chose” their own kings, or a strong individual bullied his way into the office. And the king practiced good old-fashioned weak-kneed politics. Talking a good game, but getting nothing done. Let’s pick up in verse 9.

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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.)

Judges 19 New International Version (NIV)
A Levite and His Concubine

19 In those days Israel had no king.

And that was considered a bad thing.

Now a Levite who lived in a remote area in the hill country of Ephraim took a concubine from Bethlehem in Judah. 2 But she was unfaithful to him. She left him and went back to her parents' home in Bethlehem, Judah. After she had been there four months, 3 her husband went to her to persuade her to return. He had with him his servant and two donkeys. She took him into her parents' home, and when her father saw him, he gladly welcomed him. 4 His father-in-law, the woman's father, prevailed on him to stay; so he remained with him three days, eating and drinking, and sleeping there...unwilling to stay another night, the man left and went toward Jebus (that is, Jerusalem), with his two saddled donkeys and his concubine. . . the sun set as they neared Gibeah in Benjamin. 15 There they stopped to spend the night. They went and sat in the city square, but no one took them in for the night. . . 22 While they were enjoying themselves, some of the wicked men of the city surrounded the house. Pounding on the door, they shouted to the old man who owned the house, "Bring out the man who came to your house so we can have sex with him." . . . the man took his concubine and sent her outside to them, and they raped her and abused her throughout the night, and at dawn they let her go. . . his concubine, fallen in the doorway of the house, with her hands on the threshold. . . 9 When he reached home, he took a knife and cut up his concubine, limb by limb, into twelve parts and sent them into all the areas of Israel.

As a result, the Israelites fought against the Benjamites and destroyed all but 600 of the men.

Hosea 10:9-15 New International Version (NIV)

⁹"Since the days of Gibeah, you have sinned, Israel, and there you have remained.^[Or "there a stand was taken"]

Will not war again overtake
the evildoers in Gibeah?

The crime of Gibeah was a particularly evil crime in the early days of the nation. The tribe of Benjamin (the Benjamites) engaged in particularly corrupt behavior. See the side bar for more details.

¹⁰When I please, I will punish them;
nations will be gathered against them
to put them in bonds for their double sin.

¹¹Ephraim is a trained heifer
that loves to thresh;

so I will put a yoke
on her fair neck.

The NIV study Bible says "up to now Ephraim (referring to all of Israel by this leading tribe) had been as contented as a young cow that ate while threshing grain. But now God would cause Israel (called both Ephraim and Jacob in the next verse) to the heavy work of plowing and harrowing under a yoke---a picture of going in the Assyrian and later Babylonian captivities.

I will drive Ephraim,
Judah must plow,
and Jacob must break up the ground.

¹²Sow righteousness for yourselves,
reap the fruit of unfailing love,
and break up your unplowed ground;
for it is time to seek the LORD,

until he comes

and showers his righteousness on you.

What a beautiful visual. "Sow righteousness." I like that. Do a lot of good, sow good things. "Reap unfailing love." Let me look at the literal transliteration.

(CLV) Ho 10:12

Sow for yourselves ᾽ righteousness; Reap ᾽ the ᾽fruit᾽ of kindness; Till for yourselves the fallow ground. ᾽Then is the time to seek after ᾽Yahweh, Until He shall come and direct righteousness to you.

"Till your fallow ground." I wonder if we all have "fallow ground"—"unplowed" (undeveloped) areas of our lives that must grow and become fruitful for the LORD's purposes. The New Testament seems to imply the need for constant growth. See text box and Scripture below.

CLV

as recently born babes, long for the unadulterated milk of the word that ᾽by it you may be growing into salvation,

1 Peter 2:2 [Full Chapter]
Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation . . .

Ephesians 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. . .

2 Thessalonians 1:3 [Thanksgiving and Prayer] We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.

2:2	ως	αριγεννητα	βρεφη	το	λογικον	αδολον	γαλα	επιποθησατε	ινα	εν
	hOs	artigennEta	brepHE	to	logikon	adolon	gala	epipothEsate	hina	en
	AS	AT_PRESENT-generated	BABES	THE	logical	UN-FRAUDED	MILK	ON-LONG-YE	THAT	IN
	as	recently-born	babes	the	logical	unadulterated	milk	long-for ^(p) !	that	in

αυτω	αυξηθητε	εις	σωτηριαν
autO	auxEthEte	eis	sOtErian
it	YE-MAY-BE-BEING-GROWN	INTO	SAVing
it	you ^(p) -may-be-growing	into	salvation

¹³But you have planted wickedness,
you have reaped evil,
you have eaten the fruit of deception.

If you "plant wickedness" you eat the fruit of deception! The NIV says Israel had been living a lie---and by lies.

Hosea 10:4 New International Version (NIV)

⁴They make many promises,
take false oaths
and make agreements;

Hosea 7:3 New International Version (NIV)

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

Hosea 11:12 New International Version (NIV)

¹²Ephraim has surrounded me with lies,
Israel with deceit

Hosea 12:1 New International Version (NIV)

12 ¹Ephraim feeds on the wind;
he pursues the east wind all day
and multiplies lies and violence.
He makes a treaty with Assyria
and sends olive oil to Egypt.

Because you have depended on your own strength and on your many warriors,¹⁴the roar of battle will rise against your people,
so that all your fortresses will be devastated—
as Shalman devastated Beth Arbel on the day of battle,
when mothers were dashed to the ground with their children.

Apparently atrocities against civilians were common in ancient warfare.

Hosea 9:13	Hosea 13:16	Psalms 137:9
¹³ I have seen Ephraim, like Tyre, planted in a pleasant place. But Ephraim will bring out their children to the slayer.”	¹⁶ The people of Samaria must bear their guilt, because they have rebelled against their God. They will fall by the sword; their little ones will be dashed to the ground,	Happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks.

	their pregnant women ripped open.”	
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¹⁵So will it happen to you, Bethel,
because your wickedness is great.
When that day dawns,
the king of Israel will be completely destroyed.

Footnotes:

- a. **Hosea 10:9** Or *there a stand was taken*

Wow. Sin gets punished---even if it is forgiven!