

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 9²



The same theme continues as we get into Chapter 9. The focus seems to be on Israel’s sin, Ephraim’s in particular. And it’s interesting to read this concept, which seems so like our post-Christian world today (Hosea 9:7):

“Because your sins are so many and your hostility is so great, the prophet si considered a fool, the inspired person a maniac.”

In our world, Christianity is considered by many to be archaic, and to some, just plain lunacy. Granted, Christians sometimes get involved in silly tangents. But Christ is real, and it’s sad that people dismiss it so. Let’s see what God wants to teach me today. 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.)

Punishment for Israel

9 Do not rejoice, Israel;
do not be jubilant like the other nations.

The NIV says this was probably spoken at a harvest festival, such as the festival of Tabernacles.

For you have been unfaithful to your God;
you love the wages of a prostitute
at every threshing floor.

Again, this is not to be taken literally, but in the sense of spiritual adultery.

²Threshing floors and winepresses will not feed the people;
the new wine will fail them.

The NIV says something interesting about the threshing floors. The threshing floor was a man's world---the threshers feasted there at the end of the day's labors and stayed all night to protect the grain. Prostitutes were not uncommon visitors. (See text box, Ruth 3:2-3)

³They will not remain in the LORD's land;
Ephraim will return to Egypt
and eat unclean food in Assyria.

A foreign country was considered "unclean."

Amos 7:17

"you yourself will die in a pagan ("unclean" – foul in a religious sense) country.

Exodus 34:15 New
International Version (NIV)

¹⁵"Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their sacrifices.

Ruth 3:2-3 New
International Version (NIV)

²Now Boaz, with whose women you have worked, is a relative of ours. Tonight he will be winnowing barley on the threshing floor. ³Wash, put on perfume, and get dressed in your best clothes. Then go down to the threshing floor, but don't let him know you are there until he has finished eating and drinking.

⁴They will not pour out wine offerings to the LORD, nor will their sacrifices please him.

As shown in Hosea 2:15, Israel would adulterously pursue lovers---Canaanite deities from whom the worshippers hoped to gain fertility and crops.

Such sacrifices will be to them like the bread of mourners;

all who eat them will be unclean.

The bread eaten in the house of the dead was unclean. In fact, death was considered unclean. I wonder why. Could it be that God hates death that much? I'll look up the Scriptures that the NIV study bible suggests.

Nu 19:14	Dt 26:14	Jer 16:7
<p>¹⁴“This is the law that applies when a person dies in a tent: Anyone who enters the tent and anyone who is in it will be unclean for seven days,</p>	<p>¹⁴I have not eaten any of the sacred portion while I was in mourning, nor have I removed any of it while I was unclean, nor have I offered any of it to the dead. I have obeyed the LORD my God; I have done everything you commanded me.</p>	<p>⁷No one will offer food to comfort those who mourn for the dead—not even for a father or a mother—nor will anyone give them a drink to console them.</p>

Hosea 2:5 New International Version (NIV)

⁵Their mother has been unfaithful and has conceived them in disgrace. She said, ‘I will go after my lovers, who give me my food and my water, my wool and my linen, my olive oil and my drink.’

Genesis 1 New International Version (NIV)

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

Death was “unclean.” From the very beginning it has been. God hates death and conquered it from the get go. When the original

“negation” of created reality reared its ugly head at the outset, God said “No!” Let there be light. That’s it.

This food will be for themselves; it will not come into the temple of the LORD.

⁵What will you do on the day of your appointed festivals, on the feast days of the LORD? ⁶Even if they escape from destruction, Egypt will gather them, and Memphis will bury them.

Their treasures of silver will be taken over by briars, and thorns will overrun their tents.

⁷The days of punishment are coming, the days of reckoning are at hand.

Let Israel know this. Because your sins are so many and your hostility so great, the prophet is considered a fool, the inspired person a maniac.

⁸The prophet, along with my God, is the watchman over Ephraim, yet snares await him on all his paths, and hostility in the house of his God.

Israel showed great hostility to God’s true prophets.

Jeremiah 1:19	11:19	15:10	Amos 7:10-13
¹⁹ They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD.	¹⁹ I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying, “Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more.”	¹⁰ Alas, my mother, that you gave me birth, a man with whom the whole land strives and contends! I have neither lent nor borrowed, yet everyone curses me.	¹⁰ Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent a message to Jeroboam king of Israel: “Amos is raising a conspiracy against you in the very heart of Israel. The land cannot bear all his words. ¹¹ For this is what Amos is saying: ““Jeroboam will die by the sword, and Israel will surely go into exile, away from their native land.”” ¹² Then Amaziah said to Amos, “Get out, you seer! Go back to the land of Judah. Earn your bread

			there and do your prophesying there. ¹³ Don't prophesy anymore at Bethel, because this is the king's sanctuary and the temple of the kingdom."
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⁹They have sunk deep into corruption, as in the days of Gibeah. God will remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins.

¹⁰"When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the desert; when I saw your ancestors, it was like seeing the early fruit on the fig tree. But when they came to Baal Peor, they consecrated themselves to that shameful idol and became as vile as the thing they loved.

That seems to be a principle that repeats itself. You become what you worship!

¹¹Ephraim's glory will fly away like a bird— no birth, no pregnancy, no conception.

¹²Even if they rear children, I will bereave them of every one. Woe to them when I turn away from them!

¹³I have seen Ephraim, like Tyre, planted in a pleasant place. But Ephraim will bring out their children to the slayer."

¹⁴Give them, LORD— what will you give them? Give them wombs that miscarry and breasts that are dry.

¹⁵"Because of all their wickedness in Gilgal, I hated them there.

Wow. That's powerful. I won't try to qualify it. It says what it says.

Because of their sinful deeds, I will drive them out of my house.

I will no longer love them; all their leaders are rebellious.

¹⁶Ephraim is blighted, their root is withered, they yield no fruit.

Even if they bear children, I will slay their cherished offspring."

¹⁷My God will reject them because they have not obeyed him; they will be wanderers among the nations.

a. **Hosea 9:8** Or *The prophet is the watchman over Ephraim, / the people of my God*

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