

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 11 Part 1²



So there is a fascinating thing that happens in this chapter. It totally undoes what well-meaning but plainly wrong bible students think. You’re often told you have to understand the context what the Scripture truly “means.” And don’t get me wrong, that’s true when trying to discern what the Scripture meant (or how it might have been understood) by the original writers and hearers. But the New Testament lets us in on a fascinating understanding. In spite of what the words meant to the original hearers, and even in spite of their cultural context, God had a bigger meaning in mind than just understanding historical context can reveal. Let’s learn how that plays out in Hosea 11.

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God's Love for Israel

11 "When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.

Let's look at the introductory premise I just made right off the bat. Hosea is appealing to Israel through its history (this is the third time he's done so in this book. He traces God's choice of Israel back to Egypt, the exodus from that country. Here are the other Scriptures he does this through.

Hosea 12:9	Hosea 13:4
⁹ "I have been the LORD your God ever since you came out of Egypt; I will make you live in tents again, as in the days of your appointed festivals.	⁴ "But I have been the LORD your God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me.

But here is the point I want to make---while this is definitely talking about things about Israel's history that the people hearing the prophet could relate too then, including:

- **Israel is referred to as God's "son/child" here and elsewhere:**

Exodus 4:22-23	Isaiah 1:2, 4
²² Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, ²³ and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me." But you refused to let him go; so I will kill your firstborn son.'"	² Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the LORD has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. ⁴ Woe to the sinful nation, a people whose guilt is great, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption!

	They have forsaken the LORD; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him.
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• **God is seen in Scripture as Israel’s “Father.”**

Deuteronomy 32:6	Isaiah 63:16	Isaiah 64:8
<p>⁶Is this the way you repay the LORD, you foolish and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator,^[a] who made you and formed you?</p> <p><i>Footnotes:</i></p> <p>a. Deuteronomy 32:6 Or <i>Father, who bought you</i></p>	<p>¹⁶But you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us or Israel acknowledge us; you, LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.</p>	<p>Yet you, LORD, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.</p>

So as you read this, you definitely understand this very legitimate understanding of this Scripture---that Israel’s response to the LORD was being illustrated by Israel acting as a “wayward” son, rather than an unfaithful wife as she was earlier in Hosea.

But now, let’s look at what else God intended by this verse, that no one saw, until it was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Remember when the Magi went to see the child Jesus, and Herod became ballistic?

Matthew 2 New International Version
(NIV)

The Magi Visit the Messiah

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi^[a] from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. . .⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." . .

¹¹On coming to the house, . . .they bowed down and worshiped him. . .¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

It's a cool story. I'll include it in the side bar.

But as you know, God warned Joseph in a dream to go into the land of Egypt. And when Herod died and it was ok to return to the land of Israel, they left Egypt. And Matthew simply concludes this about this phrase in Hosea.

Matthew 1

¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Here is something important to understand. While we can understand what Scriptures meant to the original writers and hearers by studying concept, we might miss what God meant the Scripture to mean through the lens He's given us to interpret Scripture----the life of Jesus!

This Scripture was a prophecy about Jesus. And you can understand it's original context until you were blue in the phase, and miss that point if you think you can only understand Scripture by understanding context.

The Scriptures are ultimately about Jesus!

John 5

³⁹You study^[c] the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

When Christ opened their mind to understand Scripture, he opened their minds to understand how they spoke about Jesus.

Luke 23

²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

⁴⁵Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

More than grasping the original context, we need to grasp this---it's all about Jesus! He is wisdom, our knowledge, our sanctification, and our treasure. Paul said this:

Colossians 2:2-4 New International Version (NIV)

²My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.

That's my goal too!