

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 2²



So we saw yesterday what words that meant one thing had a much bigger meaning than just understanding historical context can reveal. The Bible’s primary message is about what God has done for us and is still doing for us in Jesus. Hebrews 1 attests to this:

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being . . .

So what else happens in this chapter? We’ll see.

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Hosea 11 New International Version (NIV)

God's Love for Israel

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

²But the more they were called,
the more they went away from me.^[a]

They sacrificed to the Baals
and they burned incense to images.

What was it about the "real" God that was consistently so unappealing to humanity? Nothing! But I think it's interesting that much of the Old Testament is about a God people kept trying to get away from consistently! If nothing else, perhaps that shows this wasn't just some "made up" God! Why would people "make up" a God they spent so much time trying to get away from?

³It was I who taught Ephraim to walk,
taking them by the arms;
but they did not realize
it was I who healed them.

⁴I led them with cords of human kindness,
with ties of love.

To them I was like one who lifts
a little child to the cheek,
and I bent down to feed them.

That's a beautiful phrase---"cords of human kindness." "Ties of Love." Let me check out the original.

(CLV) Ho 11:4

¹With the cord lines of a human am I drawing them, ⁴With the ropes of love. And I am becoming to them as those raising up the yoke ^{on} from their cheeks. And I am stretching out to him, ⁽⁵⁾ And I am feeding

**God loved them so tenderly. Like a father loves a little toddler.
Children don't always grow up and reciprocate that love!**

⁵“Will they not return to Egypt
and will not Assyria rule over them
because they refuse to repent?

When you refuse to repent---when you are in a stubborn attitude of resistance toward God’s lead, you end back up in “slavery” and “captivity.” The New Testament speaks of “slavery” to sin.

Romans 6:20

When you were **slaves** to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.

⁶A sword will flash in their cities;
it will devour their false prophets
and put an end to their plans.

The more literal translation says a “sword will whirl.”

⁷My people are determined to turn from me.
Even though they call me God Most High,
I will by no means exalt them.

You can still call God “God Most High” and not exalt Him or obey!

Luke 6:46

[*The Wise and Foolish Builders*] “Why do you call me, ‘**Lord, Lord,**’ and do not do what I say?”

Look at His tender love toward His “toddler” that He taught how to walk grown up!

⁸“How can I give you up, Ephraim?
How can I hand you over, Israel?
How can I treat you like Admah?
How can I make you like Zeboyim?”

Here’s the original:

(CLV) Ho 11:7

⁺ My people are hung^l up [’]on backsliding from Me; ⁺Though they are proclaiming Him [’]as the Supreme, Not one is exalting Him.

I like that it uses the phrase hung up like we do!

Deuteronomy 29:23 New International Version (NIV)

²³The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfur—nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, which the LORD overthrew in fierce anger.

These cities were overthrown when Sodom was destroyed. They symbolized total destruction.

The point was---I can't! I may discipline you, but I can't destroy you!

My heart is changed within me;
all my compassion is aroused.
⁹I will not carry out my fierce anger,
nor will I devastate Ephraim again.
For I am God, and not a man—
the Holy One among you.
I will not come against their cities.

In the Old Testament, a stubborn son was subject to stoning.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 New International Version (NIV)

A Rebellious Son

¹⁸If someone has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, ¹⁹his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. ²⁰They shall say to the elders, "This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a glutton and a drunkard." ²¹Then all the men of his town are to stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.

God just couldn't do it! He will not be untrue to the love he has shown toward Israel.

1 Samuel 15:29	Malachi 3:6
²⁹ He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a human being, that he should change his mind."	⁶ "I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

¹⁰They will follow the LORD;
he will roar like a lion.
When he roars,
his children will come trembling from the west.

¹¹They will come from Egypt,
trembling like sparrows,
from Assyria, fluttering like doves.
I will settle them in their homes,"
declares the LORD.

The apostle Paul says "all Israel will be saved." Romans 11:26 The

Israel's Sin

¹²Ephraim has surrounded me with lies,
Israel with deceit.
And Judah is unruly against God,
even against the faithful Holy One.^[b]

[\(CLV\) Ho 11:12](#)

Ephraim surrounds Me ⁱwith
dissimulation, And the house of Israel
ⁱwith deceit. ⁺Yet Judah, he ^{fr}still goes on
with El. And remains faithful^l with the
holy places.

**The CSB says Judah still wanders with God. I like that! Journeying
with God! Wandering with God! Cool!**

Footnotes:

- a. **Hosea 11:2** Septuagint; Hebrew *them*
- b. **Hosea 11:12** In Hebrew texts this verse (11:12) is numbered 12:1.