

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 12 Part 1²



So . . .heading toward the beautiful mountains of North Carolina. Our cabin backs up onto Mount Mitchell. What a wonderful place to rest, relax, and think big thoughts! From a higher point of view! How exciting life is when you live it with God.

I’ll be using the CLV version of the Scripture today to study this chapter. It’s often a more literal translation, and I look forward to deeply engaging with this chapter. As I recall, it’s going to teach us things about God’s view of Jacob’s life--and wonderful life that prefigures our own personal lives, struggles, and ultimate victories, as we wrestle with God, men and truth. Let’s dig in!

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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.)

CLV Ho 12:1 - Ho 12:14

1 Ephraim is grazing on wind And is pursuing the east wind.

Probably meaning her penchant for Assyria and the nations to the east.

The entire day he is increasing lying and
hypocrisy, And they are contracting a covenant with Assyria, And oil is being fetched to Egypt.

Hmmm. I was right. I remember the days I used to "project" Britain into the scripture to "be" Ephraim. It was based on a compelling, but false. But I saw Assyria as "Germany" and somehow figured the Suez Canal to be particularly important to ferrying oil for Britain during the 60's and 70's. There is an amazing truth in that story, by the way---we tend to project things into the Scripture for whatever reason, rather than simply letting it mean what it means. Let's go with this being simply about ancient Ephraim looking longingly at alliances with the nations for its own salvation.

2 +Yet Yahweh has a contention with Judah, And will call on Jacob to account according to his ways, And according to his actions He shall recompense him.

So this next account is interesting, because it explains how the prophets saw the ancient story of Jacob, which apparently included actions that needed to be "recompensed" by God.

By the way, notice that fact---God "recompenses" our action. That's perhaps why the New Testament writers were so filled with understandings about there being a Judgment where we will receive for what we've done, both Good and Bad. And it's from Christ, no less! Notice this verse:

The NIV reads this way:

Hosea 12 New International Version (NIV)

12 Ephraim 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.

The NIV reads this way:

²The LORD has a charge to bring against Judah;

he will punish Jacob according to his ways

and repay him according to his deeds.

(CLV) 2Co 5:10 For *all of us | must be manifested in front of the dais of *Christ, that each should be | required ~^{td} for *that which he puts into practice through the body, whether good or bad.

Christ has suffered horribly for us. We're going to see that up close and personal, when He show us personally the scars our sins have borne---but also rewards us for the good He's enabled us to be and do.

Let's look at what Jacob will be required for.

3 In the belly he took »his brother by the heel, +Yet in his virility he was upright »with Elohim.

How cool. I didn't understand what "in his virility he was upright with Elohim" meant. The CSB Bible says "as an adult he wrestled with God."

But let's press that phrase a bit: "in his virility he was upright with Elohim." What is that all about?

Virility means:

H202 'own one

probably from the same as **H205** (in the sense of effort, but successful);

ability, power, (figuratively) wealth.

He was "upright" with God means:

H8280 sarah saw-raw'

a primitive root;

to prevail.

He prevailed with God. In His virility he was "upright" with God. He prevailed with God. That's really cool.

Here's what I see in all that. As kind of a more timid soul (the Bible says Jacob was a "plain" man dwelling in the tents, while his brother basically was a testosterone laden hairy fighter and hunter), Jacob

from birth tended to get what he wanted by conniving. But God wasn't going to settle for that. God was going to man him up. He was going to teach him his virility, and to enable him to "wrestle" with God, and men---and prevail. Look at this story below.

Look at this contrast between the two men.

Genesis 25:27	(CLV) Gn 25:27
The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents.	<p>⁺As the lads ^lgrew up, ⁺ Esau ^lbecame a man knowing how to hunt, a man of the open field; ⁺yet Jacob was an unsullied man, dwelling in tents.</p> <p>Meaning of "unsullied:" H8535 tam tawm complete; usually (morally) pious; specifically, gentle, dear.</p>
Genesis 27:11 (NIV)	(CLV) Gn 27:11
"Jacob said to Rebekah his mother, "But my brother Esau is a hairy man while I have smooth skin.	"I am a "slick" man Esau - "shaggy"

What I get out of this is that Jacob was not as testosterone laden as Esau. He connived to get his way. But God wanted him to be upright---like a man.

CLV Gn 32:24 - Gn 32:28

24 ⁺When Jacob was ^lleft alone by himself, ⁺ a Man ^lwrestled with him until the dawn ascended[̄].

25 ⁺Then He ^lsaw that He did not ^{all}prevail [̄]against him. ⁺ He ^ltouchⁱed the palm of his thighbone; and the palm of Jacob's thighbone was ^lstrained in his wrestling[̄] with Him.

26 ⁺Then He ^lsaid: ^mLet Me go, for the dawn has ascended. ⁺Yet he ^lsaid: I shall not ^mlet You go ^{t if}unless You first bless me.

27 ⁺Yet He ^lsaid to him: What is your name? And he ^lsa^areplied: Jacob.

28 And He ^lsaid ⁷to him⁰: No^{t fr}longer shall your name be ^{sa}called Jacob, but rather Israel; for upright are you with Elohim and with men, and you are ^{all}prevailing

Look at what God wanted Him---and us---to be. "Upright." A force to be reckoned with.

To be "abundant" the word means. Look at how this phrase reckons it.

4 And he is setting to work ^γwith the Messenger, and is *all* prevailing; He laments and is supplicating to Him. ⁷In⁰ Bethel He is finding him, And there He is speaking with ⁷him^{~c}.

He is "enabled" is what the word means. He is prevailing. Wow. Let's continue to the next "Event" in Jacob's life.

See the text box for the NIV version of this. The chapter in Genesis doesn't talk about him weeping, but that must be part of the story. So when He is telling God "I will not let you go unless you bless me," he must be crying!

⁴He struggled with the angel and overcame him; he wept and begged for his favor. He found him at Bethel and talked with him there—

And I like the way this story is seen as ending. There, Jacob "speaks" with Yahweh. Or rather, Yahweh is speaking with Him.

5 ⁺ Yahweh is the Elohim of hosts; Yahweh is His ^rName.

6 And you, ⁱto your Elohim shall you return; Keep kindness and right judgment, And be expectant toward your Elohim continually.

Hosea 12:5-6

Hosea 12:5-6 New International Version (NIV)

⁵the LORD God Almighty,
the LORD is his name!

⁶But you must return to your God;
maintain love and justice,
and wait for your God always.

So it's God you wait for! And God whom you find your victory!

So now look at the contrast---how Ephraim, like Jacob, is being "deceitful" conniving. And seeking his "standing" (virility) from something other than God!

7 A trafficker—in his hand are scales of deceit; He loves to exploit:
8 ⁺Hence Ephraim is saying, Yea, I am rich; I find virility for myself; In all my labor, They shall not find [^]with me depravity which is sin.

Ephraim had become self focused and was finding “virility” for himself, instead of finding it with God. God implores him”

9 ⁺Yet I, Yahweh, am your Elohim; ⁷I ^cbrought you up⁰ from the land of Egypt. ^{fr}Again I shall cause you to dwell in tents, As in the days of the appointed assembly;
10 ⁺ I spoke ^{on}by the prophets, And I[/] increased the vision, And ⁱby the hand of the prophets I ^mused ^llikenesses.

The NIV words it this way: I spoke to the prophets and gave them many visions and told parables through them.

That’s what “I used likenesses” must mean. Here’s the word for likenesses:

H1819 damah daw-maw'

a primitive root;

to compare; by implication, to resemble, liken, consider.

It’s like the word “parables,” which in Greek sort of means “thrown alongside” (a comparative concept cast alongside the reality to illustrate it further).

11 If Gilead was lawless, Yea, they have become futility. In Gilgal they sacrifice bulls; Moreover, their altars are like mounds on the furrows of a field.

12 ⁺ Jacob fled ^laway to the field of Syria, And Israel ^lserved ⁱfor a wife, And ⁱfor a wife he kept cattle.

13 ⁺Yet ⁱby a prophet Yahweh ^cbrought up [»]Israel from Egypt, And ⁱby a prophet was he kept guarded.

14 Ephraim ^cprovoked Him most bitterly to vexation, And He shall leave his bloodguilt on him, And his reproach his Lord shall recompense to him.

Not sure exactly what that means. I'll switch to the NIV version tomorrow and press it.