

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 13 Part 2 ²



We left off yesterday with this concept: “I will be like a lion to them, like a leopard I will lurk by the path.⁸ Like a bear robbed of her cubs, I will attack them and rip them open; like a lion I will devour them—a wild animal will tear them apart.” You wonder sometimes what God is up to in these harsh and tough statements. Does He really feel that way about His people? Or is something else going on here? My friend Jeff thinks these types of verses are speaking more to our false selves, and their utter destruction. I wonder if this Scripture stands up to the test. Let’s explore and see. Enjoy!

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Hosea 13 New International Version (NIV)

So here's where we left off.

⁷So I will be like a lion to them,
like a leopard I will lurk by the path.

⁸Like a bear robbed of her cubs,
I will attack them and rip them open;
like a lion I will devour them—
a wild animal will tear them apart.

So here's a thought. We have a "good version" of ourselves that is created perfectly "in" Christ and has always been worshipping God "in" Him and living out righteous ways of being.

But we also have a parasitic "false self" too---100% wicked, 100% evil. Perhaps it is that "false" self, fodder for the devil, that will be destroyed!

1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the **devil** prowls around like a roaring **lion** looking for someone to devour.

Either way, it's interesting to read this and realize how badly God wants a relationship with us. Let's continue.

⁹"You are destroyed, Israel,
because you are against me, against your helper.

Wow. What is it about us that is against our "Helper," God? Where did we get that hateful, independent attitude against God? Obviously from Satan in the Garden. I still think it is amazing that God pleads with us to "choose" Him. God has given us the capacity to choose. My friend Jeff (who is a channel in my life for Barth's teaching) often reacts strongly to using the word "freedom" in association with "choice." True freedom, he says, is not the capacity for doing evil and choosing against God. We are not "free" from God. But we can choose to not include God in our lives or consciousness. We become "alienated in our minds" when we do.

Colossians
1:21 New
International Version
(NIV)

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of^[a] your evil behavior.

Footnotes:

- a. **Colossians 1:21** Or *minds, as shown by*

¹⁰Where is your king, that he may save you?

Where are your rulers in all your towns,
of whom you said,

'Give me a king and princes'?

In the days of Samuel the Judge, the Israelites asked for a king. It was not God's first ruler ship choice for them.

1 Kings

12:20 New

International
Version (NIV)

²⁰When all the Israelites heard that Jeroboam had returned, they sent and called him to the assembly and made him king over all Israel. Only the tribe of Judah remained loyal to the house of David.

¹¹So in my anger I gave you a king,
and in my wrath I took him away.

In this particular instance, the NIV feels that this is speaking more to the northern kingdom, which broke away from the Davidic dynasty in Jersusalem, choosing their own rival king. Israel, as the northern kingdom came to be known, selected Jeroboam 1 in preference to the Davidic kings.

What's also interesting is that God says "in my anger" I gave a king, and "in my wrath" I took him away.

I want to see if there is a difference between the Lord's "anger" and His "wrath."

Anger	Wrath
H639 'aph af properly, the nose or nostril; hence, the face, and occasionally a person; also (from the rapid breathing in passion) ire.	H5678 `ebrah eb-raw' an outburst of passion

1 Samuel 8:5-10 New
International Version (NIV)

⁵They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead^[a] us, such as all the other nations have."

⁶But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. ⁷And the LORD told him:

"Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. ⁸As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you.

I guess there is. One is an "attitude" and the other is an "act" that comes out of that "state of being."

¹²The guilt of Ephraim is stored up,
his sins are kept on record.

¹³Pains as of a woman in childbirth come to him, but he is a child without wisdom;
when the time arrives, he doesn't have the sense to come out of the womb.

The NIV says their helpless situation was comparable to that of a woman in childbirth who cannot deliver the child.

Here are the reference Scriptures it shares.

Isa 13:8	Isa 21:3	Jer 13:21	Mic 4:9-10	Matt 24:7-8	2 Kings 19:3
⁸ Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; they will writhe like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at each other, their faces aflame.	At this my body is racked with pain, pangs seize me, like those of a woman in labor; I am staggered by what I hear, I am bewildered by what I see.	What will you say when the LORD sets over you those you cultivated as your special allies? Will not pain grip you like that of a woman in labor?	⁹ Why do you now cry aloud— have you no king? Has your ruler perished, that pain seizes you like that of a woman in labor? ¹⁰ Writhe in agony, Daughter Zion, like a woman in labor, for now you must leave the city	⁷ Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. ⁸ All these are the beginning of birth pains.	³ They told him, "This is what Hezekiah says: This day is a day of distress and rebuke and disgrace, as when children come to the moment of birth and there is no

			<p>to camp in the open field. You will go to Babylon; there you will be rescued. There the LORD will I redeem you out of the hand of your enemies.</p>		<p>strength to deliver them.</p>
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Birth is a potent analogy in the Scripture. I've often wondered why God uses "birth pangs" to describe "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. " in Matthew 24.

And then He uses the analogy of birth in this Scripture in Romans 8.

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²²We know that **the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.** ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

Notice how creation is writhing in childbirth until it is liberated from its bondage to decay. Now notice how this verse is included.

¹⁴"I will deliver this people from the power of the grave;

I will redeem them from death.

Where, O death, are your plagues?

Where, O grave, is your destruction?

We'll pick up here tomorrow. A reference to birth associated with the baby being "delivered" (deliverance?) is from the destruction of the grave! This analogy is "pregnant" with potential!