

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER<sup>1</sup> 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)**

<sup>27</sup>To 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

**graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER**

**Hosea 13 Part 3<sup>2</sup>**



So how the Scripture the apostle Paul quoted in 1 Corinthians 15 shows up in this verse. Paul seems to simply lift it as a stand alone concept, and interject it into his discussion about the resurrection.

It’s interesting to me how this Scripture is “book ended” on either side. Right before it, He says that his people don’t have the sense to come out of the womb. But He adds, “I will deliver this people from the power of the grave, I will redeem them from death.” I spoke of “deliver” in the sense of a baby being “delivered.” Let’s see if that way of looking at it holds up under further scrutiny. Enjoy!

<sup>1</sup> NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.

<sup>2</sup> 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.)

Hosea 13 New International Version (NIV)

**So here's where we left off.**

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

<sup>13</sup>Pains 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.

**Again, birth is a potent analogy in the Scripture. Christ calls the tribulations of the world "birth pangs" in Matthew 24. And Paul uses the analogy of birth in this Scripture in Romans 8.**

. . .creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. . .<sup>22</sup> . . .**the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.**

**Creation is writhing in childbirth, it's sufferings are like labor pangs, and it will be liberated and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.**

**So even though Ephraim "is a child without wisdom; when the time arrives he doesn't have the sense to come out of the womb" God himself says:**

<sup>14</sup>"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?"

**This Scripture is followed by Scriptures that include more castigation of Ephraim. But God bursts into an emotion of love and compassion here, and declares even though they don't have the sense to come out of the womb at the right time, "I will deliver this people from the**

**power of the grave . . .from death.” God can’t help himself. God loves His child no matter what!**

**Paul applies this to the resurrection.**

1 Corinthians 15:55 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>55</sup>“Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?”

**There’s a lot to figure out here. Let’s take a look at descriptions of the grave here (Hebrew, Sheol).**

<b>Job 3:13-19</b>	<b>Isa 14:9-10</b>	<b>Gen 37:35</b>
<p><sup>13</sup>For now I would be lying down in peace, I would be <b>asleep</b> and <b>at rest</b></p> <p><sup>14</sup>with kings and rulers of the earth, who built for themselves places now lying in ruins,</p> <p><sup>15</sup>with princes who had gold, who filled their houses with silver.</p> <p><sup>16</sup>Or why was I not hidden away in the ground like a stillborn child, like an infant who never saw the light of day?</p> <p><sup>17</sup>There <b>the wicked cease from turmoil</b>, and there <b>the weary are at rest</b>.</p> <p><sup>18</sup><b>Captives</b> also <b>enjoy their ease</b>; they no longer hear the slave driver’s shout.</p> <p><sup>19</sup>The small and the great are there, and the <b>slaves are freed from their owners</b>.</p>	<p><sup>9</sup>The realm of the dead below is all astir to meet you at your coming; it rouses the spirits of the departed to greet you— all those who were leaders in the world; it makes them rise from their thrones— all those who were kings over the nations.</p> <p><sup>10</sup>They will all respond, they will say to you, <b>“You also have become weak, as we are; you have become like us.”</b></p>	<p><sup>35</sup>All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. “No,” he said, “I will continue to mourn until I join my son in the grave.” So his father wept for him.</p>

**But what's of greater interest to me is that even though Ephraim can't deliver himself, God would "deliver" him from the grave, from death!**

**I wonder if this plays into this Scripture:**

### **Romans 11**

<sup>25</sup>I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, <sup>26</sup>and in this way<sup>[e]</sup> all Israel will be saved. . .

**All Israel will be saved. I wonder if that's God's way of saying all will be saved! Let's read the end of 1 Corinthians 15 for comfort and strength.**

### **1 Corinthians 15**

. . .the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. . . <sup>54</sup>When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

<sup>55</sup>"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"<sup>1</sup>

<sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup>Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, **stand firm**. Let nothing move you. **Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. Let's finish the rest of the chapter.**

"I will have no compassion,

**I didn't quite understand this phrase about compassion. But here's the CLV that is closer to the original and it has a different nuance.**

(CLV) Ho 13:14

(From the grip of the unseen I shall ransom them; From death I shall redeem them. Where are your plagues, Death? Where is your sting, Unseen?) Regret, it shall be concealed from My eyes

**It simply says "regret, it shall be concealed from my eye."**

<sup>15</sup> even though he thrives among his brothers.

**In Hebrew the word for "thrives" is more like "being fruitful," and it's a play on the name Ephraim because the word used for "fruitful" or "thrive" is a word (iphrai) very similar to Ephraim's name, which means "fruitful."**

An east wind from the LORD will come,  
blowing in from the desert;  
his spring will fail  
and his well dry up.  
His storehouse will be plundered  
of all its treasures.

<sup>16</sup>The people of Samaria must bear their guilt,  
because they have rebelled against their God.

**The NIV here focuses on the word "rebelled" here citing these two Scriptures.**

Psalm 5:10	Isaiah 1:2
<sup>0</sup> Declare them guilty, O God! Let their intrigues be their downfall. Banish them for their many sins, for they have rebelled against you.	<sup>2</sup> Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the LORD has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me.

**Let me look up the word "rebelled."**

**H4784** marah maw-raw'

a primitive root;

to be (causatively, make) bitter (or unpleasant); (figuratively) to rebel (or resist; causatively, to provoke).

They will fall by the sword;

their little ones will be dashed to the ground,  
their pregnant women ripped open.”

**War was savage and cruel in that time. Their sin led to horrible consequences. But here’s an interesting thought. Just as the bible was “pregnant” with metaphors about “pregnancies,” there is another reference to birth and deliverance we have not discussed.**

**It’s in James.**

James 1:13-18 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>13</sup>When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; <sup>14</sup>but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

**My friend Jeff says we have our true “green” selves and our false selves, pregnant with sin and deceit which will be destroyed. So maybe God is talking about the destruction of His enemies and ours--our false and parasitic selves, done away forever.**

<sup>16</sup>Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup>Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. <sup>18</sup>He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

**Yet our father gives us true birth, through His Word, His Son! So maybe the binaries in the Scripture are more about our “false selves” being the bad guys God does destroy---but our true selves the good guy God saves!**

*Footnotes:*

- a. **Hosea 13:2** Or “Men who sacrifice / kiss
- b. **Hosea 13:16** In Hebrew texts this verse (13:16) is numbered 14:1.

