

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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Joel – Introduction Part 1²

Have you heard the cicadas yet? Maybe it’s just in this part of the country. I’ve heard them in some established wooded regions. In my neighborhood they’re quiet, and I’m thankful for that. I guess that’s an advantage of being in a new development. Joel starts out with an insect invasion---one of locusts. It really happened in the Near East, quite a bit! God used them as a call to repentance. Today we’ll look at some background to the book of Joel, courtesy of the NIV Study Bible. Enjoy!



Figure 1Photo 185180280 © Palex66 | Dreamstime.com

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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.)

Introduction (primarily abstracted from the NIV Study Bible referenced in foot note on the front page of this study.)

Author

The prophet Joes cannot be identified with any of the other 12 figures in the Old Testament who have that name.

Note: Wikipedia says his name has been translated "one to whom YHWH is God," that is, a worshiper of YHWH."³ Back to NIV: He is not mentioned outside of the book of Acts.

Acts 2:16-21 (NIV)	Joel 2:28-32 (NIV)
<p>¹⁶No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:¹⁷"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.¹⁹I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.</p> <p>²¹And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'</p>	<p><small>I will try to match phrases in each in matching colors. Differences noted by bold.</small> ²⁸"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.</p> <p>Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.<small>(phrases inverted)</small> ²⁹Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.</p> <p>³⁰I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke.³¹The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.</p> <p>³²And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved</p>

³ Joel (prophet) - Wikipedia

The original prophecy in Joel adds this phrase, which is not included in the Acts version:

“for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there will be deliverance,
as the LORD has said,
even among the survivors
whom the LORD calls.”

Hmm. That’s interesting. God calls survivors. That’s a phrase pregnant with possibilities.

Back to NIV: There are nonbiblical legends about Joel, but they are not convincing. His father was a man named “Pethuel” and he is also unknown.

Joel 1:1 New International Version (NIV)

1 The word of the LORD that came to Joel son of Pethuel.

This name means “enlarged of God.” That’s interesting to me that so many biblical names have “God” in them in some way.

Date

The NIV says the book contains no references to datable historical events. Some place it between the late seventh and early fifth centuries BC. They say the language has “striking linguistic parallels to the language of Amos, Micah, Zephaniah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel.”

They give these reasons:

- the prophets borrowed phrases from one another
- they drew more or less from the same literary traditions their readers shared in common.

These literary traditions could have been “liturgical”⁴ or “otherwise” meaning basically they don’t know.

Theological Message

Joel sees the massive locust plague and severe drought devastating Judah as a harbinger of “great and terrible day of the LORD.

Joel 2:31 New International Version (NIV)

³¹The sun will be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood
before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

I looked up the reference to the Day of the LORD, and this is what it says:

First it references these Scriptures:

Isa 2:11	Isa 2:17	Isa 2:20	Isa 10:20	Isa 10:27	Am 5:18
¹¹ The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled and human pride brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.	¹⁷ The arrogance of man will be brought low and human pride humbled; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day,	²⁰ In that day people will throw away to the moles and bats their idols of silver and idols of gold, which they made to worship.	²⁰ In that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of Jacob, will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.	²⁷ In that day their burden will be lifted from your shoulders, their yoke from your neck; the yoke will be broken because you have grown so fat.	¹⁸ Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD ! Why do you long for the day of the LORD ? That day will be darkness, not light.

⁴ Liturgical - relating to (a particular set of) the words, music, and actions used in ceremonies in some religions

The phrase occurs five times in the book of Joel and is its dominant theme. Here are the four others ones.

Joel 2:1	Joel 2:11	Joel 2:31	Joel 3:14
Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand—	The LORD thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty is the army that obeys his command. The day of the LORD is great; it is dreadful. Who can endure it?	The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.	¹⁴ Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

Apparently six other prophets use it. I'm going to park here for now.