

**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*

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**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**

## Joel – Introduction Part 3<sup>2</sup>



Yesterday, I made some observations about the “Day of the Lord.” It was associated with destruction from the Almighty, wrath and fierce anger, making the land desolate, the destruction of sinners, a time of gloom. It was interesting that in reference to it, Scripture said : “As you have done, it will be done to you---your deeds will return upon your own head.” I want to pick up again on the concept of the Day of the Lord in the New Testament, and move forward on this introduction to the Book of Joel. 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.)

**Since the Day of the Lord “can also refer to Christs coming to consummate history,” I want to study that more completely.**

### **1 Corinthians 5:5 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup>hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh,<sup>[a][b]</sup> so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

**The Day of the Lord is obviously connected with Christ’s judgment of all, and the salvation of the “spirit” is so important it even warrants “the destruction of the flesh” in this realm. The NIV study note on this verse says this refers to the “appearing” (Greek, “uncovering”) of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

#### **Footnotes:**

- a. **1 Corinthians 5:5** In contexts like this, the Greek word for *flesh* (*sarx*) refers to the sinful state of human beings, often presented as a power in opposition to the Spirit.
- b. **1 Corinthians 5:5** Or *of his body*

### **2 Corinthians 1:14 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>14</sup>as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.

**The apostle’s reward and boast will be the Corinthians he’s brought to Christ in the Day of the Lord Jesus.**

### **1 Thessalonians 5:2 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>2</sup>for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

### **2 Peter 3:10 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.<sup>[a]</sup>

#### **Footnotes:**

- a. **2 Peter 3:10** Some manuscripts *be burned up*

**I found this interesting because it linked to the concept of the “Day of the Lord” making the land desolate. At any rate, Joel saw the massive locust plague and severe drought devastating Judah as a harbinger of the “great and dreadful day of the LORD.”**

Joel 2:31 New International Version (NIV)

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

**But it’s interesting to me that Acts 2 quotes this to speak of the Holy Spirit falling on all flesh in the “last days.”**

**Locusts figure predominantly in this book.**

Joel 1:4	Joel 2:25
<p><sup>4</sup>What the locust swarm has left the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left the young locusts have eaten; what the young locusts have left other locusts<sup>[a]</sup> have eaten.</p> <p><small>(CLV) JI 1:4</small></p> <p>The leavings of the larva, the locust eats, And the leavings of the locust, the young-locust eats, And the leavings of the young-locust, the beetle eats.</p>	<p><sup>25</sup>“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten— the great locust and the young locust, the other locusts and the locust swarm<sup>[a]</sup>— my great army that I sent among you.</p> <p><b>Footnotes:</b></p> <p><b>a.</b> <b>Joel 2:25</b> The precise meaning of the four Hebrew words used here for locusts is uncertain.</p> <p><small>(CLV) JI 2:25</small></p> <p><sup>+</sup> I will repay to you <sup>”</sup>for the years which the locust devoured, The young-locust and the beetle and the larva, My <sup>°</sup>great army which I sent <sup>i</sup>among you.</p>

**The NIV study Bible says these are best understood as real insects, and not metaphorical or allegorical representations of the Babylonians, Medo-Persians, Greeks and Romans as held by some interpreters.**

**Continuing, “confronted with this crisis, he calls on everyone to repent Joel 1:**

- **Old and young**

<sup>2</sup>Hear this, you **elders**;

listen, all who live in the land.

Has anything like this ever happened in your days

or in the days of your ancestors?

<sup>3</sup>Tell it to your **children**,

and let your children tell it to their children,

and their children to the next generation.

- **Drunkards**

<sup>5</sup>Wake up, you drunkards, and weep!

Wail, all you drinkers of wine;

wail because of the new wine,

for it has been snatched from your lips.

- **Farmers**

<sup>11</sup>Despair, you farmers,

wail, you vine growers;

grieve for the wheat and the barley,

because the harvest of the field is destroyed.

- **Priests**

Put on sackcloth, you priests, and mourn;

wail, you who minister before the altar.

Come, spend the night in sackcloth,

you who minister before my God;

for the grain offerings and drink offerings

are withheld from the house of your God.

**The locusts are visualized as an army and a reminder that the “Day of the LORD is near.**

**But he does not voice the popular notion that the day will be a day of judgment on the nations but deliverance and blessing for Israel. He joins Isaiah, Jeremiah Amos and Zephaniah in saying the day is one of punishment for the unfaithful in Israel as well. Restoration and blessing will come only after repentance.**

Isaiah 2:10-21	Jeremiah 4:5-9	Amos 5:18-20	Zephaniah 1:7-18
<p><sup>10</sup>Go into the rocks, hide in the ground from the fearful presence of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty!</p> <p><sup>11</sup>The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled and human pride brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.</p> <p><sup>12</sup>The LORD Almighty has a day in store for all the proud and lofty, for all that is exalted (and they will be humbled),</p> <p><sup>13</sup>for all the cedars of Lebanon, tall and lofty, and all the oaks of Bashan,</p> <p><sup>14</sup>for all the</p>	<p><sup>5</sup>“Announce in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem and say: ‘Sound the trumpet throughout the land!’</p> <p>Cry aloud and say: ‘Gather together! Let us flee to the fortified cities!’</p> <p><sup>6</sup>Raise the signal to go to Zion! Flee for safety without delay! For I am bringing disaster from the north, even terrible destruction.”</p> <p><sup>7</sup>A lion has come out of his lair; a destroyer of nations has set out. He has left his place to lay waste your land.</p>	<p><sup>18</sup>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.</p> <p><sup>19</sup>It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him.</p> <p><sup>20</sup>Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?</p>	<p><sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near. The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited.</p> <p><sup>8</sup>“On the day of the LORD’s sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king’s sons and all those clad in foreign clothes.</p> <p><sup>9</sup>On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold,<sup>[a]</sup> who fill the</p>

<p>towering mountains and all the high hills, <sup>15</sup>for every lofty tower and every fortified wall, <sup>16</sup>for every trading ship<sup>[a]</sup> and every stately vessel. <sup>17</sup>The arrogance of man will be brought low and human pride humbled; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day, <sup>18</sup> and the idols will totally disappear. <sup>19</sup>People will flee to caves in the rocks and to holes in the ground from the fearful presence of the LORD and the splendor of his majesty, when he rises to shake the earth. <sup>20</sup>In that day people will throw away to the moles and</p>	<p>Your towns will lie in ruins without inhabitant. <sup>8</sup>So put on sackcloth, lament and wail, for the fierce anger of the LORD has not turned away from us. <sup>9</sup>"In that day," declares the LORD, "the king and the officials will lose heart, the priests will be horrified, and the prophets will be appalled."</p>		<p>temple of their gods with violence and deceit. <sup>10</sup>"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills. <sup>11</sup>Wail, you who live in the market district<sup>[b]</sup>; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with<sup>[c]</sup> silver will be destroyed. <sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think,</p>
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<p>bats  their idols of silver  and idols of gold,  which they made  to worship.  <sup>21</sup>They will flee to  caverns in the  rocks  and to the  overhanging crags  from the fearful  presence of  the LORD  and the splendor  of his majesty,  when he rises to  shake the earth.</p> <p><b>Footnotes:</b></p> <p>a. <b>Isaiah</b>  <b>2:16</b> Hebrew <i>every ship of Tarshish</i></p>			<p>'The LORD will do  nothing,  either good or  bad.'  <sup>13</sup>Their wealth will  be plundered,  their houses  demolished.  Though they  build houses,  they will not  live in them;  though they  plant vineyards,  they will not  drink the wine."  <sup>14</sup>The great day  of the LORD is  near—  near and  coming quickly.  The cry on the  day of  the LORD is  bitter;  the Mighty  Warrior shouts  his battle cry.  <sup>15</sup>That day will be  a day of wrath—  a day of  distress and  anguish,  a day of  trouble and ruin,</p>
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			<p>a day of darkness and gloom,     a day of clouds and blackness— <sup>16</sup> a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities     and against the corner towers. <sup>17</sup>“I will bring such distress on all people     that they will grope about like those who are blind,     because they have sinned against the LORD. Their blood will be poured out like dust     and their entrails like dung. <sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold     will be able to save them     on the day of</p>
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			<p>the LORD'S wrath." In the fire of his jealousy the whole earth will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live on the earth.</p> <p><i>Footnotes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <b>Zephaniah 1:9</b> See 1 Samuel 5:5.</li> <li>b. <b>Zephaniah 1:11</b> Or <i>the Mortar</i></li> <li>c. <b>Zephaniah 1:11</b> Or <i>in</i></li> </ul>
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**Wow. God really says those things. Something is going on that I still think humanity doesn't quite understand. I'm going to have to do way more research on this to grasp it. I may relook at these Scriptures tomorrow. But for the most part, I'll plan to move forward in the book of Joel.**