

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
graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER

Joel 1²



The Lord is amazing. He is our life and he is our song. And He always has our back. I’m so ready to get into this little book, and I anticipate it will be finished this week.

Today I’ll be reading about the amazing things he speaks of in Joel, especially with regards to the army of locusts invading the land. As I read and hear about these things are spoken about metaphorically, I think forward to the descriptions in the book of Revelation. Enjoy!



¹ NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.

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.)

Joel 1 New International Version (NIV)

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

An Invasion of Locusts

²Hear 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?

³Tell it to your children,

and let your children tell it to their children,
and their children to the next generation.

⁴What 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^[a] have eaten.

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.

See the text box to see how the more literal translation speaks of this.

⁵Wake 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.

The NIV says the only specific sin mentioned here is drunkenness. It suggests, it says, a self-indulgent lifestyle pursued by those who value material things more than spiritual. It references these two Scriptures.

Isaiah 28:7-8	Amos 4:1
And these also stagger from wine and reel from beer: Priests and prophets stagger from beer and are befuddled with wine;	4 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria, you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy and say to your husbands, "Bring

<p>they reel from beer, they stagger when seeing visions, they stumble when rendering decisions.</p> <p>⁸All the tables are covered with vomit and there is not a spot without filth.</p>	<p>us some drinks!”</p>
---	-------------------------

Now notice what happens next. The locusts are compared to a nation.

⁶A nation has invaded my land,
a mighty army without number;
it has the teeth of a lion,
the fangs of a lioness.

This is a biblical motif, and an ancient comparison in other literature as well. Notice how the bible refers to ant and hyraxes. In Hebrews, they are not just “creatures.” They are a people.

<p>Proverbs 30:25-26</p>	
<p>²⁵Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer;</p> <p>Photo 22912905 / Ants © Andrey Pavlov Dreamstime.com</p>	<p>²⁶hyraxes are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crag;</p> <p>Photo 87394330 © Photonics Dreamstime.com</p>
	 <p>Above rock hyraxes; left, ants harvesting sunflower seeds.</p>

This comparison, of locusts like armies in vast numbers, is as old as Ugaritic literature.³

⁷It has laid waste my vines
and ruined my fig trees.
It has stripped off their bark
and thrown it away,
leaving their branches white.

The NIV study bible says that the use of the word "my" shows that the LORD sees the vines and trees of His people as His vines and figs. That shows hope of His redemption in the future, because these people obviously belong to Him.

⁸Mourn like a virgin in sackcloth
grieving for the betrothed of her youth.

When a virgin was betrothed to a man, she was his wife and he was her husband though she was still a virgin.

Deuteronomy 22:23-24

²³If a man happens to meet in a town a virgin pledged to be married and he sleeps with her, ²⁴you shall take both of them to the gate of that town and stone them to death—the young woman because she was in a town and did not scream for help, and the man because he violated another man's wife. You must purge the evil from among you.

⁹Grain offerings and drink offerings
are cut off from the house of the LORD.
The priests are in mourning,
those who minister before the LORD.

³ Ugaritic literature - Apart from royal correspondence with neighboring Bronze Age monarchs, Ugaritic literature from tablets found in the city's libraries include mythological texts written in a poetic narrative, letters, legal documents such as land transfers, a few international treaties, and a number of administrative lists. Fragments of several poetic works have been identified: the "Legend of Keret", the "Legend of Danel", the Ba'al tales that detail Baal-Hadad's conflicts with Yam and Mot, among other fragments.[16] The discovery of the Ugaritic archives in 1929 has been of great significance to biblical scholarship, as these archives for the first time provided a detailed description of Canaanite religious beliefs, during the period directly preceding the Israelite settlement. These texts show significant parallels to Hebrew biblical literature, particularly in the areas of divine imagery and poetic form. Ugaritic poetry has many elements later found in Hebrew poetry: parallelisms, metres, and rhythms. The discoveries at Ugarit have led to a new appraisal of the Hebrew Bible as literature. (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ugarit>)

¹⁰The fields are ruined, the ground is dried up;
the grain is destroyed, the new wine is dried up, the olive oil fails.

¹¹Despair, you farmers, wail, you vine growers;
grieve for the wheat and the barley, because the harvest of the field is
destroyed.

¹²The vine is dried up and the fig tree is withered;
the pomegranate, the palm and the apple^[possibly apricot] tree—
all the trees of the field—are dried up.

Surely the people's joy
is withered away.

¹³Put 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;

The Hebrew word for "minister:"

H8334 sharath shaw-rath'

to attend as a menial or worshipper; figuratively, to contribute to.

for the grain offerings and drink offerings are withheld from the house of
your God.

¹⁴Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly.
Summon the elders and all who live in the land
to the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD.

¹⁵Alas for that day! For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like
destruction from the Almighty.^[Shaddai - From Him Who Suffices]

¹⁶Has not the food been cut off before our very eyes—
joy and gladness from the house of our God?

¹⁷The seeds are shriveled beneath the clods.^[d] The storehouses are in ruins,
the granaries have been broken down, for the grain has dried up.

¹⁸How the cattle moan! The herds mill about because they have no pasture;
even the flocks of sheep are suffering.

¹⁹To you, LORD, I call, for fire has devoured the pastures in the wilderness
and flames have burned up all the trees of the field.

²⁰Even the wild animals pant for you;
the streams of water have dried up
and fire has devoured the pastures in the wilderness.