

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 2²



This chapter is interesting because it ends up with the Scripture that speaks of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2. This is why this interesting to me. Just suppose that all the talk about retribution, punishment and even the “right responses” to all of the above are not speaking of what people did---but what of Christ *did* on the Cross! We know after Christ died, resurrected and ascended He received the Holy Spirit to pour out on all. In this chapter it reads like Israel finally properly repented and received the blessing. But in Acts, it’s all about Christ completing everything for all of us, and then the Spirit comes. If this is true, this better news than I ever thought. Because Christ has done all God needed from us! Wow!

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.)

2 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.

Again, the NIV study bible feels the “Day of the LORD” doesn’t always refer to the end time, but to “the decisive intervention of God in history,” and includes:

- **The invasion of locusts in Joel**
- **Or even the battle of Carchemish when Babylon triumphed over Egypt.**

Jeremiah 46:2	Jeremiah 46:10
<p>²Concerning Egypt: This is the message against the army of Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt, which was defeated at Carchemish on the Euphrates River by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah:</p>	<p>¹⁰For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates.</p>

- **It also refers to Christ’s second coming, which also falls in this category.**

It is close at hand—

² a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and blackness.

Like dawn spreading across the mountains

a large and mighty army comes,
such as never was in ancient times
nor ever will be in ages to come.

Again, visualize the locust army spreading out like the dawn all across the whole countryside.

³Before them fire devours,
 behind them a flame blazes.
 Before them the land is like the garden of Eden,
 behind them, a desert waste—
 nothing escapes them.

⁴They have the appearance of horses;
 they gallop along like cavalry.

Job compares the horse to a locust. Joel does the opposite. Revelation describes fanciful locust creatures as well. Here are a couple of references to war like amalgams of various creatures.

Revelation 9:3	Revelation 9:6-10
<p>And out of the smoke locusts came down on the earth and were given power like that of scorpions of the earth.</p>	<p>⁷The locusts looked like horses prepared for battle. On their heads they wore something like crowns of gold, and their faces resembled human faces. ⁸Their hair was like women’s hair, and their teeth were like lions’ teeth. ⁹They had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. ¹⁰They had tails with stingers, like scorpions, and in their tails they had power to torment people for five months.</p>

It’s becoming apparent to me that Revelation uses these other metaphors from all over the prophets, and they’re part of a pattern that discloses a message about Christ and His conclusive intervention in the world. Let’s see where this goes.

⁵With a noise like that of chariots
 they leap over the mountaintops,
 like a crackling fire consuming stubble,
 like a mighty army drawn up for battle.

⁶At the sight of them, nations are in anguish;
every face turns pale.

⁷They charge like warriors;
they scale walls like soldiers.

They all march in line,
not swerving from their course.

⁸They do not jostle each other;
each marches straight ahead.

They plunge through defenses
without breaking ranks.

⁹They rush upon the city;
they run along the wall.

They climb into the houses;
like thieves they enter through the windows.

¹⁰Before them the earth shakes,
the heavens tremble,
the sun and moon are darkened,
and the stars no longer shine.

See that metaphor appears several times in Scripture.

Old Testament	New Testament
<p>Isaiah 13:10 The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.</p> <p>Isaiah 24:23 The moon will be dismayed, the sun ashamed; for the LORD Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders—with great glory.</p> <p>Ezekiel 32:7 When I snuff you out, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light.</p>	<p>Matthew 24:29 “Immediately after the distress of those days “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’</p> <p>Mark 13:24 “But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;</p> <p>Luke 21:25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing</p>

<p>Ezekiel 32:7 When I snuff you out, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light.</p> <p>Joel 2:10 Before them the earth shakes, the heavens tremble, the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars no longer shine.</p> <p>Joel 2:31 The 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>of the sea.</p> <p>Acts 2:20 The 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>Revelation 6:12 I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth made of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red,</p>
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So this is a whole separate bible study to trail what’s happening, but at God’s time of intervention (more than once in history) the sun is seen as being darkened and the moon not giving her light.

¹¹The 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?

I guess I’m beginning to see there is more than one “day of the LORD.”

Rend Your Heart

¹²“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”

¹³Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love,
and he relents from sending calamity.

¹⁴Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing—
grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God.

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast,
call a sacred assembly.

¹⁶Gather the people, consecrate the assembly;
bring together the elders, gather the children,
those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her chamber.

I find it interesting (and kind of funny) that the bride and bridegroom basically holed up in their chamber for a fairly long period of time, and the whole world knew about it (and sometimes celebrated while the couple were in the chamber). They seemed to have more of an open awareness about these things. Would be interesting to study.

¹⁷Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,
weep between the portico and the altar.

Let them say, "Spare your people, LORD.

Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,
a byword among the nations.

Why should they say among the peoples,

"Where is their God?"

The LORD's Answer . . . look at this closely.

¹⁸Then the LORD was jealous for his land
and took pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD replied^[a] to them:

"I am sending you grain, new wine and olive oil,
enough to satisfy you fully;
never again will I make you
an object of scorn to the nations.

²⁰"I will drive the northern horde far from you,
pushing it into a parched and barren land;
its eastern ranks will drown in the Dead Sea
and its western ranks in the Mediterranean Sea.
And its stench will go up;
its smell will rise."

Surely he has done great things!

²¹ Do not be afraid, land of Judah;
be glad and rejoice.

Surely the LORD has done great things!

²² Do not be afraid, you wild animals,
for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green.

The trees are bearing their fruit;
the fig tree and the vine yield their riches.

²³ Be glad, people of Zion,
rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given you the autumn rains
because he is faithful.

He sends you abundant showers,
both autumn and spring rains, as before.

²⁴ The threshing floors will be filled with grain;
the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

²⁵ "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^[b]—
my great army that I sent among you.

²⁶ You will have plenty to eat, until you are full,
and you will praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has worked wonders for you;
never again will my people be shamed.

²⁷ Then you will know that I am in Israel,
that I am the LORD your God,
and that there is no other;
never again will my people be shamed.

God just fixes it. And then . . .

The Day of the LORD

²⁸ "And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,

your old men will dream dreams,
your young men will see visions.

**²⁹Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.**

In effect this saying even "slaves" will be included.

(CLV) Jl 2:29

And ^{mr}surely on the menservants and on the maidservants In ^othose days shall I pour out [»]My spirit.

Joel 2:29 Young's Literal Translation (YLT)

²⁹And also on the men-servants, and on the maid-servants, In those days I do pour out My Spirit.

³⁰I will show wonders in the heavens
and on the earth,
blood and fire and billows of smoke.

The NIV study Bible says this is from war.

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

³²And everyone who calls
on the name of the LORD will be saved;
for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
there will be deliverance,
as the LORD has said,
even among the survivors
whom the LORD calls.^[c]

So I don't get it, quite yet. The Holy Spirit came after Christ was sacrificed. Was Christ's punishment on our behalf the "Day of the Lord" when all this other stuff happened? How does this all work? I want to see if I could figure this out.

Footnotes:

- a. **Joel 2:19** Or *LORD will be jealous ... / and take pity ... / ¹⁹ The LORD will reply*
- b. **Joel 2:25** The precise meaning of the four Hebrew words used here for locusts is uncertain.

c. **Joel 2:32** In Hebrew texts 2:28-32 is numbered 3:1-5.