

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 2 Wrap Up, Joel 3²



The Holy Spirit came after Christ was sacrificed. Was Christ’s punishment on our behalf the “Day of the Lord” when all the other things listed in Joel 2 happened? How does this all work?

I want to see if I could figure this out, so I may make a few “summary” comments. But then I’ll move on chapter 3

Again could it be possible that all this punishment and repentance took place for Israel and all of us *in Christ*? That’s what I’m trying to figure out. Enjoy.

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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.)

Let's summarize what happens before the prediction of the Holy Spirit

2 . . . the day of the LORD is coming. **It came. . .** a large and mighty army comes, such as never was in ancient times nor ever will be in ages to come. **Locusts came and ravaged the land . . .**¹⁰ Before them the earth shakes, the heavens tremble, the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars no longer shine. **Heavenly disturbances occurred. . .**

¹²“Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” **A call for repentance made . . .**

¹⁸Then the LORD was jealous for his land and took pity on his people. **God had pity on his people . . .** “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. . .”²⁵“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten . . . **God promises to build them back up . . .** never again will my people be shamed. . . 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.

²⁸**“And afterward** I will pour out my Spirit on all people. . .

The NIV says this is in the Messianic period, beyond the restoration spoken of. . .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.

This is the Scripture quoted in Acts 2 showing the prediction of the giving of the Holy Spirit. Only the only punishment, repentance and restoration that occurred was in the Being of Jesus Christ, who became our sin and was punished for our iniquities. “Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.” **(Acts 2).**

So could it be that the punishment/repentance/restoration was fulfilled in Christ being punished on our behalf, repenting on our behalf, and being fully restored to wholeness and excellence on our behalf? I think it might! I'm going to see if this works in Revelation someday as well.

Now on to Joel 3

Joel 3 New International Version (NIV)

The Nations Judged

3 ^[a]"In those days and at that time,

After the pouring out of the Holy Spirit.

when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,

God's spiritual Judah and spiritual Jerusalem.

²I will gather all nations

and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.^[b]

It's called the "Valley of Decision" in verse 14.

There I will put them on trial

for what they did to my inheritance, my people Israel,
because they scattered my people among the nations
and divided up my land.

³They cast lots for my people

and traded boys for prostitutes;
they sold girls for wine to drink.

This happened to Judah at the time of her captivity. It says it is mentioned in Obadiah 11, but I don't see that the same way.

Obadiah 11 merely says: "foreigners entered his gates and cast lots for Jerusalem." **But the NIV study note says the Israelites were treated by their enemies like chattel and traded off for the pleasures of wine and prostitution.**

Next comes what the Study Bible calls a "parenthetical interlude" where God announces judgment against the nations.

⁴“Now what have you against me, Tyre and Sidon and all you regions of Philistia? Are you repaying me for something I have done? If you are paying me back, I will swiftly and speedily return on your own heads what you have done.

Proverbs 26:27

²⁷Whoever digs a pit will fall into it;
if someone rolls a stone, it will roll back on them.

⁵For you took my silver and my gold and carried off my finest treasures to your temples.^[c] ⁶You sold the people of Judah and Jerusalem to the Greeks, that you might send them far from their homeland.

⁷“See, I am going to rouse them out of the places to which you sold them, and **I will return on your own heads what you have done.** ⁸I will sell your sons and daughters to the people of Judah, and they will sell them to the Sabeans, a nation far away.” The LORD has spoken.

According to the NIV study bible, there was an actual fulfillment to this. Tyre and Philistia had sold Israelites as slaves:

Amos 1:6	Amos 1:9
⁶ This is what the LORD says: “For three sins of Gaza, even for four, I will not relent. Because she took captive whole communities and sold them to Edom,	⁹ This is what the LORD says: “For three sins of Tyre, even for four, I will not relent. Because she sold whole communities of captives to Edom, disregarding a treaty of brotherhood,

God punished these nations by allowing Sidon to be destroyed and many of its people enslaved by Artaxerxes III c. 345 BC and allowing Tyre to be captured by the Greeks under Alexander the Great.

⁹Proclaim this among the nations:

Prepare for war!

Rouse the warriors!

Let all the fighting men draw near and attack.

¹⁰Beat your plowshares into swords

and your pruning hooks into spears.
Let the weakling say,
 "I am strong!"
11 Come quickly, all you nations from every side,
 and assemble there.
Bring down your warriors, LORD!
12 "Let the nations be roused;
 let them advance into the Valley of Jehoshaphat,
for there I will sit
 to judge all the nations on every side.
13 Swing the sickle,
 for the harvest is ripe.
Come, trample the grapes,
 for the winepress is full
 and the vats overflow— so great is their wickedness!"

Revelation 14:14-20 draws heavily on this picture of judgment.

Revelation 14:14-20

14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man^[a] with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." 16 So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.

17 Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, "Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe." 19 The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. 20 They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.^[b]

Footnotes:

- a. **Revelation 14:14** See Daniel 7:13.
- b. **Revelation 14:20** That is, about 180 miles or about 300 kilometers

¹⁴Multitudes, multitudes

in the valley of decision!

For the day of the LORD is near

in the valley of decision.

¹⁵The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine.

¹⁶The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem;

the earth and the heavens will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

Now it turns back to "Blessings for God's People"

¹⁷"Then you will know that I, the LORD your God,

dwell in Zion, my holy hill.

Jerusalem will be holy;

never again will foreigners invade her.

¹⁸"In that day the mountains will drip new wine,

and the hills will flow with milk;

all the ravines of Judah will run with water.

A fountain will flow out of the LORD's house

and will water the valley of acacias.^[d]

¹⁹But Egypt will be desolate, Edom a desert waste, because of violence done to the people of Judah, in whose land they shed innocent blood.

²⁰Judah will be inhabited forever and Jerusalem through all generations.

²¹Shall I leave their innocent blood unavenged? No, I will not."

The LORD dwells in Zion!

Christ's name means "Emmanuel" --- God with us. In Spiritual Jerusalem and the Heavenly Zion, we find our peace and refuge. I am dimly seeing a new vision for understanding judgment---way more of it occurred "in" and "on" Christ than I ever realized.

Footnotes:

- a. **Joel 3:1** In Hebrew texts 3:1-21 is numbered 4:1-21.
- b. **Joel 3:2** *Jehoshaphat* means *the LORD judges*; also in verse 12.
- c. **Joel 3:5** Or *palaces*
- d. **Joel 3:18** Or *Valley of Shittim*