

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*

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 3 Part 2²



My mind is swirling still with a new approach to this chapter, and all Scripture. I’ve come to believe that we are two “determinations” in one person. There is a side of us that is the true us, the Genesis 1 us, that has always been “righteous” “in” Christ, and still is. But we have a “dark us” as well. It’s the inherent parasitic humanity that we inherited from Adam and that Christ conquered and put to death in his life, death, resurrection and ascension. The battle has been won and Satan has been cast out---but he and our false selves still smolder and issue forth brokenness into our lives. “The Day of the Lord” represents the way God is sharing that defeat of evil with us in various stages (dimensions). Does this chapter simply speak of the final battle with all our false selves? Hmm! 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.)

I'm revisiting this chapter in light of what I wrote above. I'm going to see if by lensing it through Christ's work it makes any sense.

3 ^[a]"In those days and at that time,
when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem,

The New Testament talks about the "heavenly Jerusalem" that lives in what I call "The In-Christ Dimension" of our existence.

It also speaks of "true Jews," true members of the tribe of Judah.

Heavenly Jerusalem	True Jews/Israelites
<p>Hebrews 12:22-24 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.</p>	<p>Revelation 2:9 I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.</p> <p>Revelation 3:9 I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.</p> <p>Romans 9 ⁶It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."^[accounted] ⁸In other words,</p>

	<p>it is not the children by physical descent who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring.</p> <p>Galatians 3</p> <p>²⁶ So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.</p>
--	--

So this Scriptures (Joel 1) could be talking about the restored Judah and Jerusalem we all are in Christ.

Let’s continue.

²I will gather all nations
and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat.^[b]
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.

The Scripture in the New Testament is abundantly clear. We will all be “judged” in the presence of Christ.

Romans 2:16	2 Timothy 4:1	John 5:24, 27	Acts 10
This will take place on the day when God judges people’s secrets through Jesus Christ , as	In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view	Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son . . . And he has given him	He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the

my gospel declares.	of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge	authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.	living and the dead.
---------------------	--	---	----------------------

The Scriptures citing Christ judging the world through Christ are legion. Could the valley of Jehoshaphat be God’s final battle or picture God’s final battle against us in the judgment inflicted on all in Christ and the judgment that will occur in our reality when we’re in the “The Day of the Lord” dimension? Here are a few other Scriptures about the Judgment (by) Christ.

Acts 17:31

For he has set a day when he will **judge** the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Romans 2:16

This will take place on the day when God **judges** people’s secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

1 Corinthians 4:4

My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who **judges** me.

1 Corinthians 5:12

What business is it of mine to **judge** those outside the church? Are you not to **judge** those inside?

1 Corinthians 5:13

God will **judge** those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”

1 Corinthians 6:2

Or do you not know that the Lord’s people will **judge** the world? And if you are to **judge** the world, are you not competent to **judge** trivial cases?

1 Corinthians 6:3

Do you not know that we will **judge** angels? How much more the things of this life!

2 Timothy 4:1

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will **judge** the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge:

2 Timothy 4:8

Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous **Judge**, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Hebrews 10:30

For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” and again, “The Lord will **judge** his people.”

Hebrews 12:23

to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the **Judge** of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will **judge** the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.

How might we be “the nations?” Our false selves in God’s eyes may comprise nations that are like the “false nations” that surrounded and interacted with Israel. They all had their special orientation, or personality quirks. Some of our false selves might be “spiritually” Egyptians---living for pleasures and treasures. Others like the tribe of Edom---related to the people of God, but always inhibiting them in some sense.

I’ll pick up on this theme for my vacation study next week (it’s June 6,2021 and we’re going to Panama City with my family).