

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*

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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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Amos Introduction Part 2²



So there is a difference between being “prophet” with a word from God like Amos and a “prophet” who sometimes ecstatically prophesied. And ecstatic meant, well, ecstatic. One time this happened to Saul.

1 Samuel 19:24

He stripped off his garments, and he too prophesied in Samuel’s presence. He lay **naked** all that day and all that night. This is why people say, “Is **Saul** also among the prophets?”

That’s what I’d call “ecstatic.” Or something 😊. 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.)

Let's continue to track with the NIV study bible's introduction. I'm quoting from it extensively.

"The book brings his (Amos') prophecies together in a carefully organized form meant to be read as a unit."

In my listening to the first two chapters on audio, I noticed that.

Amos 1-2 New International Version (NIV)	
<p>1 ³This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Damascus, even for four, I will not relent. . .</p> <p>⁶This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Gaza, even for four, I will not relent. . .</p> <p>"For three sins of Tyre, even for four, I will not relent. . .</p> <p>¹¹This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Edom, even for four, I will not relent.</p>	<p>¹³This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Ammon, even for four, I will not relent.</p> <p>2 This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Moab, even for four, I will not relent.</p> <p>⁴This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Judah, even for four, I will not relent. . .</p> <p>⁶This is what the LORD says: "For three sins of Israel, even for four, I will not relent.</p>

These prophecies are introduced by a verse that says "the LORD roars Zion."

Amos, a shepherd, was sent to Israel to tell her he has heard the lion roar, and the lion is nothing more than LORD himself. And ironically, the LORD didn't want to be a lion to Israel. He wanted to be her shepherd. But the judgment of the roaring Lion is against all the key power centers in the area. That included

1. Damascus

2. Gaza (including Ashdod, Ashkelon, Ekron)
3. Tyre
4. Edom
5. Ammon
6. Moab
7. Judah
8. Israel

The book is eventually addressed to all Israel.

Date

Amos prophesied during the reigns of King Uzziah over Judah (792 – 740 B.C.) and Jereboam II over Israel (793 – 753). It suggests the “main part of his ministry was probably carried out c. 760 B.C. – 750 B.C. Both kingdoms were enjoying great prosperity and had reached new heights.

2 Kings 14:23-15:7	2 Chronicles 26
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2 Kings 14:23-15:7

Jeroboam II King of Israel

²³In the fifteenth year of Amaziah (793 B.C.) son of Joash king of Judah, Jeroboam son of Jehoash king of Israel became king in Samaria, and he reigned forty-one years. ²⁴He did evil in the eyes of the LORD and did not turn away from any of the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he had caused Israel to commit. ²⁵He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea,^[a] in accordance with the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hopher.

²⁶The LORD had seen how bitterly everyone in Israel, whether slave or free, was suffering;^[b] there was no one to help them. ²⁷And since the LORD had not said he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam son of Jehoash.

²⁸As for the other events of Jeroboam's reign, all he did, and his military achievements, including how he recovered for Israel both Damascus and Hamath, which had belonged to Judah, are they not

2 Chronicles 26

Uzziah King of Judah

26 Then all the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in place of his father Amaziah (792 B.C.) ²He was the one who rebuilt Elath and restored it to Judah after Amaziah rested with his ancestors.

³Uzziah was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jekoliah; she was from Jerusalem. ⁴He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done. ⁵He sought God during the days of Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear^[b] of God. As long as he sought the LORD, God gave him success.

⁶He went to war against the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh and Ashdod. He then rebuilt towns near Ashdod and elsewhere among the Philistines. ⁷God helped him against the Philistines and against the Arabs who lived in Gur Baal and against the Meunites. ⁸The Ammonites brought tribute to Uzziah, and his fame spread as far as the border of Egypt, because he had

written in the book of the annals of the kings of Israel? ²⁹Jeroboam rested with his ancestors, the kings of Israel. And Zechariah his son succeeded him as king.

Azariah King of Judah

15 In the twenty-seventh year of Jeroboam king of Israel, Azariah^[c] son of Amaziah king of Judah began to reign. ²He was sixteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-two years. His mother's name was Jekoliah; she was from Jerusalem. ³He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Amaziah had done. ⁴The high places, however, were not removed; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense there.

⁵The LORD afflicted the king with leprosy^[d] until the day he died, and he lived in a separate house.^[e] Jotham the king's son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.

⁶As for the other events of Azariah's reign, and all he did, are they not written in the book of the annals of the kings of Judah? ⁷Azariah rested with his ancestors and was buried near them in the City of David. And Jotham his son succeeded

become very powerful.

⁹Uzziah built towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, at the Valley Gate and at the angle of the wall, and he fortified them. ¹⁰He also built towers in the wilderness and dug many cisterns, because he had much livestock in the foothills and in the plain. He had people working his fields and vineyards in the hills and in the fertile lands, for he loved the soil.

¹¹Uzziah had a well-trained army, ready to go out by divisions according to their numbers as mustered by Jeiel the secretary and Maaseiah the officer under the direction of Hananiah, one of the royal officials. ¹²The total number of family leaders over the fighting men was 2,600. ¹³Under their command was an army of 307,500 men trained for war, a powerful force to support the king against his enemies. ¹⁴Uzziah provided shields, spears, helmets, coats of armor, bows and slingstones for the entire army. ¹⁵In Jerusalem he made devices invented for use on the towers and on the corner defenses so that soldiers could shoot arrows and hurl large stones from the walls. His fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped until he became

him as king.

Footnotes:

- a. **2 Kings 14:25** Hebrew *the Sea of the Arabah*
- b. **2 Kings 14:26** Or *Israel was suffering. They were without a ruler or leader, and*
- c. **2 Kings 15:1** Also called *Uzziah*; also in verses 6, 7, 8, 17, 23 and 27
- d. **2 Kings 15:5** The Hebrew for *leprosy* was used for various diseases affecting the skin.
- e. **2 Kings 15:5** Or *in a house where he was relieved of responsibilities*

powerful.

¹⁶But after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. He was unfaithful to the LORD his God, and entered the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense. ¹⁷Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the LORD followed him in. ¹⁸They confronted King Uzziah and said, "It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the LORD. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the LORD God."

¹⁹Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the LORD's temple, leprosy^[c] broke out on his forehead. ²⁰When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, he himself was eager to leave, because the LORD had afflicted him.

²¹King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died. He lived in a separate house^[d]—leprosy, and banned from

	<p>the temple of the LORD. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land.</p> <p>²²The other events of Uzziah's reign, from beginning to end, are recorded by the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. ²³Uzziah rested with his ancestors and was buried near them in a cemetery that belonged to the kings, for people said, "He had leprosy." And Jotham his son succeeded him as king.</p> <p>Footnotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. 2 Chronicles 26:1 Also called <i>Azariah</i> b. 2 Chronicles 26:5 Many Hebrew manuscripts, Septuagint and Syriac; other Hebrew manuscripts <i>vision</i> c. 2 Chronicles 26:19 The Hebrew for <i>leprosy</i> was used for various diseases affecting the skin; also in verses 20, 21 and 23. d. 2 Chronicles 26:21 Or <i>in a house where he was relieved of responsibilities</i>
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The NIV adds that this was also a time of idolatry, extravagant living indulgence in luxurious living, immorality, corruption of judicial procedures and oppression of the poor.

As a consequence, God would soon bring about the Assyrian captivity of the northern kingdom. Israel at the time was spiritually secure and smug. Elisha had prophesied the resurgence of Israel's power:

2 Kings 13:17-19 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷"Open the east window," he said, and he opened it. "Shoot!" Elisha said, and he shot. "The LORD's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!" Elisha declared. "You will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek."

¹⁸Then he said, "Take the arrows," and the king took them. Elisha told him, "Strike the ground." He struck it three times and stopped. ¹⁹The man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times."

This individual was only moderately enthusiastic, and hence it's felt this only "moderately enthusiastic" zeal reflected insufficient zeal for accomplishing the task. However Elisha did predict this prosperity.