

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

Amos Introduction Part 3²



It was a time of almost decadent prosperity. God worked so patiently with this people. But they continued to scorn Him. Amos is a fascinating prophet. He was a shepherd and sycamore-fig grower, yet he cared enough to let God "burden" him with this message not only for Israel, but for all the nations around Israel. I wonder sometimes if these nations represent "types" of people/groups/situations we face in our life. We all have a Moab we face. We all have a "brother" Edom in our life that harbors resentment. But most of all, we have a God who loves us, sometimes disciplines and even punishes us, but always works out things for our good. Praise be to God. 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 in our Introduction to the book of Amos, with the help of the NIV study Bible.

Theological Theme and Message

Here is what the NIV study Bible says is the “dominant theme and message.”

Amos 5:24 New International Version (NIV)

²⁴But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

He calls for what the NIV study bible says is “social justice as an expression of true piety.” Amos was a vigorous spokesman for God’s justice and righteousness, whereas Hosea emphasized God’s love, grace, mercy and forgiveness.

Hosea 1:7

Yet I will show **love** to Judah; and I will save them—not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but I, the LORD their God, will save them.”

Hosea 2:19

I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in **love** and compassion.

Hosea 2:23

I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my **love** to the one I called ‘Not my **loved** one.’ I will say to those called ‘Not my people,’ ‘You are my people’; and they will say, ‘You are my God.’”

Hosea 3:1

[*Hosea’s Reconciliation With His Wife*] The LORD said to me, “Go, show your **love** to your wife again, though she is **loved** by another man and is an adulteress. **Love** her as the LORD **loves** the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and **love** the sacred raisin cakes.”

Hosea 6:6

For I desire **mercy**, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.

Hosea 10:12

Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing **love**, and break up your unplowed ground; for it is time to seek the LORD, until he comes and showers his righteousness on you.

Hosea 11:1

[*God's Love for Israel*] "When Israel was a child, I **loved** him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

Hosea 11:4

I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of **love**. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them.

Hosea 12:6

But you must return to your God; maintain **love** and justice, and wait for your God always.

Hosea 14:4

"I will heal their waywardness and **love** them freely, for my anger has turned away from them.

Amos declared that God was going to judge his unfaithful, disobedient, covenant-breaking people.

Amos 2:4 New International Version (NIV)

⁴This is what the LORD says:

"For three sins of Judah,

even for four, I will not relent.

Because they have rejected the law of the LORD

and have not kept his decrees,

because they have been led astray by false gods,^[a]

the gods^[b] their ancestors followed,

Footnotes:

a. **Amos 2:4** Or *by lies*

b. **Amos 2:4** Or *lies*

In response to this verse, the NIV says Judah's sins are different from the nation's sins. Those nations violated the generally recognized law of humanity. But Judah disobeyed the reveal law of God.

It encourages us to look at the special things God had done for Israel:

1. He made her His special choice

Exodus 19:4-6 New International Version (NIV)

⁴'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. ⁵Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶you^[a] will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

2. His kindness to her during the exodus and conquest and in the days of David and Solomon.

Comment: That's interesting to me. This shows the points of demarcation of the history of the Israelites, and the key periods of their early history.

- 1) The exodus
- 2) The conquest
- 3) The days of Solomon and David where they reached their height!

In spite of that, the Israelites failed to do two things.

1. Honor God

1 Corinthians 6:20

you were bought at a price. Therefore **honor God** with your bodies.

2. Obey Him

Genesis 22:18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have **obeyed** me."

Genesis 26:5 because Abraham **obeyed** me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions."

Exodus 12:24 "**Obey** these instructions as a lasting ordinance for you and your descendants.

Exodus 19:5 Now if you **obey** me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,

Exodus 24:7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it to the people. They responded, "We will do everything the LORD has said; we will **obey**."

Leviticus 18:4 You must **obey** my laws and be careful to follow my decrees. I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 18:5

Keep my decrees and laws, for the person who **obeys** them will live by them. I am the LORD.

That was the nature of their Old Covenant relationship. But God showed His ultimate will in the New Covenant.

Galatians 3:10-11 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."^[a] ¹¹Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because "the righteous will live by faith."^[b]

Footnotes:

a. **Galatians 3:10** Deut. 27:26

Acts 15:10 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?

The worship centers that King Jereboam I had set up in Bethel, Dan and elsewhere became thoroughly pagan.

1 Kings 12:28-33 New International Version (NIV)

²⁸After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. He said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." ²⁹One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. ³⁰And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other.^[a]

³¹Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites. ³²He instituted a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival held in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. This he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he had made. And at Bethel he also installed priests at the high places he

had made. ³³On the fifteenth day of the eighth month, a month of his own choosing, he offered sacrifices on the altar he had built at Bethel. So he instituted the festival for the Israelites and went up to the altar to make offerings.

Footnotes:

- a. **1 Kings 12:30** Probable reading of the original Hebrew text; Masoretic Text *people went to the one as far as Dan*

Not much a replacement for God, is it.



Photo **16804571** © **James Group Studios, Inc.** | **Dreamstime.co**