

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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Amos Chapter 1 Part 3²



So Amos is using numerical expressions to list the sins of Judah and Israel and the surrounding nations. He says something meaningful to each nation that gives of insights into what God likes, what God loves, as well as what God dislikes and hates.

Damascus sledged God’s people with an iron sledge---it sifted them and ran roughshod over them. God was angered by that and was going to discipline them and avenge His people. The other nations did somethings that angered God as well. Let’s see what they are, and what we can learn. 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.)

Amos 1 New International Version (NIV)

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³This is what the LORD says:

“For three sins of Damascus,
even for four, I will not relent.

**Because she threshed Gilead
with sledges having iron teeth**

Just a bit of a reprise here.

It’s one thing for Satan to “sift us like wheat.”

Luke 22:31



“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to **sift** all of you as **wheat**.

It’s another thing for us to “sledge” each other with iron sledges, which involves breaking somebody down and running roughshod over each other. Sledging involves driving a wooden sledge fitted with sharp teeth over cut grain.



So it involves, if I can attempt to create a visual:

- 1. Cutting someone down.**
- 2. Driving over them over and over with a flat surfaces and sharp teeth (grinding them down).**

Boy, can we do that to each other! It’s like the Psalmist said.

Psalm 59:7

See what they spew from their **mou**th**s**— the words from their lips are sharp

as **swords**, and they think, "Who can hear us?"

So let's see what else the Lord "hates."

⁶This is what the LORD says:

"For three sins of Gaza,
even for four, I will not relent.

God says "I will not relent."

The word for relent implies "turn back" or "retreat" from. And He doesn't always list three or four sins.

Because she took captive whole communities
and sold them to Edom,

The NIV says the references may be to villages in south Judah on the trade route from Edom to Gaza, and the people traded were not just soldiers but civilians too, sold like cattle. Here is the punishment God takes credit for.

⁷I will send fire on the walls of Gaza
that will consume her fortresses.

⁸I will destroy the king^[d] of Ashdod
and the one who holds the scepter in
Ashkelon.

I will turn my hand against Ekron,
till the last of the Philistines are dead,"
says the Sovereign LORD.

By Qoan (talk · contribs) - This file was derived from: Kingdom
of Philistines 830 map-pt.svg:This file was derived from:
Kingdoms around Israel 830 map.svg; , CC BY 3.0,
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⁹This 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,

Tyre was the dominant Phoenician merchant city allied to Israel by a treaty of brotherhood in the days of David, later during the time of Solomon, and later still during the reign of Ahab.

1 Kings 5:1	1 Kings 5:12	1 Kings 16:30-31
When Hiram king of Tyre heard that Solomon had been anointed king to succeed his father David, he sent his envoys to Solomon, because he had always been on friendly terms with David.	¹² The LORD gave Solomon wisdom, just as he had promised him. There were peaceful relations between Hiram and Solomon, and the two of them made a treaty.	³⁰ Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. ³¹ He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him.

The treaty of brotherhood between these nonblood relations is interesting. God held people accountable for treaties of brotherhood.

¹⁰I will send fire on the walls of Tyre that will consume her fortresses.”

Tyre was considered an almost impregnable island, boastful of her own security. It has a fascinating history.³

Tyre (*/ˈtaɪər/*; **Arabic**: صور, **romanized**: *Ṣūr*; **Phoenician**: 𐤏𐤍, **romanized**: *Ṣūr*, **Greek** Tyros, Τύρος) is one of the **oldest continually inhabited cities** in the world,^[1] though in medieval times for some

³ [Tyre, Lebanon - Wikipedia](#)

centuries by just a tiny population. It was one of the earliest **Phoenician metropolises** and the **legendary** birthplace of **Europa**, her brothers **Cadmus** and **Phoenix**, as well as **Carthage's** founder **Dido** (Elissa). The city has many ancient sites, including the **Tyre Hippodrome**, and was added as a whole to **UNESCO's** list of **World Heritage Sites** in 1984.^[2] The historian **Ernest Renan** noted that "One can call Tyre a city of **ruins**, built out of ruins".^{[3][4]}

"This is what the LORD says:

"For three sins of Edom,
even for four, I will not relent.
Because he pursued his brother with a sword
and slaughtered the women of the land,
because his anger raged continually
and his fury flamed unchecked,

Note: The CLV translates it this way.

[\(CLV\) Am 1:11](#)

Thus says Yahweh: Due to three transgressions of Edom, And due to four, I shall not turn it back, ^{on}Because he pursued his brother ⁱwith the sword And corrupted his own compassions, And his anger is ^lravenous ^{'fr}continually, And his rage, he keeps it permanently;

There is a lot there. I want to press it a bit more tomorrow.