

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 4²



The Bible has stories that provide a whole panorama of people and their stories. I don’t think these are just “incidental” characters whose stories made for entertaining moments. I think they were very intentionally placed in the Bible to provide us with a menu of life circumstances to choose from as we make our way on this leg of our Christian journey. And it also provides us with both a series of “wrong responses” that we all make on our journey and find identification with, and of God’s intervention, healing and response “goals” we can benefit from to find closure in our life situations. God has provided us with a menu of options for navigating this life! That’s why I believe Paul said that through the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might find hope. 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.)

Amos 1 New International Version (NIV)

I want to pick up with this story, because it's rich, for one, and it shows two things:

1. How your "roots" in life do indeed show up in your "fruits" over and over.

2. And a template for disaster---Edom's Esau like retention of bitterness and anger. Let's go through the story again.

"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 ^rhis brother ^wwith the sword And corrupted his ^{own}compassions, And his anger is ^rravenous ^{'fr}continually, And his rage, he keeps it permanently;

There is a lot there. I want to press it today. I'll make a list of the things he did wrong in a table. And then draw some conclusions from it.

NIV	CLV	CSB
He pursued his brother with a sword	He pursued his brother with the sword	He pursued his brother with the sword
He slaughtered the women of the land	He corrupted his compassions	He stifled his compassion
his anger raged continually	His anger is ravenous continually	His anger tore at him continually
his fury flamed unchecked	His rage, he keeps it permanently.	He harbored his rage incessantly

Here is the literal on this verse.

עַל־רָדְפוֹ rdph-u - ol to-pursue-of-him on	אֶשִׁיבוּ ashib-nu I-shall- ^c turn-back-him	לֹא אַרְבַּעַה la arboe - not four	וְעַל אֲדוֹם u-ol adum and-on Edom	עַל־שְׁלִשֶׁה פְּשָׁעֵי phshoi shlshe - ol transgressions-of three	עַל־יְהוָה ieue on Yahweh	אָמַר amr he-says	כֹּה ke thus	1:11
וְעִבְרָתוֹ u-obrth-u and- ^r age-of-him	אִפּוֹ aph-u anger-of-him	לְעֵד l-od to-future	וַיִּטְרֹף u-itrph and-he-is-preying	רַחֲמֵי rchmi-u compassions-of-him	וַיִּשְׁחַת u-shchth and-he- ^m corrupted	אָחִיו achi-u brother-of-him	בְּחֶרֶב b-chrb in- ^{the} -sword	
						נֹצַח ntzch permanently	שָׁמְרָהּ shmr-e he-keeps-her	

All of these various translations speak of a man who harbors bitterness and anger. Think about that concept. "Harboring" bitterness. Look at the definition of "harbor."

keep (a thought or feeling, typically a negative one) in one's mind, especially secretly.³

It's a "a place on the coast where vessels may find shelter, especially one protected from rough water by piers, jetties, and other artificial structures.."

Esau harbored his anger and bitterness, and the Lord warned him of the just how unprofitable that was.

Hebrews 12:15	Ephesians 4:26
Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;	Be ye angry , and sin not : let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

What did Esau have to be so angry about? Lots.

He was the son of Isaac and Rebekah, a fraternal twin of Jacob, and the boys wrestled against each other from before birth.

³ harbor definition - Bing

They were two totally different kinds of individuals. And their parents played favorites. All the classic things that should not happen in childrearing and family dynamics happened. And the result was one embittered man who “harbored” rage. He gave it a place to simmer and stew.

Genesis 25

¹Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²²The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the LORD.

²³The LORD said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other,
and the older will serve the younger.”

²⁴When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them.

Below seems like selfish preferential treatment to me.

²⁷The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. ²⁸Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

²⁹Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom.)

³¹Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.”

³²“Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?”

³³But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

³⁴Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright.

Esau is recorded as “despising” his birthright. As you see in the text box, this is called “godless” in the New Testament.

He loved his gratification of what seemed like and overwhelming physical needs to than he did his birthright. (See text box again---this is also related to giving in to what seems to be “overwhelming” sexual need or lust.) He cheapened it by selling it for a bowl of red soup. Also, Jacob did steal it---took advantage of him a point of weakness, and simply deceived him out of it. He also, under the direction of his mother, stole away his blessing from his father as well, which apparently is huge.

Genesis 27:41 New International Version (NIV)

⁴¹Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

And apparently the “nation” Edom became did the same thing. He:

- **pursued- his brother with the sword**
- **corrupted his own compassions**
- **his anger is ravenous continually**
- **his rage, he keeps it permanently**

Hebrews 12:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son.

Sexual incontinence is also associated with food (gratification of a normal human need) in this force.

1 Corinthians 6:13 New International Version (NIV)

¹³You say, “Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both.” The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body.

So obviously the life lesson for us---don't keep pursuing your wrongdoing brother with you implement of revenge, your sword (primarily our lips these days and the words that come out).

Don't stifle natural, God-given compassions. You have to work to do that. Let compassion flow.

Don't let your anger go unchecked. Don't let the sun set down on your wrath. Fulfill it, get it done, move on. And forgive.

And don't feed your rage, nurture it, nurse it, and then harbor it up (in what can become a pretty muck filled harbor in your heart).

Esau let his bitterness "simmer" and "stew," much like the stew Jacob was simmering when he came in from the hunt.

He should opened the harbor of his heart to let love and life course through and clean it out.

Let the river of living waters flow through you, and flush it out of your heart.

John 7:38

Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, **rivers** of **living water** will flow from within them."

We'll pick up here next time.