

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*

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*

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 Chapter 1 Part 5²



So Esau harbored bitterness, and I’m so grateful for this lesson in how to not harbor bitterness, and be free. What I find fascinating is how God holds each nation accountable for what they’ve done, even to some of the nations He is actually punishing. He punishes Edom, but He’s going to punish Moab for not properly treating the King of Edom. Who is this King of Glory? He’s fascinating, He’s amazing, and He’s a very surprising being. I’ll pick up on some remnants from yesterday’s study, and then go into what He says to the nation of Ammon. I’m going slower than I usually do on this, but I’m getting so much more out of it. And I love what Jesus said, “Man shall live by every word that comes out of the mouth of the Lord.” I do! So 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)

Amos 1:11-15 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹This 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,

¹²I will send fire on Teman
that will consume the fortresses of Bozrah.”

¹³This is what the LORD says:

“For three sins of Ammon,
even for four, I will not relent.
Because he ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead
in order to extend his borders,

¹⁴I will set fire to the walls of Rabbah
that will consume her fortresses
amid war cries on the day of battle,
amid violent winds on a stormy day.

¹⁵Her king^[a] will go into exile,
he and his officials together,”
says the LORD.

Footnotes:

- a. **Amos 1:15** Or / *Molek*

As we concluded yesterday, the “nation” Edom had certain “embedded” traits that their ancestor Edom had. He had a proclivity to:

H7843 shachath shaw-khath' to decay, i.e. (causatively) ruin (literally or figuratively).

- **Pursue his brother with the sword.**

He sought active revenge. God says clearly:

Romans 12:17-21 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷**Do not repay anyone evil for evil.** Be careful to **do what is right in the eyes of everyone.** ¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, **live at peace with everyone.** ¹⁹**Do not take revenge,** my dear friends, but **leave room for God's wrath,** for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"^[a] says the Lord. ²⁰On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."^[b]

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Footnotes:

- a. **Romans 12:19** Deut. 32:35
- b. **Romans 12:20** Prov. 25:21,22

Deuteronomy 32:35	Hebrews 10:30	Proverbs 25:21-22
³⁵ It is mine to avenge; I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."	³⁰ For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people."	²¹ If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. ²² In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.

God reserves vengeance for Himself, and seems to be "most particular" about reserving revenge to Himself. I am keenly interested in the Hebrews 10 usage of this as a support Scripture, so I want to share a little more of what was in that section.

Hebrews 10:26-31 New International Version (NIV)

²⁶If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of

the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, ²⁷ but only a fearful expectation of judgment and **of raging fire** that will consume the enemies of God. ²⁸ Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. ²⁹ How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has **trampled the Son of God underfoot**, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? ³⁰ For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay,"^[a] and again, "The Lord will judge his people."^[b] ³¹ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Footnotes:

- a. **Hebrews 10:30** Deut. 32:35

Hebrews 10:30 Deut. 32:36; Psalm 135:14

Deuteronomy 32:36

³⁶The LORD will vindicate his people and relent concerning his servants when he sees their strength is gone and no one is left, slave or free.^[a]

Footnotes:

- a. **Deuteronomy 32:36** Or *and they are without a ruler or leader*

Psalm 135:14

¹⁴For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants.

So Esau and Edom made the mistake of seeking vengeance. He also:

- **Corrupted his own compassions**

This comes from the literal Hebrew. Here is the word used:

H7843 shachath shaw-khath'

a primitive root;

to decay, i.e. (causatively) ruin (literally or figuratively).

Psalm 55:21

His talk is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart;
his **words** are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn **swords**.

Psalm 59:7

See what they spew from their mouths—the **words** from their lips are sharp as **swords**, and they think, “Who can hear us?”

Psalm 64:3

They sharpen their tongues like **swords** and aim cruel **words** like deadly arrows.
Proverbs 12:18
The **words** of the reckless pierce like **swords**, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

- his anger is ravenous continually

His anger took on a personification. It was “ravenous.” It had to feed on more and more

- his rage, he keeps it permanently

He kept his rage, “permanently.”

His “outburst” of passions is what the Hebrew means. Anger, on the other hand, means:

H639 'aph af

properly, the nose or nostril; hence, the face, and occasionally a person; also (from the rapid breathing in passion) ire.

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

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.

Ephesians 4:26

“In your anger do **not sin**”: Do **not** let the sun go down while you are still **angry**,

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). Don’t let it simmer and stew.**John 7:38**

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

Let's finish with God's words to Ammon.

Amos 1

"For three sins of Ammon,

even for four, I will not relent.

Because he ripped open the pregnant women of Gilead

in order to extend his borders,

Wow --- what a brutal, ruthless and sadistic thing to do. What horrors. Here's a brief comment on that.

Nov 19, 2018 · One of the most violent and brutal conducts in times of war was the **Assyrian practice of ripping** open **pregnant women** in order to expose their fetuses. According to Dubovsky (2009: 417), the purpose of the disembowelment of **pregnant women** was the **Assyrian** desire to "eliminate not only their actual enemies but also potential ones: those not yet born, who might seek to reclaim the land . . ."³

¹⁴I will set fire to the walls of Rabbah

that will consume her fortresses

amid war cries on the day of battle,

amid violent winds on a stormy day.

¹⁵Her king (or Molek or Molcom, their god) will go into exile,

Jeremiah 49:3	Jeremiah 49:1
"Wail, Heshbon, for Ai is destroyed! Cry out, you inhabitants of Rabbah! Put on sackcloth and mourn; rush here and there inside the walls, for Molek will go into exile, together with his priests and officials.	Concerning the Ammonites: This is what the LORD says: "Has Israel no sons? Has Israel no heir? Why then has Molek ^[a] taken possession of Gad? Why do his people live in its towns? <i>Footnotes:</i> a. Jeremiah 49:1 Or <i>their king</i> ; verse 3

³ Greg Boyd and the Practice of Ripping Open Pregnant Women | Dr. Claude Mariottini – Professor of Old Testament

he and his officials together,"
says the LORD.

Judgment is centered on Rabbah, modern day Amman.

It is mentioned in this ancient verse in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 3:11 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹(Og king of Bashan was the last of the Rephaites. His bed was decorated with iron and was more than nine cubits long and four cubits wide.^[a] It is still in Rabbah of the Ammonites.)

Footnotes:

- a. **Deuteronomy 3:11** That is, about 14 feet long and 6 feet wide or about 4 meters long and 1.8 meters wide

From Wikipedia⁴:

In the 13th century BC Amman was the capital of the **Ammonites**, and became known as "Rabbath Ammon". Ammon provided several natural resources to the region, including sandstone and limestone, along with a productive agricultural sector that made Ammon a vital location along the **King's Highway**, the ancient trade route connecting **Egypt** with **Mesopotamia**, **Syria** and **Anatolia**. As with the **Edomites** and **Moabites**, trade along this route gave the Ammonites considerable revenue.^[21] Ammonites worshiped an ancient **deity** called **Moloch**. Excavations by archeologists near **Amman Civil Airport** uncovered a temple, which included an altar containing many human bone fragments. The bones showed evidence of burning, which led to the assumption that the altar functioned as a **pyre**.^[22]

We'll go on to Chapter two next time.

⁴ **Amman - Wikipedia**