

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER<sup>1</sup> 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)**

<sup>27</sup>To 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 2 Part 5<sup>2</sup>**



So we finished studying God’s name, and focused a bit on what profanes God’s name. Another fascinating insight is surfacing here. It is how the love of luxury on the backs of the poor was such an issue to God for this people. Israel is about to be destroyed, and the lost 10 tribes of Israel will remain forever lost. And one of the things God really had issues with was the way they built their luxury on the backs of the poor, and disregarded their state and condition. God called for them to be way more sensitive to that than---and perhaps we---have been. But that’s not a universal indictment. There are so many people out there doing so much good. I believe they are doing it freely in because God has sent the Spirit of “ConneXion” on all flesh. We’ll try to wrap up this chapter today. Enjoy!

<sup>1</sup> **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

<sup>2</sup> 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 2:11-16 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>11</sup>“I also raised up prophets from among your children and Nazirites from among your youths.

**Prophets served as God’s faithful spokesmen, and Nazirites as those who uniquely dedicated themselves to Him. They are singled out as special gifts to his people. The word for prophet in Hebrew conveys the concept of someone who is an “inspired man.”**

| <b>Deuteronomy 18:15-20</b>  | <b>Numbers 6:1-21</b>   | <b>Judges 13:5</b>  |
|--|---|---|
| <p><sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. <sup>16</sup>For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, “Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.”</p> <p><sup>17</sup>The LORD said to me: “What they say is good. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command</p> | <p>Numbers 6 New International Version (NIV)</p> <p><b>The Nazirite</b></p> <p><b>6</b> The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the Israelites and say to them: ‘If a man or woman wants to make a special vow, a vow of dedication to the LORD as a Nazirite, <sup>3</sup>they must abstain from wine and other fermented drink and must not drink vinegar made from wine or other fermented drink. They must not drink grape juice or eat grapes or raisins. <sup>4</sup>As long as they remain under their Nazirite vow, they must not eat anything that comes</p> | <p><sup>5</sup>You will become pregnant and have a son whose head is never to be touched by a razor because the boy is to be a Nazirite, dedicated to God from the womb. He will take the lead in delivering Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”</p> |

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <p>him. <sup>19</sup>I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. <sup>20</sup>But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death.”</p> | <p>from the grapevine, not even the seeds or skins.</p> <p><sup>5</sup>“During the entire period of their Nazirite vow, no razor may be used on their head. They must be holy until the period of their dedication to the LORD is over; they must let their hair grow long.</p> <p><sup>6</sup>“Throughout the period of their dedication to the LORD, the Nazirite must not go near a dead body. <sup>7</sup>Even if their own father or mother or brother or sister dies, they must not make themselves ceremonially unclean on account of them, because the symbol of their dedication to God is on their head. . .</p> |  |
|---|--|--|

**Israel, like us, had begun to disregard holiness.**

Is this not true, people of Israel?” declares the LORD.

<sup>12</sup>“But you made the Nazirites drink wine and commanded the prophets not to prophesy.

**Not only did they disregard holiness, they tried to talk other people into sinning as well. Romans says this about such behavior:**

**Romans 1**

<sup>32</sup>Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things

deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

<sup>13</sup>“Now then, I will crush you as a cart crushes when loaded with grain. **The NIV here says “a loaded cart crushes anything that falls beneath its wheels.” I would add that God is saying “I’ve had my fill! I’ve endured your sinning long enough! It’s time for me to act.”**

<sup>14</sup>The swift will not escape,  
the strong will not muster their strength,  
and the warrior will not save his life.

<sup>15</sup>The archer will not stand his ground,  
the fleet-footed soldier will not get away,  
and the horseman will not save his life.

<sup>16</sup>Even the bravest warriors  
will flee naked on that day,”  
declares the LORD.

**No one who might be expected to stand their ground or escape would be able to save themselves. I’ll end with this telling Scripture in the New Testament that speaks to our “standing” and possibly falling.**

1 Corinthians 10 New International Version (NIV)

## Warnings From Israel’s History

**10** For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors (**our spiritual ancestors**) were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. <sup>2</sup>They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup>They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup>and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: "The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." <sup>8</sup>We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. <sup>9</sup>We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. <sup>10</sup>And **do not grumble**, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

<sup>11</sup>These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come(**or**

**collided**). <sup>12</sup>**So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!**

**No one expecting to stand their ground or be saved would be able to save themselves, the NIV says.**

<sup>13</sup>No temptation (putting to proof) has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

**Amen!**