

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 3 Part 1



So we will now begin chapter 3. One thing that amazes me as I study these passages in the Old Testament is how thoroughly Jesus, the apostles, and the early church fathers read them. As you read the things they taught, you can sometimes get a hint as to what scriptural precedent they were basing their teachings on. For example, Christ once said “From everyone who has been **given much, much** will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with **much, much** more will be asked.” (Luke 12:48) Amos 3 opens up with God saying “You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins.” (Amos 3:1) Israel was indeed given a special, unique relationship with God no one else had. Much was required of her too. Let’s see what we learn today. Enjoy!

¹ NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.

Witnesses Summoned Against Israel

3 Hear this word, people of Israel, the word the LORD has spoken against you—against the whole family I brought up out of Egypt:

God never stops mentioning that. How many times in the Scriptures do you read something like “I am the God who brought you out of the Land of Egypt . . .” I did a word search in the NIV study bible. It’s mentioned precisely 21 times in one way or another. Here are just a few.

Exodus 13:3	Exodus 20:2-3	Leviticus 25:38
Then Moses said to the people, “Commemorate this day, the day you came out of Egypt , out of the land of slavery, because the LORD brought you out of it with a mighty hand.	“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt , out of the land of slavery. ³ “You shall have no other gods before ^[a] me.	I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt to give you the land of Canaan and to be your God.
Deuteronomy 6:12	Joshua 2:1	Joshua 6:8
be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt , out of the land of slavery.	The angel of the LORD went up from Gilgal to Bokim and said, “I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land I swore to give to your ancestors. I said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you,	he sent them a prophet, who said, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I brought you up out of Egypt , out of the land of slavery.

God never forgot that! Here is one more passage I want to share about this context. It's from deep in the minor prophets, and it says why God did what He did. What He wanted.

Micah 6 New International Version (NIV)

6 Listen to what the LORD says:

⁴I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. ⁵My people, **remember . . . Remember your journey . . .** that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD." ⁶With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? ⁸He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly^[in meekness] with your God.

Let's continue:

²"You only have I chosen of all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your sins."

To whom much is given much is required. Look at the full reading of that concept from Christ.

Luke 12:46-48 New International Version (NIV)

⁴⁶The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers. ⁴⁷"The servant who knows the master's will and does not **get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows.** ⁴⁸But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and **from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.**

Israel had been entrusted with so much!

Romans 9:4-5

⁴the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the

promises. ⁵Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised!^[a] Amen.

Here is what the NIV study note says: "Israel's present strength and prosperity gave rise to complacency about her privileged status as the Lord's chosen people. She is shockingly reminded of the long-forgotten responsibilities her privileges entailed."

Next comes a series of rhetorical questions building up to the statements of verses 7-8 to explain why He is speaking such terrifying words. As you analyze these questions, He is simply saying there is a just cause for every effect. He is letting Israel know God has a reason for all this, and He does so through Amos through pictures of everyday life, culminating by divine action in verse 6.

³Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?

⁴Does a lion roar in the thicket
when it has no prey?

1 Peter 5:8

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the **devil** prowls around like a **roaring** lion looking for someone to devour.

Here's one comment about the roaring of a lion that is encouraging.

When lions get old and lose teeth, they are no longer able to hunt and attack, so they become the guards of the pride. Their entire purpose is to roar and scare any approaching prey towards the younger lions, so they can attack. The young lions do not waste their time roaring, they only attack. The Bible says the devil is a roaring lion; when we put it in this context, we understand that this means he has no teeth! He is a defeated foe! All he can do is roar to scare us. Our pastor shares an acronym that goes along with this; Fear is False Evidence Appearing Real. This is exactly what the enemy wants! He wants us to fear him, but it's all a farce!

The Bible tells us that we are to resist the devil, and he will flee. If we do not feed into the fear, he has no other option but to give up. Whenever we sit and dwell on a worry or fear, we are giving the enemy place in our minds that he has no right to. We have to line up our thoughts with what God has said for us.

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2
Timothy 1:7*

Let's finish up this portion of Amos 3 and save the warnings for next time.

⁴ Does a lion roar in the thicket
when it has no prey?

Does it growl in its den
when it has caught nothing?

⁵ Does a bird swoop down to a trap on the ground
when no bait is there?

Does a trap spring up from the ground
if it has not caught anything?

What is happening is not meaningless, God says! There is a purpose for it. Here is how he concludes this section.

⁶ When a trumpet sounds in a city,
do not the people tremble?

When disaster comes to a city,
has not the LORD caused it?

⁷ Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing
without revealing his plan
to his servants the prophets.

⁸ The lion has roared—
who will not fear?

The Sovereign LORD has spoken—
who can but prophesy?

There is a purpose for all this "roaring." God has something to say. What is it? We'll look at it next time.