

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 2



So God uses “parables” from every day human life. Included were:

1. The inherent companionship of two walking together in agreement.
2. A lion roaring in the thicket because he’s spotted prey.
3. A lion growling in his den because he’s caught something.
4. A bird approaching a trap because he’s spotted bait.
5. A trap springing up from the ground because something tripped it.

Then after showing that every effect has a cause, he zeros in on these truths: the sound of a trumpet means war is near; disasters in the city means God caused them (or at least, allowed them); and the Sovereign Lord stirring up His prophets to speak and warn. Of what? We’ll venture into that today.

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

Amos 3:8-15 New International Version (NIV)

⁸The lion has roared— who will not fear?
The Sovereign LORD has spoken—who can but prophesy?

I like the analogy I discovered on the web yesterday. Satan is roaring lion---seeking to destabilize prey. But old lions roar because that's all they can do! They're toothless. The prince of this world has been cast out!

Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the **prince** of this world be **cast out**.

John 12:31

⁹Proclaim to the fortresses of Ashdod and to the fortresses of Egypt:

Is God appropriately using "shaming" here? The NIV says the "rich and powerful of Egypt are summoned to witness the Lord's indictment against those who store up



ill-gotten riches in the fortress of Samaria. "Fortresses" is thought to refer not only to citadels but to the fortress-like palatial dwellings of the rich and powerful. A citadel is a fortress, typically on high ground, protecting or dominating a city. A fort is a defensive structure stationed with troops but a citadel is a strong fortress that resides high above a city.

"Assemble yourselves on the mountains of Samaria;
see the great unrest within her
and the oppression among her people."

The unrest within her was the result of violent, selfish power structures that was heedless of the justice called for in God's law.

¹⁰"They do not know how to do right," declares the LORD,
"who store up in their fortresses
what they have plundered and looted."

The prosperity of Israel's wealthy depended on oppression and robbery. The following verses will announce God's judgment on such greed.

¹¹Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

"An enemy will overrun your land,
pull down your strongholds
and plunder your fortresses."

This enemy was Assyria.

¹²This is what the LORD says:

Exodus 22:13 King James
Version (KJV)

^o"If anyone gives a donkey,
an ox, a sheep or any other
animal to their neighbor for
safekeeping and it dies or is
injured or is taken away
while no one is looking. .
. ¹³If it be torn in pieces,
then let him bring it for
witness, and he shall not
make good that which was
torn.

"As a shepherd rescues
from the lion's mouth
only two leg bones or a
piece of an ear,

**This was done to prove
to the owner that the
sheep had been eaten
by a wild animal, not
stolen by the shepherd.**

so will the Israelites living
in Samaria be rescued,
with only the head of a
bed

and a piece of fabric^[a] from a couch.^[b]"

Here is how the footnote translates this.

Amos 3:12 Or *Israelites be rescued, / those who sit in Samaria / on the edge of their beds / and in Damascus on their couches.*

The inference is that the Israelites may have maintained luxurious houses in Damascus, and market privileges in that city. Again, a theme of indolent, non-caring luxurious living is pictured here.

¹³"Hear this and testify against the descendants of Jacob," declares the Lord, the LORD God Almighty.

Amos 2:6-8 King James
Version (KJV)

⁶Thus saith the LORD; For
three transgressions of
Israel, and for four, I will
not turn away the
punishment thereof;
because they sold the
righteous for silver, and the
poor for a pair of shoes;

⁷That pant after the dust of
the earth on the head of
the poor, and turn aside the
way of the meek: and a
man and his father will go
in unto the same maid, to
profane my holy name:

⁸And they lay themselves
down upon clothes laid to
pledge by every altar, and
they drink the wine of the
condemned in the house of
their god.

1 Kings 12:26-33 New International Version (NIV)

²⁶Jeroboam thought to himself, "The kingdom will now likely revert to the house of David. ²⁷If these people go up to offer sacrifices at the temple of the LORD in Jerusalem, they will again give their allegiance to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah. They will kill me and return to King Rehoboam." . . . ²⁸ . . . He said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." ²⁹One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan. ³⁰And this thing became a sin; the people came to worship the one at Bethel and went as far as Dan to worship the other.^[a]

a. **1 Kings 12:30** Probable reading of the original Hebrew text; Masoretic Text *people went to the one as far as Dan*

¹⁴"On the day I punish Israel for her sins, I will destroy the altars of Bethel; the horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground.

God speaks of the root of Israel's sin---the false shrine built by Jeroboam 1 in Bethel.

¹⁵I will tear down the winter house along with the summer house; the houses adorned with ivory will be destroyed and the mansions will be demolished," declares the LORD.

Many examples of such inlays and carvings have been found in ruined palaces of Samaria



and other cities.

Samarian Ivory Decoration

Floral and scallop shell decoration, circa ninth century B.C.E., Samaria. Ivory, **Israel Department of Antiquities** and Museums.

Samarian Ivory Decoration (bibleodyssey.org)

Footnotes:

- a. **Amos 3:12** The meaning of the Hebrew for this phrase is uncertain.
- b. **Amos 3:12** Or *Israelites be rescued, / those who sit in Samaria / on the edge of their beds / and in Damascus on their couches.*

New International Version (NIV)

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