

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 4 Part 1



So we will now begin chapter 4. Israel is particularly focused on in this chapter, and the women of Israel, called “cows of Bashan,” are specifically mentioned. Upper class women are compared with a particular breed of cattle that were raised and pampered in the pastures of the northern Transjordan (according to the NIV study Bible). It’s not sure whether the metaphor is meant as an insult or as an ironic flattery. Times were different then, and it’s funny how direct and almost verbally sharp the prophets speaking on behalf of God could be. And I don’t rule out that they were speaking under divine inspiration. Jesus called Herod a “fox.” It’s in Luke 12: Herod wants to kill you.”³² He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’”

Let’s see what else transpires. Enjoy!

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

Amos 4 New International Version (NIV)

Israel Has Not Returned to God

4 Hear this word, you cows of Bashan on Mount Samaria,
you women who oppress the poor and crush the needy

Note again how selfish, indulgent opulence is condemned. I wonder what God would think of the women of our day, not all of the amazing women who are leading companies, doing scientific research, parenting children, etc., but the ones that are selfish and self-indulgent, and don't care about anything but themselves.

Women who "oppress" and "crush" are not given a "good review" by our God.

Here is the CLV version.

(CLV) Am 4:1

Hear ¹this ¹word, young cows of ¹Bashan, Who are in the mountain of Samaria, ¹Who are exploiting the poor,
¹Who are bruising the needy, ¹Who are saying to their lords, Do bring, and let us drink.

How do we exploit the poor in our day? It's worth giving some thought too. At any rate, look at the selfish self indulgence of these people.

and say to your husbands, "Bring us some drinks!"

The "let them eat cake" attitude Marie Antoinette was perhaps falsely accused of having.

²The Sovereign LORD has sworn by his holiness:

**The NIV says God is reminding of what they could have been, had they listened to God. A "kingdom of priests, and a holy nation."
(Exodus 19:6)**

"The time will surely come
when you will be taken away with hooks,

According to Assyrian reliefs (pictures engraved on stone), prisoners of war were led away with a rope fastened to a hook that pierced the nose or the lower lip).



King Put Hooks In Their Lips (Bible History Online) (bible-history.com)

the last of you with fishhooks.^[a]

³You will each go straight out through breaches in the wall, and you will be cast out toward Harmon,^[b]” declares the LORD.

A place name, but not otherwise known.

⁴“Go to Bethel and sin; go to Gilgal and sin yet more. Bring your sacrifices every morning, your tithes every three years.^[c]

Apparently they were still keeping the law of the special tithes brought every three years. They were “keeping” God’s will---or so they thought. But they were not pleasing God by their lack of concern for the poor---proactive concern for the poor that were being oppressed by systemic practices. Interesting, because the tithe being spoken of was meant to support the poor.

2 Kings 19:28 New International Version (NIV)

²⁸ Because **you rage against me**

and because your insolence has reached my ears,
I will put my hook in your nose

and my bit in your mouth,
and I will make you return by the way you came.’

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| Deuteronomy 14:28-29 New International Version (NIV) | Deuteronomy 16:12 |
| <p>²⁸At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, ²⁹so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.</p> | <p>¹²When you have finished setting aside a tenth of all your produce in the third year, the year of the tithe, you shall give it to the Levite, the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied.</p> |

So just praying and paying wasn't enough. Just like Christ said, we will be held accountable for not being proactive about helping the oppressed and poor.

I'll end today's study with this Scripture:

The Sheep and the Goats

³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

³⁴"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

³⁷"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸When did we see

you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

⁴¹“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴²For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

⁴⁴“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

⁴⁵“He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

⁴⁶“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Wow. The ones who are hungry, thirsty, stranger, needing clothes, sick and in prison. What am I doing for any of them?