

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*

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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 5 Part 1



My key take away from the last chapter was this:

“God reveals His thoughts to mankind.”

Who is this God? He’s the One:

who turns dawn to darkness,
and treads on the heights of the earth—
the LORD God Almighty is his name.

In this chapter, God reveals His thoughts to Israel. What kind of thoughts did He reveal to this nation? Would we find His approach acceptable? Would that matter even? God, after all, is God. Prepare for some insights as to how He thinks.

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

Amos 5 New International Version (NIV)

A Lament and Call to Repentance

5 Hear this word, Israel, this lament I take up concerning you:

²“Fallen is Virgin Israel,
never to rise again,
deserted in her own land,
with no one to lift her up.”

³This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Israel:

“Your city that marches out a thousand strong
will have only a hundred left;
your town that marches out a hundred strong
will have only ten left.”

⁴This is what the LORD says to Israel:

“Seek me and live;

⁵ do not seek Bethel,
do not go to Gilgal,
do not journey to Beersheba.

For Gilgal will surely go into exile,
and Bethel will be reduced to nothing.^[a]”

I’m fascinated by this concept here. At Bethel, they had erected a shrine of some sort with Golden Calves. And he instituted the worship of “gods” (plural) attempted to emulate the true worship of the true God at the Temple in Jerusalem.

Israel was going to be like a person who falls and no one is available to pick her up. Like an old person without a life alert, and no one to rescue her. Alone, and no one able to save.

The “tenth” principle is echoed here. A reduction to one tenth of what she was.

1 Kings 12:25-32 New International Version (NIV)

Golden Calves at Bethel and Dan

²⁵Then Jeroboam fortified Shechem in the hill country of Ephraim and lived there. From there he went out and built up Peniel.^[a]

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

Exodus 32 (NIV)

32 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods^(or "gods") who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

²Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." ³So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods,^[b] Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

The word Elohim is used for "gods." It's also used for the One True God. But there was something compelling about these golden calves.

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."

²⁸After seeking advice, the king made two golden calves. 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."

What was so tempting about those golden calves. Ever since the beginning of Israel's history, they were tempted by and drawn to these golden calves. Why?

²⁹One he set up in Bethel, and the other in Dan.

Dan was at the northern border. Bethel at the southern. And look at what else he did.

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.^[b]

³¹Jeroboam built shrines on high places and appointed priests from all sorts of people, even though they were not Levites. ³²He instituted a festival on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the festival held in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. This he did in Bethel, sacrificing to the calves he had made. And at Bethel he also installed priests at the high places he had made.

He copied the true worship of God. They became cultural expressions of godly worship. It was more tied to the culture and it's preservation than it was to the worship of the true God the way He prescribed worship to be.

But notice what God advised. Forget these cultural expressions of worship! Seek the Lord! Seek the Lord and live.

⁶Seek the LORD and live,
or he will sweep through the tribes of Joseph like a fire;
it will devour them,
and Bethel will have no one to quench it.

And here is an important point. The Lord is to be SOUGHT. Let me look up a few verses that emphasize this.

Deuteronomy 4:29

But if from there you **seek** the **LORD** your God, you will find him if you **seek** him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 12:5

But you are to **seek** the place the **LORD** your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go;

We are to “seek” the Lord. “Seek” Him!

Here is the Hebrew word.

H1875 darash daw-rash'

properly, to tread or frequent; usually to follow (for pursuit or search); by implication, to seek or ask; specifically to worship.

Look at the implication. Pursue. Search. Seek. Ask.

1 Kings 22:5

But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, “First **seek** the counsel of the **LORD.**”

1 Chronicles 16:10

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who **seek** the **LORD** rejoice.

1 Chronicles 16:11

Look to the **LORD** and his strength; **seek** his face always.

1 Chronicles 22:19

Now devote your heart and soul to **seeking** the **LORD** your God.

Here is what David taught his son.

1 Chronicles 28:9

“And you, my son Solomon, **acknowledge** the God of your father, and **serve him** with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the **LORD** searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you **seek** him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.

Here are the steps.

- 1. Acknowledge God**
- 2. Serve Him with wholehearted devotion and a willing mind.**
- 3. Seek Him.**
- 4. Don't forsake Him.**

Look at this verse in the CLV.

(CLV) 1Ch 28:9

And you, Solomon my son, know [”]the Elohim of your ⁷“fathers”[~], and serve Him wholeheartedly and ^íwith a delighting soul, for Yahweh inquires^l into all hearts, and He understands^l every form of devisings. If you ^lseek after Him, He shall be found [”]by you; ⁺but if you ^lforsake Him, He shall cast you off for the future.

- 1. Know God.**
- 2. Serve Him wholeheartedly.**
- 3. Serve Him with a DELIGHTING SOUL.**
- 4. Seek after Him.**

2 Chronicles 12:14

He did evil because he had not set his heart on **seeking** the **LORD**.

Hmmm. I want to savor the “seek the Lord” verses. I may do that next.