

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 5 Part 3



So The Lord is to be sought! Seek me, He says, and live. We are to “seek” the Lord. “Seek” Him!

Even the place where He puts His Name. Seek Him. Here is the Hebrew word.

We are to tread and frequent the home of the Lord. We are to search for Him. Seek Him. Ask for Him. Seek His counsel. We are to:

(CLV) 1Ch 28:9

... know ⁷the Elohim of your ⁷fathers[~], and serve **Him wholeheartedly** and ⁱwith a **delighting soul**. . . If you ^lseek after Him, He shall be found ⁷by you; [†]but if you ^lforsake Him, He shall cast you off for the future.

So God’s advice to Israel in the last chapter was to “Seek the Lord, and live!” or He will sweep through them like a consuming fire. Our God is a consuming fire. Let’s see what else there is to learn.

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

Amos 5

⁷There are those who turn justice into bitterness and cast righteousness to the ground.

I find that fascinating. Let me look it up in different translations.

(KJV)	(NKJV)	(NASB)	(MSG)	(CLV) Am 5:7
⁷ Ye who turn judgment to wormwood, and leave off righteousness in the earth . . .	⁷ You who turn justice to wormwood, And lay righteousness to rest in the earth!"	⁷ For those who turn justice into wormwood, And ^[a] throw righteousness to the earth."	⁷⁻⁹ Woe to you who turn justice to vinegar and stomp righteousness into the mud.	You [*] who are turning right judgment to absinth, And who hurl down righteousness to the earth—

So here's what I thought. It's one thing to seek judgment and justice. It's another thing to be poisonously bitter about it. I've heard people like that. They want what's right and want what's fair. But they get bitter (wormwood is a poisonous, bitter tasting extract). Maybe it really means to those who corrupt judgment, making it something poisonous.

I guess that's a warning to me about not getting bitter for what was not fair!

Hebrews 12:14-15

¹⁴Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: Looking diligently lest any man fail **of** the grace **of** God; lest any **root of bitterness** springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

⁸He who made the Pleiades and Orion,



Pleiades (right) and Orion (left) who turns midnight into dawn and darkens day into night, who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out over the face of the land—

Note: Recent estimates put the volume of the Earth's oceans at 1.332 cubic kilometers. This is equivalent to around $3.52 \cdot 10^{20}$ or 352 quintillion, gallons of water.²

the LORD is his name.

⁹With a blinding flash he destroys the stronghold and brings the fortified city to ruin.

¹⁰There are those who hate the one who upholds justice in court

and detest the one who tells the truth.

Note: Whenever anyone speaks out in righteousness these days, they are often condemned.

¹¹You levy a straw tax on the poor and impose a tax on their grain.

Therefore, though you have built stone mansions, you will not live in them;

though you have planted lush vineyards, you will not drink their wine.

I just read something in the Greek Orthodox study Bible. It said that "virgin Israel" is fallen, and not because she's not a virgin, but more because she was like the foolish virgins in Christ parable---virgins without oil. I've always taken oil to mean the Holy Spirit. But the Greek Study Bible takes it mean acts of mercy, since the root word for "oil" and "mercy" in Greek are the same, and the parable ends with a condemnation of those that do not do good works and charity toward those in need. Israel was living prodigiously and in luxurious selfishness.

² [How many gallons of water are in the oceans ? - Quora](#)

Matthew 25 King James Version (KJV)

25 Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

²And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.

³They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:

⁴But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

⁵While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.

⁶And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.

⁷Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.

⁸And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.

⁹But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

¹⁰And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.

¹¹Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.

¹²But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.

¹³Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

To explain and celebrate that mercy, they sometimes used a little word-play. The Greek word for mercy is *eleison*, as in “Kýrie, eléison,” Lord have mercy. Eleison is similar to *elaion*, the Greek word for olive. Olives and olive oil were essential in the ancient Mediterranean world. Some commentators of early Church used this similarity as a means of reflecting on various aspects of mercy.³

Consider again how their sins speak of their lack of concern for the poor.

¹²For I know how many are your offenses
and how great your sins.

There are those **who oppress the innocent** and take bribes
and **deprive the poor of justice in the courts.**

¹³**Therefore the prudent keep quiet in such times,
for the times are evil.**

Fascinating advice!

¹⁴Seek good, not evil,
that you may live.

Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you,
just as you say he is.

¹⁵**Hate evil, love good;**
maintain justice in the courts.

Perhaps the LORD God Almighty will have mercy
on the remnant of Joseph.

¹⁶Therefore this is what the Lord, the LORD God Almighty, says:

“There will be wailing in all the streets
and cries of anguish in every public square.

The farmers will be summoned to weep
and the mourners to wail.

¹⁷There will be wailing in all the vineyards,
for I will pass through your midst,”
says the LORD.

We’ll pick up here next time.

³ **An Odd Work of Grace: Olives, Olive Oil, and the Mercy of God**