

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER!** **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 Paige, Stephanie, and Ashley, and any descendant they have (particularly Nicole, Joey, Matthew, Dylan, Julianne, and Lizzie, who know me as “Papou”). 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 my girls. 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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**Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)**

<sup>27</sup>To 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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**Ezekiel 9<sup>2</sup>**

God began Ezekiel’s journey in the last chapter by lifting him up by the hair on his head. At the end of the chapter He said: “Although they shout in my ears, I will not listen to them.” At the end of His life, Jesus wept and cried out to God, “My God, My God Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?” When He became sin on our behalf, Jesus cried with a loud voice, and God still let Him suffer on the Cross. Some say this was the true “Last Temptation of Christ.” And Christ passed that test too! He was tested in every way, and yet did not sin! A few verses later, in unbroken faith to God, He said: “Into your hands I commit my Spirit.” We can share in His Faith!

<sup>1</sup> **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

<sup>2</sup> New International Version (NIV)

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(Author’s note: This translation, and the study notes that accompany it in The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 are also referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

## Judgment on the Idolaters

**9** Then I heard him call out in a loud voice, "Bring near those who are appointed to execute judgment on the city, each with a weapon in his hand." <sup>2</sup>And I saw six men coming from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with a deadly weapon in his hand. With them was a man clothed in linen who had a writing kit at his side. They came in and stood beside the bronze altar.

**Note: It's fascinating to consider the interface between heaven and earth. There are angels, servants of God that are "ministering spirits."<sup>3</sup> Now I thought the word for "ministering" was going to diakonia, the word from which we derive "deacon." It literally means "through (dia)-servant"---a servant through whom God flows in service. But the actual word is:**

**G3010** leitourgikos li-toorg-ik-os'

from the same as **G3008**;

functional publicly ("liturgic"); i.e. beneficent.

**It's the word from which we get liturgy, which is a form of service offered to God by the Greek Orthodox. They are somehow involved in what we see happening on earth.**

**My friend Jeff often talks about the multi-dimensionality of our existence.**

**It's fascinating to consider what the "fabric of Being" is woven with!**

<sup>3</sup>Now the glory of the God of Israel went up from above the cherubim, where it had been, and moved to the threshold of the temple.

**Note: The NIV study bible says that God is beginning to vacate the temple. His glory is moving to the threshold, to the door!**

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<sup>3</sup> Hebrews 1:14

Then the LORD called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side <sup>4</sup>and said to him, "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it."

**Note: So this "ministering spirit," a man clothed with linen who "marks" God's people with special mark. This is interesting to me, because the "marks" aren't physical, as much as they are "spiritual" marks that God notes. Cain had one (Genesis 4:15) and his may have been a literal mark. We've all heard of the mark of the beast. A source I often quote says this:**

It is important to realize that a medical implant chip is not the mark of the beast. The mark of the beast will be something given only to those who worship the Antichrist. Having a medical or financial microchip inserted into your right hand or forehead is not the mark of the beast. The mark of the beast will be an end-times identification required by the Antichrist in order to buy or sell, and it will be given only to those who worship the Antichrist.

Many good expositors of Revelation differ widely as to the exact nature of the mark of the beast. Besides the implanted chip view, other speculations include an ID card, a microchip, a barcode that is tattooed into the skin, or simply a mark that identifies someone as being faithful to the Antichrist's kingdom. This last view requires the least speculation, since it does not add any more information to what the Bible gives us. In other words, any of these things are possible, but at the same time they are all speculations. We should not spend a lot of time speculating on the precise details.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>5</sup>As I listened, he said to the others, "Follow him through the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion. <sup>6</sup>Slaughter the old men, the young men and women, the mothers and children, but do not touch anyone who has the mark. Begin at my sanctuary."

**Note: I think this is interesting. The punishers were to begin at God's sanctuary! This sounds like this Scripture:**

**1 Peter 4:17**

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/mark-beast.html>

<sup>17</sup>For it is time for judgment to begin with God's household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

**Remember---God's judgment is not retributive, but restorative. At least, it's primarily "restorative." But notice what Ezekiel mentions a few verses later. It seems like "what goes around" does "come around." That always makes for a good movie! Paul apparently did too. Look at what he said about one of the bad guys in his life.**

2 Timothy 4:14 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>14</sup>Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done.

**Maybe God likes good endings too, where the bad guys do their due!**

So they began with the old men who were in front of the temple.

**Note: The older men, the more mature, were the most accountable and the first punished!**

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to them, "Defile the temple and fill the courts with the slain. Go!" So they went out and began killing throughout the city. <sup>8</sup>While they were killing and I was left alone, I fell facedown, crying out, "Alas, Sovereign LORD! Are you going to destroy the entire remnant of Israel in this outpouring of your wrath on Jerusalem?"

<sup>9</sup>He answered me, "The sin of the people of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great; the land is full of bloodshed and the city is full of injustice. They say, 'The LORD has forsaken the land; the LORD does not see.'<sup>10</sup> So I will not look on them with pity or spare them, but I will bring down on their own heads what they have done."

**Note: God says "I will bring down on their own heads what they have done!"**

<sup>11</sup>Then the man in linen with the writing kit at his side brought back word, saying, "I have done as you commanded."

**Note: Wow. Who knows what's happening "behind" the veil of eternity! God does, and if we're "on," we can too!**

