

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 5



Those who turn justice into bitterness also throw righteousness to the ground. I think that is a profound translation. You can want “justice” so much it becomes a point of bitterness (wormwood). I’ve seen that happen---how people become bitter, and sadness and hurt ensue.

In a culture where those who speak righteousness are often condemned, I found this advice insightful.

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

There is a time to speak up.

But there are also times to keep your mouth shut. Let’s see what else there is to learn.

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

The Day of the LORD

¹⁸Woe to you who long
 for the day of the LORD!
 Why do you long for the day of the LORD?
 That day will be darkness, not light.

Let's consider again what the NIV Study Bible says about the Day of the Lord. It's "The time when God will show himself the victor over the world, vindicating his claims to be the Lord of all the earth."

Amos 8:9	Isa 2:11	Isa 2:17	Isa 2:20	Joel 1:15
⁹ "In that day," declares the Sovereign LORD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight.	¹¹ The eyes of the arrogant will be humbled and human pride brought low; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.	¹⁷ The arrogance of man will be brought low and human pride humbled; the LORD alone will be exalted in that day,	²⁰ In that day people will throw away to the moles and bats their idols of silver and idols of gold, which they made to worship.	¹⁵ Alas for that day! For the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

Apparently, Israel expected to be exalted since they were His people and longed for that Day to come. But Amos warns that it will not come as Israel expected. Notice the following verses.

¹⁹It will be as though a man fled from a lion

only to meet a bear,
 as though he entered his house
 and rested his hand on the wall
 only to have a snake bite him.

²⁰Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light—
 pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

This day of the Lord will be a day of darkness, and not night. Let me say two more things about the Day of the Lord.

THE DAY OF THE LORD AND DARKNESS

Where the day of the Lord is spoken elsewhere in Scripture, it is spoken as one in which the cosmic world order is disrupted, and light is turned to darkness. Let me cite those Scriptures.

Isa 13:10	Isa 24:23	Isa 34:4	Isa 50:3	Ezekiel 32:7-8
¹⁰ The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.	²³ The moon will be dismayed, the sun ashamed; for the LORD Almighty will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, and before its elders—with great glory.	⁴ All the stars in the sky will be dissolved and the heavens rolled up like a scroll; all the starry host will fall like withered leaves from the vine, like shriveled figs from the fig tree.	³ I clothe the heavens with darkness and make sackcloth its covering.”	⁷ When I snuff you out, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light. ⁸ All the shining lights in the

				<p>heavens I will darken over you; I will bring darkness over your land, declares the Sovereign Lo RD.</p>
Joel 2:2	Joel 2:10:31	Mic 3:6	Zep 1:15	Rev 6:12
<p>² a day of darkness a nd gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was in ancient times nor ever will be in ages to come.</p>	<p>¹⁰ Before them the earth shakes, the heavens tremble, the sun and moon are darkened, and the stars no longer shine. ³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.</p>	<p>⁶ Therefore night will come over you, without visions, and darkness, without divination. The sun will set for the prophets, and the day will go dark for them.</p>	<p>¹⁵ That day will be a day of wrath— a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness a nd gloom, a day of clouds and blackness —</p>	<p>¹² I watched as he opened the sixth seal. There was a great earthquake. The sun turned black like sackcloth ma de of goat hair, the whole moon turned blood red,</p>

The NIV adds this interesting observation---it's as if creation is being undone.

Jeremiah 4:23	Genesis 1:1-2
²³ I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone.	1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

It's amazing how at the creation of the world darkness and chaos and formlessness appeared. It seems like sin brings the unraveling of creation, as with the flood. But God has said "let there be light" and also He has hung a rainbow in the sky (Genesis 9:13) to affirm that He will not let the floods (representing chaos, overwhelming creation as a flood) destroy the earth.

Next time we will briefly look at the references to THE DAY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST. But we'll stop here for now.