

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
graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER

Amos 5 Wrap up & 6

So we reviewed the Day of the Lord, which is associated with darkness and gloom and the cosmic order being literally unravel. The primordial deep again would attack and try to snuff out creation. Sin would make it unravel.

Jeremiah 4:23	Genesis 1:2-3
<p>²³ I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty;</p> <p>and at the heavens, and their light was gone.</p>	<p>1 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.</p>

Let’s pick up on that theme, and study one more aspect about it. Then let’s continue on into Amos .

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

I want to start with just one more observation about the unraveling of the cosmos because of sin.

It stems from these two Scriptural understandings.

1. Christ is the one who gives matter mass.

Colossians 1:17 New International Version

¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Let me look up alternate translations to get this point across.

KJ21 And He is before all things, and by Him all things **consist**.

ASV and he is before all things, and in him all things consist.

AMP And He Himself existed *and* is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

[His is the controlling, cohesive force of the universe.]

AMPC And He Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist (cohere, are held together).

BRG And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

CSB He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.

CEB He existed before all things, and all things are held together in him.

CJB He existed before all things, and he holds everything together.

CEV God's Son was before all else, and by him everything is held together.

DARBY And *he* is before all, and all things subsist together by him.

DLNT And He Himself is before all *things*, and all *things* have existence in Him.

DRA And he is before all, and by him all things consist.

LEB and he himself is before all *things*, and in him all *things* are held together,

TLB He was before all else began and it is his power that holds everything together.

MSG So spacious is he, so expansive, that everything of God finds its proper place in him without crowding. Not only that, but all the broken and dislocated pieces of the universe—people and things, animals and atoms—get properly fixed and fit together in vibrant harmonies, all because of his death, his blood that poured down from the cross.

Christ gives matter "mass." If Christ was taken out of the picture, all existence would unravel into "nothingness." There are several references to this in the New Testament. I'll key of one of them:

Romans 9:22

What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for **destruction**?

So the Greek word for destruction comes from this related word:

G622 apollumi ap-ol'-loo-mee

from **G575** and the base of **G3639**;

to destroy fully (reflexively, to perish, or lose), literally or figuratively.

KJV: destroy, die, lose, mar, perish.

Here are its cognates.

G575 apo apo'	G3639 olethros ol'-eth-ros
a primary particle; "off," i.e. away (from something near), in various senses (of place, time, or relation; literal or figurative). In composition (as a prefix) it usually denotes separation, departure, cessation, completion, reversal, etc.	from a primary ollumi (to destroy; a prolonged form); ruin, i.e. death, punishment.

Another word us is katalou.

G2647 kataluo kat-al-oo'-o

from **G2596** and **G3089**;

to loosen down (disintegrate), i.e. (by implication) to demolish (literally or figuratively); specially (compare **G2646**) to halt for the night.

So Christ gives matter mass. And when sin, that which misses the mark of Christ's life, kicks in, then the unraveling of the universe kicks in. Like it did at the flood---sin causes the destruction of the cosmos. We are all interrelated. Sin unravels being. God stops it through Christ who is forever dying with and resurrecting this existence of ours. How much He loves us!

Let's now go to chapter 6.

Amos 6 New International Version

Woe to the Complacent

6 Woe to you who are complacent in Zion,
and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria,
you notable men of the foremost nation,
to whom the people of Israel come!

As the Study Bible says in its introduction, Israel at this time was politically secure and spiritually smug. They had received two special prophetic endorsements.

2 Kings 13:17-19

New International Version

¹⁷ "Open the east window," he said, and he opened it. "Shoot!" Elisha said, and he shot. "The LORD's arrow of victory, the arrow of victory over Aram!" Elisha declared. "You will completely destroy the Arameans at Aphek."

¹⁸ Then he said, "Take the arrows," and the king took them. Elisha told him, "Strike the ground." He struck it three times and stopped. ¹⁹ The man of God was angry with him and said, "You should have struck the ground five or six times; then you would have defeated Aram and completely destroyed it. But now you will defeat it only three times."²

2 Kings 14:25

New International Version

²⁵ He was the one who restored the boundaries of Israel from Lebo Hamath to the Dead Sea, in accordance with the word of the LORD, the God of Israel, spoken through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hepher.

Note: The moderately enthusiastic response of Jehoash king of Israel to the Elisha's directive reflected insufficient zeal for accomplishing the announced task.

Let's get back to Amos. Apparently Israel was smug and secure. It reminds me of this Scripture in the text box.

Listen to how berates their luxury.

² Go to Kalneh and look at it;
go from there to great Hamath,
and then go down to Gath in Philistia.
Are they better off than your two kingdoms?
Is their land larger than yours?

He points them to other examples of destruction nearby---Kalneh, Hamath and Gath.

³ You put off the day of disaster
and bring near a reign of terror.

Perhaps becoming oblivious to prophesied day, as if it would ever really happen.

⁴ You lie on beds adorned with ivory
and lounge on your couches.

You dine on choice lambs
and fattened calves.

⁵ You strum away on your harps like David
and improvise on musical instruments.

⁶ You drink wine by the bowlful
and use the finest lotions,
but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph.

⁷ Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile;
your feasting and lounging will end.

The LORD Abhors the Pride of Israel

⁸ The Sovereign LORD has sworn by himself—the LORD God Almighty declares:

1 Corinthians 10:12
New International Version

¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

2 Chronicles 26:6
New International Version

⁶ He (Uzziah) went to war against the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh and Ashdod.

2 Samuel 23:1
New International Version

23 These are the last words of David. . . the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob,

the hero of Israel's songs:

The more literal translation says "the pleasant one of Israel's psalms.)

"I abhor the pride of Jacob
and detest his fortresses;
I will deliver up the city
and everything in it."

⁹ If ten people are left in one house, they too will die. ¹⁰ And if the relative who comes to carry the bodies out of the house to burn them^[a] asks anyone who might be hiding there, "Is anyone else with you?" and he says, "No," then he will go on to say, "Hush! We must not mention the name of the LORD."

While this sounds like cremation, it might have been simply creating a memorial fire in honor of the dead. Cremation was not generally practiced, except for the most serious of offenders.

Ge 38:24	Lev 20:14	Lev 21:9	Jos 7:15,25	1 Sa 31:12
<p>²⁴ About three months later Judah was told, "Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant."</p> <p>Judah said, "Bring her out and have her burned to death!"</p>	<p>¹⁴ "If a man marries both a woman and her mother, it is wicked. Both he and they must be burned in the fire, so that no wickedness will be among you.</p>	<p>⁹ "If a priest's daughter defiles herself by becoming a prostitute, she disgraces her father; she must be burned in the fire.</p>	<p>¹⁵ Whoever is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of the LORD and has done an outrageous thing in Israel!"</p> <p>²⁵ Joshua said, "Why have you brought this trouble on us? The LORD will bring trouble on you today."</p>	<p>² all their valiant men marched through the night to Beth Shan. They took down the bodies of Saul and his sons from the wall of Beth Shan and went to Jabesh, where they burned them.</p>

			Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them.	
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¹¹ For the LORD has given the command,
and he will smash the great house into pieces
and the small house into bits.

¹² Do horses run on the rocky crags?
Does one plow the sea^[b] with oxen?

Israel's sin even defies the logic of human wisdom.

But you have turned justice into poison
and the fruit of righteousness into bitterness—

¹³ you who rejoice in the conquest of Lo Debar^[c]
and say, "Did we not take Karnaim^[d] **by our own strength**?"

What arrogance.

¹⁴ For the LORD God Almighty declares,
"I will stir up a nation against you, Israel,
that will oppress you all the way
from Lebo Hamath to the valley of the Arabah."

This pictures the whole of the land from north to south. It's basically from the Orontes River in north Lebanon to the Dead Sea---thus the whole of the land.

Footnotes

- a. **Amos 6:10** Or to make a funeral fire in honor of the dead
- b. **Amos 6:12** With a different word division of the Hebrew; Masoretic Text *plow there*
- c. **Amos 6:13** *Lo Debar* means *nothing*.
- d. **Amos 6:13** *Karnaim* means *horns*; *horn* here symbolizes strength.