

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 8 Part 1



This prophet really loved Israel. And God did too. He just felt plain sorry for her. It had nothing to do with the covenant. Israel’s unfaithfulness had ended all rights to such an appeal. At least, that’s what the NIV study bible says. And it also says God responded to the prophet for mercy and even leniency in the assigned disciplines, but forgiveness wasn’t offered.

Wow.

If that’s the case, God has pity even on people destined for severe punishment, and shows the power of prophetic intervention.

Let’s now go into chapter 7.

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

Amos 8

New International Version

A Basket of Ripe Fruit

8 This is what the Sovereign LORD showed me: a basket of ripe fruit. ² “What do you see, Amos?” he asked.

“A basket of ripe fruit,” I answered.

Then the LORD said to me, “The time is ripe for my people Israel; I will spare them no longer.

Apparently this is some kind of word play in Hebrew. The word for “ripe fruit” is end fruit---fruit ready to be plucked.

Also, this is only the second time in the book Israel is called “my people.” This is contrasted with places where Israel is not referred to as “my people,” but rather “these people.” “These people” (and sometimes “your people”) reflects a note of distance and alienation.

A couple of specific examples are given in Exodus (highlighted below).

Exodus 17:4	Exodus 32:7,9-11	Exodus 33:13
⁴ Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”	⁷ Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. . . ⁹ “I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against	¹³ If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people.”

	<p>them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”</p> <p>¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. “LORD,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand?”</p>	
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Wow. It’s interesting here that the Lord calls them “my people.” I wonder if this Scripture and concept come to play here.

Hebrews 12:6 New International Version
⁶ because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

Those He loves, He disciplines. And I guess losses on this earth aren’t as important as saving their spirits.

1 Corinthians 5 New International Version
⁵ hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, ¹ so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.

I think that Scripture is interesting in the original Greek.

5:5 παραδουναι τον τοιουτον τω σατανα εις ολεθρον της σαρκος ινα το πνευμα σωθη
 paradounai ton toiouton to satana eis olethron tes sarkos hina to pneuma sOthE
 TO-BESIDE-GIVE THE such to-THE SATAN INTO WHOLE-RUIN OF-THE FLESH THAT THE spirit -MAY-BE-BEING-SAVED
 to-give-up the such to-the Satan into extermination of-the flesh that the spirit may-be-being-saved

εν τη ημερα του κυριου ιησου
 en te hEmera tou kuriou iesou
 IN THE DAY OF-THE Master JESUS
 in the day of-the Lord Jesus

Of note is the word rendered extermination. The “literal” literal that tries to put together “visuals” from the cognates renders is “whole ruin.” So God is even willing to cause the “whole ruin” of the flesh so the spirit “may-be-being-saved” in “the day of the Lord Jesus.”

³ “In that day,” declares the Sovereign LORD, “the songs in the temple will turn to wailing. Many, many bodies—flung everywhere! Silence!”

Again, playing on the harvest theme here (summer fruit), and with Israel being “ripe” for punishment and “harvested” for destruction, there would be no thanksgiving songs for this harvest, as there would have been in ancient Israel at a Festival.

Leviticus 23:39-41

³⁹ “So beginning with the fifteenth day of the seventh month, after you have gathered the crops of the land, celebrate the festival to the LORD for seven days; the first day is a day of sabbath rest, and the eighth day also is a day of sabbath rest. ⁴⁰ On the first day you are to take branches from luxuriant trees—from palms, willows and other leafy trees—and rejoice before the LORD your God for seven days. ⁴¹ Celebrate this as a festival to the LORD for seven days each year. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come; celebrate it in the seventh month.

There would be only bodies flung everywhere, and silence. Makes me think of the song by Billie Holliday called “Bitter Fruit,” when she was grieving the horrors of lynching in our nation.



⁴ Hear this, you who trample the needy
and do away with the poor of the land,

⁵ saying,

“When will the New Moon be over
that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath be ended
that we may market wheat?”—

It’s interesting to me that they still kept the Sabbath and the New Moon. No wonder God hated their religious festivals. They were hypocrites, observing religious rituals but prospering on the backs of the poor. And they cheated in what they sold.

skimping on the measure,
boosting the price
and cheating with dishonest scales,
⁶ buying the poor with silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
selling even the sweepings with the wheat.

God was furious about this!

⁷ The LORD has sworn by himself, the Pride of Jacob: “I will never forget anything they have done.

⁸ “Will not the land tremble for this,
and all who live in it mourn?

The whole land will rise like the Nile;
it will be stirred up and then sink
like the river of Egypt.

The NIV Study Bible says because of seasonal rains in Ethiopia, the Nile in Egypt annually rose by as much as 25 feet, flooding the whole valley except for the towns and villages standing above it. It’s waters carried a large amount of rich soil, which was deposited on the land. Perhaps this is referred to by words “stirred up.”

Harvest themes are all through the Bible, especially when “sin” is “ripe” for the harvesting.

Matthew 13:30

Let both grow together until the **harvest**. At that time I will tell the **harvesters**: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.”

Revelation 14

Harvesting the Earth and Trampling the Winepress

¹⁴ I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand. ¹⁵ Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of **the earth is ripe.**” ¹⁶ So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and **the earth was harvested.**

¹⁷ Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. ¹⁸ Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth’s vine, because its grapes are ripe.” ¹⁹ The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into **the great winepress of God’s wrath.** ²⁰ They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses’ bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia. (180 miles)

Now the next part is fascinating. We’ll look at it tomorrow. To me it sounds like the Crucifixion of Jesus. I’m wondering (and I don’t know if this is legitimate), if all these prophecies (which I guess may have been literally fulfilled too in human historical experience) were actually truly fulfilled in Jesus!