

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 9 Part 1



So in this chapter, Amos again is going to see destruction foretold for the people of Israel. No matter how anyone tries to escape it, they won’t be able to.

Language that remind one of Psalm 139 speaks to the imaginary extremes a person might go to escape the judgment of the Lord.

There is no escape. God will have his way with us. And just as He punishes and disciplines, so He blesses. When it’s all said and done, Israel will be replanted in its own land. It will never again be uprooted. The hills will drip with new wine.

God’s blessings will be restored, for His discipline will have its full work, and His people will be restored.

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

Amos 9 New International Version

9 I saw the Lord standing by the altar, and he said:

“Strike the tops of the pillars
so that the thresholds shake.

Bring them down on the heads of all the people;
those who are left I will kill with the sword.

Not one will get away,
none will escape.

The Study Bible says that God is about to initiate destruction from the very place people would expect to hear a word of peace and blessing. God will shatter the decorated capitals of the pillars---a total destruction will be initiated, and none will escape.

These next imaginary extremes remind one of Psalm 139.

² Though they dig down to the depths below,
from there my hand will take them.

Though they climb up to the heavens above,
from there I will bring them down.

³ Though they hide themselves on the top of Carmel,
there I will hunt them down and seize them.

Though they hide from my eyes at the bottom of the sea,
there I will command the serpent to bite them.

This imagery is apparently borrowed from the Near East creation myths, in which the primeval chaotic waters were depicted as a many-headed monster that the creator-god overcame. That’s interesting to me because of all the beasts in the book of Revelation with multiple heads and horns.

Psalm 139:7-12

New International Version

⁷ Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

⁹ If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,

¹⁰ even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,”

¹² even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,

for darkness is as light to you.

Revelation 12:3	Revelation 13:1
Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads .	The dragon stood on the shore of the sea. And I saw a beast coming out of the sea. It had ten horns and seven heads , with ten crowns on its horns, and on each head a blasphemous name.
Revelation 17:3	
Then the angel carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness. There I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was covered with blasphemous names and had seven heads and ten horns.	

God is not opposed to using this imagery. I find that refreshing.

⁴ Though they are driven into exile by their enemies,
there I will command the sword to slay them.

"I will keep my eye on them
for harm and not for good."

⁵ The Lord, the LORD Almighty—
he touches the earth and it melts,
and all who live in it mourn;
the whole land rises like the Nile,
then sinks like the river of Egypt;

Again, the earth unravels at the Presence of the Lord if he withdraws His sustain power from it.

⁶ he builds his lofty palace in the heavens
and sets its foundation^(b) on the earth;

The NIV references readers to Psalm 104, where vivid imagery for God's heavenly abode is given. An "upper level room" is spoken of there. It's the same word used for the upper level room of a house. The meaning of some of the Hebrew words used here are uncertain. Here is a rendering from the more literal translation.

He ⁶Who is building His ascents in the heavens, And His harnessing over the earth—He founds it, He ⁷Who is calling to the waters of the sea, And is pouring them out on the surface of the earth, Yahweh, ⁷Elohim of hosts⁰, is His Name!

Here is a few parallel translations.

KJ21 He that buildeth His spheres in the heaven, and hath founded His troop on the earth. **ASV** he that buildeth his chambers in the heavens, and hath founded his vault

upon the earth; **AMP**He who builds His upper chambers in the heavens And has established His vaulted dome (the firmament of heaven) over the earth**BRG**
It is he that buildeth his stories in the heaven, and hath founded his troop in the earth;
CJBHe builds his upper rooms in heaven and establishes his sky-vault over the earth.
CEVHe built his palace in the heavens and let its foundations rest on the earth. **DRA**
He that buildeth his ascension in heaven, and hath founded his bundle upon the earth:
GWThe one who builds stairs up to heaven and sets their foundation on the earth**GNT**
The LORD builds his home in the heavens, and over the earth he puts the dome of the sky. **ISV**who is building his stairway to heaven and setting its foundation on earth**JUB**
He that built his degrees in the heaven and has founded his gathering upon the earth;
NETHe builds the upper rooms of his palace in heaven and sets its foundation supports on the earth. **NKJV**He who builds His layers in the sky, And has founded His strata in the earth; **OJB**It is He that buildeth his ma'alot (stairs) in Shomayim, and hath founded His aguddah (fitted together vault) over Eretz;

he calls for the waters of the sea
and pours them out over the face of the land—
the LORD is his name.
7 "Are not you Israelites
the same to me as the Cushites^{ie}?" declares the LORD.

These are a dark skinned people from the upper Nile region.

"Did I not bring Israel up from Egypt,
the Philistines from Capthor^{ie}
and the Arameans from Kir?

Capthor is Crete. Kir is an unidentified place, possibly from the vicinity of Elam.

8 "Surely the eyes of the Sovereign LORD
are on the sinful kingdom.

I will destroy it
from the face of the earth.

Yet I will not totally destroy
the descendants of Jacob,"

declares the LORD.

9 "For I will give the command,

and I will shake the people of Israel
among all the nations
as grain is shaken in a sieve,
and not a pebble will reach the ground.

¹⁰ All the sinners among my people
will die by the sword,
all those who say,
'Disaster will not overtake or meet us.'

Israel will be punished! But she will be restored too. We'll look at that next time.

Footnotes

- a. **Amos 9:6** The meaning of the Hebrew for this phrase is uncertain.
- b. **Amos 9:6** The meaning of the Hebrew for this word is uncertain.
- c. **Amos 9:7** That is, people from the upper Nile region
- d. **Amos 9:7** That is, Crete
- e. **Amos 9:12** Hebrew; Septuagint *so that the remnant of people / and all the nations that bear my name may seek me*
- f. **Amos 9:14** *Or will restore the fortunes of my people Israel*