

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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Jonah Chapter 1



Without further ado, let’s get into this marvelous little book. It’s only 40 verses long. Just let me include few more comments from in a short introductory wrap up. The Study Bible notes say that “in its scope (a single extended episode), compactness, vividness and character delineation, it is much like the book of Ruth. The author uses structural symmetry. Part 1 (Jonah 1 and 2) could be headed “Jonah Flees His Mission.” Part 2 (Jonah 3 and 4) could be called “Jonah Reluctantly Fulfills His Mission.”

I’m still intrigued with the parallels to Jesus in this story, not just in the three days and three nights aspect, but in other aspects as well.

In this story, God shows His concern for the whole creation, and shows His involvement in places and spaces different than what you might think!

So let’s join Jonah in His spiritual journey.

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

Jonah 1 New International Version

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai:

Well, the Study note has quite a bit to say here. First, it point out the phrase “The Word of the Lord” starts this “section” off (Jonah Runs Away from His Mission, and the second section (Jonah Reluctantly Fulfills His Mission) beginning in Chapter 3.

The study bible also posits that the unidentified author (either Jonah himself or the circle of prophets in the days of Elijah/Elisha) probably intended to present Jonah as a “cameo representation” of all of Israel.

Here are the similarities.

Israel was a people called out from the nations by God to be the channel of His redemptive love and purposes for the peoples of the whole world.

Exodus 19:5	Genesis 12:2-3	Isaiah 42:1-4	Isaiah 49:6
<p>⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'</p>	<p>"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."</p>	<p>"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. ² He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. ³ A bruised reed he</p>	<p>he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that my salvation may reach to the</p>

		<p>will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;</p> <p>⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope."</p>	ends of the earth."
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Israel was to be a channel of God's blessings to the nations, to all the peoples of the world. The NIV says that in this narrative, the Israelites are to see Jonah as a "mirror" of them.

- 1. Their unique position of privilege as the people to whom God had revealed himself in a special way.**
- 2. Their particular vocation as God's chosen kingdom people.**
- 3. Their stubborn resistance to fulfilling the vocation.**
- 4. The reason Israel as a nation must die, as the prophets were announcing.**
- 5. How Israel would be raised up, refined, renewed in the more distant future, just as the prophets were envisioning.**

I'm going to try to find a Scripture for each of those 5 points.

- 1. Their unique position of privilege as the people to whom God had revealed himself in a special way.**

Deuteronomy 4:7-8

What other **nation** is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him? And **what** other **nation** is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

2. Their particular vocation as God’s chosen kingdom people.

Exodus 19 ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’				
Isaiah 61:6	1 Peter 2:5	Revelation 1:6	Revelation 5:10	Revelation 20:6
And you will be called priests of the LORD, you will be named ministers of our God. You will feed on the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast.	⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.	⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.	¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”	⁶ Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

3. Their stubborn resistance to fulfilling the vocation.

Matthew 21:28-30

New International Version

²⁸ "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.'²⁹ "'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

I think this parable represents Israel too. They said "yes" we will obey, but they never did!

4. The reason Israel as a nation must die, as the prophets were announcing.

Isaiah 7:8

New International Version

⁸ for the head of Aram is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is only Rezin.

Within sixty-five years

Ephraim will be too shattered to be a people.

5. How Israel would be raised up, refined, renewed in the more distant future, just as the prophets were envisioning.

Ezekiel 14:11

Then the people of **Israel will no longer** stray from me, nor will they defile themselves anymore with all their sins. They will be my people, and I will be their God, declares the Sovereign LORD."

Romans 11

²⁵ I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, ²⁶ and in this way^(e) all Israel will be saved. As it is written:

"The deliverer will come from Zion;

he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

²⁷ And this is^(f) my covenant with them
when I take away their sins."