

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 1 Part 2



So I wonder where Tarshish is. The NIV study Bible says it’s perhaps the city of Tartessus in southern Spain. From the map in the Bible it looks like it’s near the Straits of Gibraltar where the Mediterranean Sea meets the Atlantic ocean.

I’ve always been fascinated with the ancient world, and a lot will come out in this book about how they visualized existence, their thought world, and the quite poetic way they viewed the world around them.

Jonah will take a journey to Tarshish. Perhaps, so have we. We’ve boarded a ship of life that has taken as far from God as we possibly can get. How long can we keep running? And when will the sea of chaos all around us finally calm down for us and others until we accept our assignment from God. It’s something to think about, as we live by every word that comes out of the mouth of God.

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

Jonah 1 New International Version

Jonah Flees From the LORD

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: **2** "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

We saw some it's wickedness yesterday. How brutal humanity can be. How beast like. How we all must change.

3 But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish.

Nineveh and Tarshish (Spain) represent opposite ends of the Biblical world commercial sphere and perhaps their world view. To them, the earth was a flat miracle, covered by a dome like heaven (which God transcended, meaning he was outside their sphere of existence, something greater than just the created order). Apparently Phoenician trade linked these distant spheres of the Mediterranean. Inscriptions and pottery from Spain show this trade existed as early as the 12th century B.C.

So Jonah wasn't just skipping out on a new job from God for a while. He was running away from Him as far as he knew how to do. Let me look up some historical references to Tarshish.

The following is from Wikipedia.²

Identifications and interpretations[[edit](#)]

Tarshish is placed on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea by several biblical passages ([Isaiah 23](#), [Jeremiah 10:9](#), [Ezekiel 27:12](#), [Jonah 1:3, 4:2](#)), and more precisely: west of [Israel](#) ([Genesis 10:4](#), [1 Chronicles 1:7](#)).^[1] It is described as a source of various metals: "beaten silver is brought from Tarshish" (Jeremiah 10:9), and the Phoenicians of Tyre brought from there silver, iron, tin and lead (Ezekiel 27:12).^[1]

The context in Isaiah 23:6 and 66:19 seems to indicate that it is an island, and from Israel it could be reached by ship, as attempted by Jonah (Jonah 1:3) and performed by Solomon's fleet (2 Chronicles 9:21).^[1] Some modern scholars identify Tarshish with [Tartessos](#), a port in southern Spain, described by classical authors as a source of metals for the Phoenicians, while Josephus'

² [Tarshish - Wikipedia](#)

identification of Tarshish with the Cilician city of Tarsus is even more widely accepted.^[1] However, a clear identification of Tarshish is not possible, since a whole array of Mediterranean sites with similar names are connected to the mining of various metals.

I'll briefly look at the Scriptures referenced.

Isaiah 23:6	Jeremiah 10:9	Ezekiel 27:12	Genesis 10:4	1 Chronicles 1:7
⁶ Cross over to Tarshish; wail, you people of the island.	⁹ Hammered silver is brought from Tarshish and gold from Uphaz. What the craftsman and goldsmith have made is then dressed in blue and purple— all made by skilled workers.	⁹ Hammered silver is brought from Tarshish and gold from Uphaz. What the craftsman and goldsmith have made is then dressed in blue and purple— all made by skilled workers.	⁴ The sons of Javan: Elishah, (possibly Crete) Tarshish (the note says probably southern Spain), the Kittites (a people living in Cyprus) and the Rodanites (possibly the people of the island of Rhodes).	⁷ The sons of Javan: Elishah, Tarshish, the Kittites and the Rodanites.

He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

The NIV Study Bible says this is a rare glimpse of seafaring life in the Iron Age.³

Also, the NIV Study Bible note says Tartussus, the possible Tarshish, was a Phoenician mining colony. Fascinating.

³ Stone age: 3000 BC; Bronze age: 2100 BC is when bronze was discovered and became the most useful metal used by people in Britain. Iron age: 750 BC is when Iron replaced bronze as the most useful metal. [History Timeline \(KS2\) Made Easy \(kidadl.com\)](#)

Acts 27

13 When a gentle south wind began to blow, they saw their opportunity; so they weighed anchor and sailed along the shore of Crete. 14 Before very long, a wind of hurricane force, called the Northeaster, swept down from the island. 15 The ship was caught by the storm and could not head into the wind; so we gave way to it and were driven along. 16 As we passed to the lee of a small island called Cauda, we were hardly able to make the lifeboat secure, 17 so the men hoisted it aboard. Then they passed ropes under the ship itself to hold it together. Because they were afraid they would run aground on the sandbars of Syrtis, they lowered the sea anchor and let the ship be driven along. 18 We took such a violent battering from the storm that the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard. 19 On the third day, they threw the ship's tackle overboard with their own hands. 20 When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved. 21 After they had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. 22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island." 27 On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic[c] Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. 33 Just before dawn Paul urged them all to eat. "For the last fourteen days," he said, "you have been in constant suspense and have gone without food—you haven't eaten anything. 34 Now I urge you to take some food. You need it to survive. Not one of you will lose a single hair from his head." . . . 44 . . . everyone reached land safely.

⁴ Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. ⁵ All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

In a summarization of this the Study Bible suggests that this is an "exquisite miniature" of the pagan world of many nations, represented by the sailors threatened by the judgment of God. Yet they have Israel (Jonah) in their midst. If Jonah (Israel) does not fulfill his mission, the sailors will die calling on their gods. And because he is rebelling against his mission, he must "die" to save them.

A similar thing happened with Paul on the boat on the way to Rome. The Study Bible says the "magnificent account" given about the storm at sea Paul faced is more than just an interesting story well told. "Here at the climax of his account of the spread of the gospel from Jerusalem to Rome, especially through the labors of the apostle Paul, he provides in cameo an exquisite depiction of the state of the world seen from the perspective of Paul's gospel. Then peoples of the world (represented by the ship's passengers) stand under the threat of God's judgment (represented by the terrible storm), with Paul and what he represented being their only hope. On board are representatives of the world's economic, military and political powers and those skilled in navigating the sea, but none of these can master the raging storm to save themselves or their

possessions. They scape only if they follow Paul's instructions.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. ⁶The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us so that we will not perish."

This reminds me of the time Jesus was asleep in the boat and the waves were raging, and the disciples were freaking out.

Luke 8:22-25

New International Version

Jesus Calms the Storm

²² One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. ²³ As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

²⁴ The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. ²⁵ "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

So whatever else this story is about, it's got a larger meaning. We all are swamped by the sea of chaos. The great "deep" has threatened existence from the very beginning. But the "Word" of God, Jesus, always resurrects us, always says us. Always says "Let there be light!"

Genesis 1:3-4

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good