

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER<sup>1</sup> 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)**

<sup>27</sup>To 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**

**Jonah Chapter 1 Part 5<sup>2</sup>**



**We’re getting more into the meat of the story now. Last time we left off at this verse:Jonah 1**

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. <sup>6</sup> The 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.”

**We’re comparing this to the time Jesus did the same. Then we’ll move on to what happens next. Enjoy!**

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Matthew 8:23-27	Mark 4:36-41	Luke 8:22-25	Jonah 1
<p>Let the Dead follow the Dead</p> <p>Story Precedes this passage</p>	<p>Jesus speaks in Parables</p> <p>precedes</p>	<p>Jesus speaks in parables,</p> <p>and who is my</p> <p>mother/brother story</p> <p>precedes</p>	
	<p><sup>35</sup> That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “<b>Let us go over to the other side.</b>” <sup>36</sup> Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along,</p>	<p><sup>22</sup> One day Jesus said to his disciples, “<b>Let us go over to the other side</b> of the lake.”</p>	<p>...Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach <sup>3</sup> But <b>Jonah ran away from the LORD</b> and headed for <b>Tarshish.</b> He</p>
	<p>just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.</p>		<p>went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, <b>he went aboard</b> and sailed for Tarshish to flee</p>
<p><sup>23</sup> Then he <b>got into the boat</b> and his disciples followed him.</p>		<p>So <b>they got into a boat</b> and set out.</p>	<p>from the LORD. <sup>4</sup> <b>Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose</b> that the ship</p>
<p><sup>24</sup> Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the <b>waves swept over the boat.</b></p>	<p><sup>37</sup> A furious squall came up, and the <b>waves broke over the boat</b>, so that it was nearly swamped.</p>	<p><sup>23</sup> As they sailed, <b>he fell asleep.</b> A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they</p>	<p>the ship threatened to break up. . . Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and</p>
<p>The original Greek says the boat was “filled to the brim.”</p>			
<p>But Jesus was <b>sleeping.</b></p>	<p><sup>38</sup> Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a <b>cushion.</b></p>	<p>were in great danger.</p>	
<p><sup>25</sup> The disciples went and woke him, saying,</p>	<p>The disciples woke him and said to him,</p>	<p><sup>24</sup> The disciples <b>went and woke</b></p>	

<p>"Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"</p>	<p>"Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"</p>	<p>him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"</p>	<p>fell into a deep sleep. <sup>6</sup> The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god!</p>
<p><sup>26</sup> He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?"</p> <p>Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.</p>	<p><sup>39</sup> He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.</p> <p><sup>40</sup> He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?"</p>	<p>He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.</p> <p><sup>25</sup> "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples.</p>	<p><sup>15</sup> Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm.</p>
<p><sup>27</sup> The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"</p>	<p><sup>41</sup> They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"</p>	<p>In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."</p>	<p><sup>16</sup> At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.</p>

**I think that makes for an interesting comparison. Jesus calmed the waves. And Jonah was thrown into the chaos. Let me see if I can pair up some comparison and contrast Scriptures.**

<b>Jonah</b>	<b>Jesus</b>
Got on a boat to get to the other side of the known world, to run away from God	Left the crowds and got into a boat
Jonah went down to the lowest part of the	Jesus went to the stern and fell asleep on a

ship and slept	cushion
Captain roused Jonah and said "What are you doing, get up and pray to your God for mercy.	Disciples roused Jesus and said "Don't you care that we're drowning?"
Jonah, the "Jesus" figure in the story, is thrown in the midst of the chaos.	Jesus, the Son of God, commands the chaos to settle down, but as Jonah, will be thrown into the chaos too! And the chaos will subside because of Him!

**The parallels aren't exact. But chaos has threatened us from the beginning.**

Genesis 1:1-3

New International Version

### **The Beginning**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

**And God is always intervening with His Word and with a Sacrifice to still chaos and make it impotent against us.**

Jonah 1:7-16 New International Version

<sup>7</sup> Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

**NIV Study Bible Note: The casting of lots was a custom widely practiced in the ancient Near East. The precise method is unclear.**

**Here's an interesting article about lots in the Early Church. It's from [Casting Lots in the Bible \(earlychurchhistory.org\)](http://earlychurchhistory.org)**

# CASTING LOTS IN THE BIBLE

“The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.”  
Proverbs 16:33

In the Old and New Testaments lots were cast for many important decisions. Proverbs 16:33 is central to understanding that the ancient Jews and Christians believed God’s will could be determined by the casting of lots. This random form of determining an outcome is called “cleromancy” coming from the Greek word *kleros* meaning “lot, inheritance.” We get our words “clerk, “clergy” and “cleric” from *kleros* probably because in ancient times those positions were originally chosen by lot and/or were inherited

Perhaps the most famous casting of lots in the Bible is the casting of lots by the Roman soldiers who crucified Jesus. At a crucifixion, soldiers were allowed to take from the crucified any thing they thought of value and Jesus’ robe was particularly attractive to them so they did not want to divide it into four equal parts.

“When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided His garments into four parts, one for each soldier, with the tunic remaining. It was seamless, woven in one piece from the top to bottom. So they said to one another, ‘Let’s not tear it, but instead let us cast lots to see who will get it.’ This was to fulfill the Scripture: *‘They divided My garments among them, and cast lots for My clothing.’* So that is what the soldiers did.” (The ancient prognostication of this act which the writer has italicized comes from Psalm 22:18, written c. 1000 BC, a millennium before Jesus/Messiah was even born.) John 19:23, 24

We know from this episode that Romans in the 1st century AD, also, cast lots for decisions

From the Book of Jonah we learn that Phoenician sailors were casting lots in the 8th century BC. The Jewish prophet Jonah was told by God to go to Nineveh and tell them if they did not repent, they would be destroyed. Jonah hated the Ninevites and boarded a ship going in the opposite direction. But one cannot run away from God. A huge storm came up and the whole crew was terrified and wanted to know who was responsible for the possible sinking of them and the ship, so— “they cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah. They asked him, ‘Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What kind of work do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?’ He answered, ‘I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.’ This terrified them and they asked, ‘What have you done?’ (They knew he was running away from the Lord, because he had already told them so.)

The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, ‘What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?’ ‘Pick me up and throw me into the sea,’ he replied, ‘and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you.’” Jonah 1:7-12

Most know “the Lord prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.” Jonah 1:17 Not a WHALE but a specially-created BIG FISH.

Joshua assisted by Eleazar casts lots and assigns to each of 12 tribes a certain part of Canaan—Gerard Hoet, 1648-1733

In the Old Testament, lots were cast for very important decisions: the distribution of priestly offices in the Temple was divided by casting lots (I Chronicles 24) as was the division of land among the twelve tribes of Israel: “Joshua then cast lots for them in Shiloh in the presence of the LORD, and there he distributed the land to the Israelites according to their tribal divisions.” Joshua 18:10

Some of the castings of lots seem to be a way to solve a problem rather than a very important decision: in Nehemiah 10:34 lots are cast to determine when should and which tribe would bring wood for the altar and in Leviticus 16:8 lots are cast to decide which of two goats should be the scapegoat.

Nehemiah 10:34	Leviticus 16:8
<p><sup>34</sup> “We—the priests, the Levites and the people—have cast lots to determine when each of our families is to bring to the house of our God at set times each year a contribution of wood to burn on the altar of the LORD our God, as it is written in the Law.</p>	<p><sup>8</sup> He is to cast lots for the two goats—one lot for the LORD and the other for the scapegoat.</p>

What were those “lots” in those times? We know the Romans had dice, so that was a way of determining.

Some other means were: two arrows with one marked with a line as the correct one and the other not marked; a black pebble which was not the correct one and a white pebble which was; a long stick and a smaller stick and



the smaller stick would be the one chosen.

### Eleven casting lots for replacement of Judas

After the Apostle Judas had betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, “(Peter said) ‘Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John’s baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection.’ So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, ‘Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.’ Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.” Acts 1:21-26



It was crucial to the remaining 11 Apostles that the number 12 Jesus had chosen be completed again. They chose as candidates two equally qualified disciples, prayed, cast lots and Matthias was chosen.

Even though casting lots in the form of dice, drawing straws and flipping coins are nowadays But in the early, middle and modern periods of the Christian Church the casting of lots was and is usually forbidden after the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Our indwelling Wisdom is supposed to make up for our uncertainties.—*Sandra Sweeny Silver*

**I found that to be an interesting rabbit trail. More to come later.**