

**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 8<sup>2</sup>**



So there is a point in this book that I think we so often miss.

It’s God’s Sovereignty, which flies in the face of the “Enlightenment” version of God we have become used to.

I hear people talk freely about being angry with God. And in one sense, this book allows for that. Jonah will end up at the very end of this story “furious” with some of the things God does. But the pagan sailors note something about God that is fascinating, and actually right. They acknowledge “for you Lord, have done as you please.” Let’s press that concept today.

<sup>1</sup> **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

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## Jonah 1:7-16 New International Version

<sup>11</sup> 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?"

<sup>12</sup> "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."

### **The men fought hard to not have to do this!**

<sup>13</sup> Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. <sup>14</sup> Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, LORD, do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, **LORD, have done as you pleased.**"

### **I want to park on this statement for a bit.**

**First, I want to note how the men did their best to row back to the land. I wonder what the word for "did their best" is in Hebrew. I'll look it up.**

**H2864** chathar khaw-thar'

a primitive root;

to force a passage, as by burglary; figuratively, with oars.

**It's rendered "tugging hard" in CLV version, and the Scripture Analyzer literal version.**

**But focus now on the statement "you, LORD, have done as you pleased."**

**God is Sovereign. He does what He pleases. The first Scripture that comes to mind is in Romans 9.**

<sup>18</sup> Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

<sup>19</sup> One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who is able to resist his will?" <sup>20</sup> But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" <sup>21</sup> Does not the potter

have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

**God has Sovereign freedom in dealing with people. The NIV study Bible cites these two passages.**

Ecclesiastes 8:4

New International Version

<sup>4</sup> Since a king's word is supreme, who can say to him, "What are you doing?"

Jeremiah 18:1-10

New International Version

### **At the Potter's House**

**18** This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: <sup>2</sup> "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." <sup>3</sup> So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. <sup>4</sup> But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

<sup>5</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me. <sup>6</sup> He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. <sup>7</sup> If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, <sup>8</sup> and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. <sup>9</sup> And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, <sup>10</sup> and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

**God is Sovereign. He does as He pleases. The NIV study note says that God is not silencing all human questioning of God. Even Jesus asked "My God, my God, why are you**

#### **Matthew 27:46**

About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you **forsaken** me?").

#### **Mark 15:34**

And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you **forsaken** me?").

**forsaking me?” But Paul, rather, is speaking to those with an impenitent, God-defying attitude who want to make God answerable to them for what He does and who, by their questions, defame the character of God. Just like Satan did with this question:**

Genesis 3

New International Version

## **The Fall**

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

**“Did God *really* say . . . ”**

**We know the story of Job, who by his questioning questioned God’s fairness. But when he saw God’s creative power and inexhaustible wisdom, he came to this confession:**

**ob**

**42** Then Job replied to the LORD:

<sup>2</sup> “I know that you can do all things;  
no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

<sup>3</sup> You asked, ‘Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?’  
Surely I spoke of things I did not understand,  
things too wonderful for me to know.

<sup>4</sup> “You said, ‘Listen now, and I will speak;  
I will question you,  
and you shall answer me.’

<sup>5</sup> My ears had heard of you  
but now my eyes have seen you.

<sup>6</sup> Therefore I despise myself  
and repent in dust and ashes.”

**He basically made himself subject to his Faithful Creator, who was obviously molding something in him.**

## 1 Peter 4:19

So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their **faithful Creator** and continue to do good.

**The whole chapter here is worth reading. Notice its title: "Living for God." Notice how suffering and being willing to participate in suffering applies.**

1 Peter 4

New International Version

### Living for God

**4** Therefore, since **Christ suffered** in his body, **arm yourselves also with the same attitude**, because **whoever suffers in the body is done with sin.** <sup>2</sup> As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. <sup>3</sup> For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. <sup>4</sup> They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. <sup>5</sup> But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. <sup>6</sup> For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit.

**"Suffering" to avoid sinning seems to be what is being called for.**

<sup>7</sup> The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. <sup>8</sup> Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

**It keeps us from focusing on the shortcomings of people.**

<sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all

things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

**Our goal is that “in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.”**

## **Suffering for Being a Christian**

<sup>12</sup> Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you **to test you**,

**Greek: “putting to proof” (by experiment of good)**

as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup> But rejoice inasmuch as you **participate in the sufferings of Christ**, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup> If **you are insulted** because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. <sup>15</sup> If you suffer, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. <sup>16</sup> However, **if you suffer** as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. <sup>17</sup> For it is time for judgment to begin with God’s household; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> And,

“If it is hard for the righteous to be saved,  
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>19</sup> So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

**So let’s see what Jonah had to commit too.**

<sup>5</sup> Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. <sup>16</sup> At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

<sup>17</sup> Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

**So we’ll explore life in the great fish next time. Even in our utter failures, God provides.**