

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

graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER

Jonah Chapter 2 Part 1²



So Jonah is swallowed by a giant fish. Jonah 1 ends

¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

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

What was that all about? We’ll pick up here, and move into chapter 2.

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

² New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (Author’s note: This translation, and the source for many of the study notes that accompany it, are taken from The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 . These notes are referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

Jonah 1:15-2:10

New International Version

¹⁵ Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. ¹⁶ At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

Jonah's Prayer

The NIV treats this section, along with chapter 2, as one unit. I'll follow along with NIV for most of my commentary.

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

The first thing the NIV commentary comments on is the phrase "The LORD provided." This phrase also occurs in Jonah 4:6-8.

Jonah 4:6-8

⁶ Then **THE LORD GOD PROVIDED**

. . . a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant.

⁷ But at dawn the next day **GOD PROVIDED**

a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered.

⁸ When the sun rose, **GOD PROVIDED**

a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint.

. . . He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

That’s how the Lord is. God PROVIDES.

The Hebrew word here and the Greek of Matthew 12:40 are both general terms for a large fish. (literally GREAT FISH)

The great fish is distinguished from the sinister “serpent” of the sea (Amos 9:3) called “Leviathan” and the “monster of the deep.”

| Amos 9:3 | Isa 27:1 | Job 7:12 | Ps 74:13 | Eze 32:2 |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| <p>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.</p> | <p>In that day, the LORD will punish with his sword— his fierce, great and powerful sword— Leviathan the gliding serpent, Leviathan the coiling serpent; he will slay the monster of the sea.</p> | <p>¹² Am I the sea, or the monster of the deep, that you put me under guard?</p> | <p>¹³ It was you who split open the sea by your power; you broke the heads of the monster in the waters.</p> | <p>² “Son of man, take up a lament concerning Pharaoh king of Egypt and say to him: “You are like a lion among the nations; you are like a monster in the seas thrashing about in your streams, churning the water with your feet and muddying the streams.</p> |

FYI, Michael Hiser, a popular biblical scholar, says this:

God didn’t really fight a literal dragon at the beginning of creation. This imagery reflects the mindset of the ancient world, which viewed the sea as unpredictably violent and unable to be tamed. It frightened the ancients. Only the power of a mighty God could

produce a habitable world from the chaotic sea—a deed portrayed as a battle with the untamed deep. God was victorious in this conflict, as told in Psalm 74 . . . In the ancient world, the original (“primordial”) chaotic conditions of creation were often portrayed as a monstrous dragon. This is reflected in stories from ancient Babylon and Israel’s closest neighbor, Ugarit (ancient Syria, just north of Israel).

In the literature of ancient Ugarit, the god Baal battles Yamm, who is portrayed as a chaotic, churning sea and a terrifying sea dragon named Tannun or Litanu. These terms are equivalent to the Hebrew words in Psalm 74:13–14: “You divided the sea (יָם, yam) by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters (תַּנִּינִים, tanninim) on the waters. You crushed the heads of Leviathan (לִיַּיָּתָן, liwyatan).”

Sounds to me like the beasts of Revelation.

| 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. |

In other words, it sounds metaphorical---true, but more “metaphorical” rather than literal.

Three days and three nights: The phrase used may, as in Matthew 12:40, refer to a period of time including one full day and parts of two others.

| Matthew 12:40 | 1 Corinthians 15:4 |
|--|--|
| ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. | ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, A common Jewish reckoning of time includes at least part of the first day and part of the third day. |

Again, the NT clearly uses Jonah’s experience as a type (foreshadowing) of the burial and resurrection of Jesus, who was entombed for three days and three nights.

| Matthew 16:4 | Luke 11:29-30 |
|---|---------------|
| <p>⁴ A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign, but none will be given it except the sign of Jonah.” Jesus then left them and went away.</p> | |

Here’s a personal observation: God simply could have made a great fish. It doesn’t have to be a whale. It could be something God made that Jonah reported as a fish. So if God wanted to create a submarine/fish, he could have done it.

Now notice what this “type” of Jesus does in the “tomb” of the fish. He prays!

2 ¹ From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. ² He said:

“In my distress I called to the LORD,
and he answered me.
From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help,
and you listened to my cry.

(CLV) Jon 2:2

And he ^lsaid, I call, ^fbecause of my distress, to Yahweh, And He is answering me. ^fOut of the belly of the unseen I implore; You hear my voice.

Here is an interesting take on the word Sheol.

Sheol comes from the root word sha’al (שאל) which means “to ask” or “to inquire” and indicates that Sheol is a place where there are only questions and uncertainty.³

He calls out in his distress:

H6869 tsarah tsaw-raw'

feminine of **H6862**;

tightness (i.e. figuratively, trouble);

“From the realm of the dead”
H7585 sh'owl sheh-ole'

or shol {sheh-ole'};

from **H7592**; Hades or the world of the dead (as if a subterranean retreat), including its accessories and inmates.

³ **What is Sheol? – Derech HaTorah (pathoftorah.com)**