

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 2 Part 3²



So now I really will get into chapter 2.

Jonah is a metaphor for so many things. He’s obviously a parable of Jesus, who was thrown into the “great Deep” for us, and conquered chaos and nonexistence by not only His death, but His life.

And he’s a parable of our lives too---how we run away from God, but how God holds onto us and never lets us go. Let’s dig in.

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 2

New International Version

2 ¹From 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.

I like this from several perspectives. One is how Jonah acknowledged how we call on God when we are in distress. When we are struggling, suffering---when we are in a tight place. And I think it's fascinating too that we can call on

Him from the "realm of the dead." Can people in "hell" pray to God? Some have wondered whether they could. This isn't "hell" per se, in terms of the final judgment. This is just from "Sheol," the grave.

This is a song of gratitude. "You listened to my cry!" How beautiful.

The Hebrew Word for "listen" is:

H8085 shama` shaw-mah'

a primitive root;

to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience, etc.; causatively, to tell, etc.).

³ You hurled me into the depths,
into the very heart of the seas,
and the currents swirled about me;

⁺Then Jonah | prayed to Yahweh, his Elohim, from the bowels of the fish.

BOWELS - **H4578** me`ah may-aw'

from an unused root probably meaning to be soft;

used only in plural the intestines, or (collectively) the abdomen, figuratively, sympathy; by implication, a vest; by extens. the stomach, the uterus (or of men, the seat of generation), the heart (figuratively).

(CLV) Jon 2:3

⁺ You are flinging me into the shadowy depth, Into the heart of the seas, And the stream, it is surrounding me; All Your breakers and Your billows, they pass over me.

all your waves and breakers
swept over me.

Again, we've been talking about the chaos of life. The chaos that threatened existence from the very beginning. God didn't create it. But it did manifest once something was "created."

Once existence came into Being, nonexistence was a natural phenomenon. That which "wasn't" stood out in stark contrast. And when God taught that "the earth was void and without form, and darkness was on the surface of the deep," perhaps He's just illustrating the fragility of existence. It has to be sustained. It has to be ordered. Otherwise, it disintegrates into chaos. It breaks apart. It returns to nothingness.

God always stands in the gap against that!

Another interesting concept was the fact that even though the sailors are the one who hurled Jonah into the sea, it wasn't just the sailors. They were just agents of God. God hurled him into that sea of chaos. The sailors were agents of God's justice.

⁴ I said, 'I have been banished
from your sight;
yet I will look again
toward your holy temple.'

(CLV) Jon 2:4

And I⁴ say, I am driven out from in front of Your eyes. ⁵But I shall continue to look to Your holy temple.

So it's just from being the "center" of His attention he was driven. He wasn't permanently banished. And what did he do in response? Keep looking to the temple!

There are varying concepts of "temple" in the Bible. There was the temple that was in Jerusalem, that David prayed about.

Psalm 5:7	Psalm 27:4-6
⁷ But I, by your great love, can come into your house;	⁴ One thing I ask from the LORD, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD

<p>in reverence I bow down toward your holy temple.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><small>CLV) Ps 27:4</small></p> <p>One thing I have asked from "Yahweh— Only "it am I seeking: That I may dwell in the house of Yahweh all the days of my life, To perceive ⁱ the pleasantness of Yahweh, And to make my quest in His temple.</p> </div>	<p>all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.</p> <p>⁵ <i>For in the day of trouble</i> <i>he will keep me safe in his dwelling;</i> he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.</p> <p>⁶ Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.</p>
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MAKE MY QUEST - **H1239** baqar baw-kar a primitive root; properly, to plough, or (generally) break forth, i.e. (figuratively) to inspect, admire, care for, consider.

There is God's "heavenly" temple too. The physical temple was only a copy of the Heavenly Temple.

Hebrews 8:5	Hebrews 9:24	1 Kings 8
<p>They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."</p>	<p>For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence.</p>	<p>³⁸ and when a prayer or plea is made by anyone among your people Israel—being aware of the afflictions of their own hearts, and spreading out their hands toward this temple—³⁹ then hear from heaven, your dwelling place.</p> <p>Forgive and act; deal with everyone according to all they do, since you know their hearts (for you alone know every</p>
	<p>Revelation 11:19</p> <p>Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and within his temple was seen the ark of his covenant. And there came flashes of lightning,</p>	

	<p>rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake and a severe hailstorm.</p>	<p>human heart),</p>
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And then there are two other temples spoken of in the New Testament.

1 Peter 2	Ephesians 2:	1 Corinthians 6
<p>⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house^{into a Temple of the Spirit} to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being</p>	<p>¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.</p>

	<p>built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.</p>	
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So Jonah anticipated life in “the temple” once again

Jonah’s body was definitely in quite a strait!

⁵The engulfing waters threatened me,^[b]
the deep surrounded me;
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

⁶To the roots of the mountains I sank down,
the earth beneath barred me in forever.

But you, LORD my God,
brought my life up from the pit.

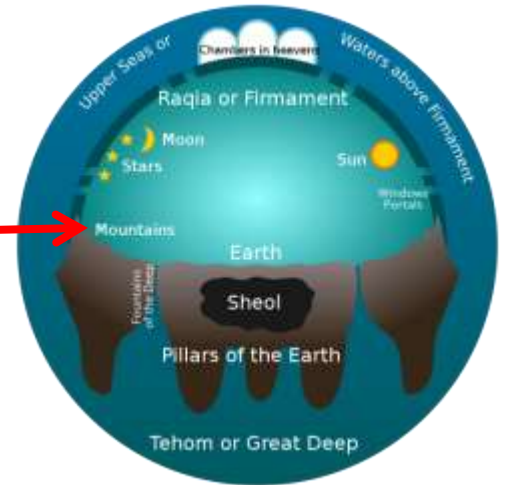
⁷“When my life was ebbing away,
I remembered you, LORD,
and my prayer rose to you,
to your holy temple.

⁸“Those who cling to worthless idols
turn away from God’s love for them.

⁹But I, with shouts of grateful praise,
will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.
I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the LORD.’”

¹⁰And the LORD commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.



Footnotes

- a. **Jonah 2:1** In Hebrew texts 2:1 is numbered 1:17, and 2:1-10 is numbered 2:2-11.
- b. **Jonah 2:5** Or *waters were at my throat*

Jonah 2

New International Version

2 ¹From 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 (**Sheol, the "unseen"**) I called for help,
and you listened to my cry.

I'm still keying off this concept called "the realm of the dead." It's really more akin to the "realm" of "non-existence," and the chaos and destruction that threatened being from the get go.

Genesis 1

New International Version

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless (**a desolation (of surface), i.e. desert; figuratively, a worthless thing; adverbially, in vain**) and empty (**a vacuity, i.e. (superficially) an undistinguishable ruin**), darkness was over the surface of the deep (**as a surging mass of water**), especially the deep (**the main sea or the subterranean water-supply**)], and the Spirit of God was hovering (vibrating) over the waters.

Here is a Scripture that shows what God's will was from the get go.

Isaiah 45:18

New International Version

¹⁸ For this is what the LORD says—he who created the heavens, he is God;
he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it;
he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—

So He did not create it to be empty. He created it to be formed and inhabited.

The only other place in Scripture where the phrase “formless and empty” is used is this Scripture.

Jeremiah 4:23 New International Version

²³ I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty;
and at the heavens,
and their light was gone.

Again, it’s fascinating how “darkness” and “formlessness” and “chaos” reared their ugly heads as soon as creation came into being. Why?

The scholar Karl Barth says it is what all evil leads to. It’s akin to the primeval nothingness that just simply responded to creation, that God is always overcoming, with light, and more specifically, with Christ. So Sheol is a descent into nothingness.

So back to Sheol, here is a verse Psalms that contains study Scriptures to consider.

Psalm 49:14

¹⁴ They are like sheep and are destined to die;
death will be their shepherd
(but the upright will prevail over them in the morning).
Their forms will decay in the grave,
far from their princely mansions.

Who is the Psalmist talking about?

Let me quote a little more of this Psalm.

¹³ This is the fate of those who trust in themselves,
and of their followers, who approve their sayings.

¹⁴ They are like sheep and are destined to die;
death will be their shepherd (but the upright will prevail over them in the morning).
Their forms will decay in the grave, far from their princely mansions.

In this case, the imagery comes full circle. The NIV Study Bible says it (death, the grave) is depicted as an insatiable monster feeding on its victims. Several Scriptures speak to this.

Psalm 69:15	Psalm 141:7	Proverbs 1:12	Proverbs 27:20
¹⁵ Do not let the floodwaters engulf me or the depths swallow me up or the pit close its mouth over me.	⁷ They will say, "As one plows and breaks up the earth, so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave."	¹² let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;	²⁰ Death and Destruction are never satisfied, and neither are human eyes.
Proverbs 30:15-16	Isaiah 5:14	Jonah 2:2	Habbakuk 2:5
¹⁵ "The leech has two daughters. 'Give! Give!' they cry. "There are three things that are never satisfied, four that never say, 'Enough!': ¹⁶ the grave, the barren womb, land, which is never satisfied with water, and fire, which never says, 'Enough!'	¹⁴ Therefore Death expands its jaws, opening wide its mouth; into it will descend their nobles and masses with all their brawlers and revelers.	From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry.	⁵ indeed, wine betrays him; he is arrogant and never at rest. Because he is as greedy as the grave and like death is never satisfied, he gathers to himself all the nations and takes captive all the peoples.

The study note continues and says the imagery is borrowed from Canaanite mythology, which so depicts the god Mot (“Death”). As ne Canaanite document reads, “Do not approach divine Mot, or he will put you like a lamb into his mouth.”

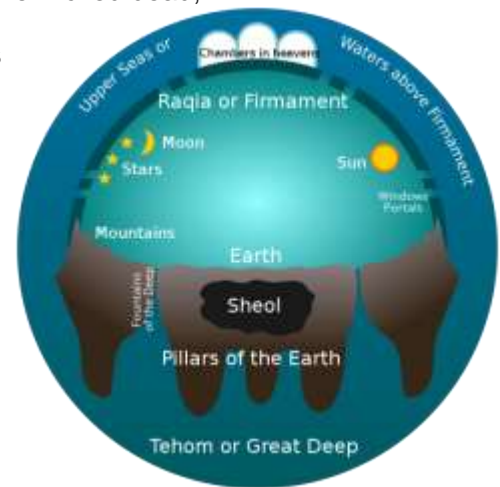
But the Psalm encourages us with this:

¹⁵ But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead (Sheol);
he will surely take me to himself.

I’ll close with a Wikipedia article on Sheol.³

Sheol (/ˈʃiːoʊl/ *SHEE-ohl*, /-əl/; **Hebrew**: שְׁאוֹל Šə’ōl), in the **Hebrew Bible**, is a place of **darkness** to which the dead go. When the Hebrew scriptures were translated into **Koine Greek** in ancient **Alexandria** around 200 BC, the word **Hades** (the **Greek underworld**) was substituted for Sheol.^[1]

While the Hebrew Bible describes Sheol as the permanent place of the dead, in the **Second Temple period** (roughly 500 BC – 70 AD) Sheol is considered to be the home of the wicked dead, while **Paradise** is the home of the righteous dead until the **Last Judgement** (e.g. **1 Enoch 22**; **Luke 16:19–31**). In some texts, Sheol was considered a place of punishment, meant for the wicked dead,^[2] and is equated with **Gehenna** in the **Talmud**.^[3] This is reflected in the **New Testament** where Hades is both the underworld of the dead and the personification of it.^[2]



Thanks be to God, we have a greater hope in Christ Jesus.
“Death has been swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:57)

“He will swallow up death forever.” Isaiah 25:8

I’ll move on next time into the meat of Jonah 2.

³ **Sheol - Wikipedia**; Photo Credit: By Tom-L - Own work Based on File:Early Hebrew Conception of the Universe.png and several other depictions, including Understanding the Bible, Stephen L. Harris, 2003., CC BY 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=99817773>