

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 4²



Jonah completes his mission, and still has the same attitude that made him run away from the Lord in the first place. He’s actually angry that God had mercy on the city.

God still deals with him. It’s amazing what we discover God puts up with and allows.

It’s amazing what kind of interplay He allows between Himself and a discouraged prophet. It’s amazing what He does for all of us. God is greatly to be praised.

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 4 New International Version

So God had relented from His threatened destruction of Nineveh. But Jonah's attitude was not the best.

4 But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry.

The NIV study note simply says that Jonah was very angry that God would have compassion on an enemy of Israel. Jonah wanted God's goodness to be shown only to Israel, not to Israel's enemies.

The older brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son was like that as well.

Luke 15	Notes
<p>²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'</p>	<p>The older brother is like the Pharisees (and like Jonah, for that matter), who failed to understand God's love and his joy over the repentance of sinners. Being alive spiritually rather than being spiritually dead pictures Christian conversion, as does being "lost" and "found."</p>
<p>³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"</p>	<p>Romans 6:12-13 - do not let sin reign in your mortal body. . . offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life . . .</p>
	<p>Ephesians 2:1-5 - . . .you were dead in your transgressions and sins . . . God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead . . .</p>

Note the use of the metaphor of the "lost" and "found" as well.

Luke 19:10	Matthew 10:6
¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."	⁶ Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.
<p>Matthew 19¹⁰ "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven.</p> <p>[Some manuscripts include a verse 11] For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."</p> <p>¹² "What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?</p> <p>The word for "wandering:"</p> <p>G4105 planao plan-ah'-o</p> <p>from G4106;</p> <p>to (properly, cause to) roam (from safety, truth, or virtue).</p>	

Back to Jonah and his attitude. Notice this time he is praying in anger, not distress. God has words to say about that.

1 Timothy 2:8 NIV		1 Timothy 2:10 CLV
Therefore I want the men everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing.		I am intending ~, then, that *men pray~ in every place, lifting up benign hands, apart from anger and reasoning.
"Benign" hands	Anger	REASONINGS
Right, hallowed (pious, sacred, sure)	Desire (as a reaching forth or excitement of the mind), i.e. (by analogy), violent passion	discussion, i.e. (internal) consideration (by implication, purpose), or (external) debate.

He did not lift up holy hands without anger. He was angry. Very angry.

² He prayed to the LORD, "Isn't this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity.

Here is what the NIV calls a "confessional statement" of Jonah's. This is what God declared Himself to be when He revealed Himself to Moses.

Exodus 34:6-7 (NIV)	CLV translation
<p>⁶And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷ maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."</p>	<p>⁶ ⁺Now Yahweh ^lpassed by ^{on}before his face and ^lproclaimed: Yahweh, Yahweh El, Who is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and ^{mn}abundant with benignity and truth, ⁷ preserving benignity to thousands, bearing with depravity, ⁺ transgression and sin, ⁺yet He is not ^mholding innocent, ^{nay innocent}, but visiting the depravity of the fathers on the sons and on the sons' sons, on the third and on the fourth generation.</p> <p>The word for "depravity" conveys the concept of "revolt."</p>

³ Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live."

How interesting. Just two chapters ago, he rejoiced in his deliverance from death. But now, since Nineveh is forgiven, he wants to die. God, as always, does some great questioning.

⁴ But the LORD replied, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

That's what He asked Cain in Genesis 4:6-7. "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷ If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do

what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant^(a) 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.

The “leafy plant” is unidentified and in the literal translated “gourd,” which comes from a root word that means “vomit,” which is exactly what the great fish did to Jonah. I’m not sure what, if any, message, double entendre or secret point is being made here. I’ll think about it I’m sure!

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.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?”

“It is,” he said. “And I’m so angry I wish I were dead.”

Honest prophet, isn’t he?

¹⁰ But the LORD said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”

Hmmm. God “did so love the world,” animals included, that He gave His only begotten son. (John 3:16) Hmmm.

Footnotes

- a. **Jonah 4:6** The precise identification of this plant is uncertain; also in verses 7, 9 and 10.