

graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER! **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 Paige, Stephanie, and Ashley, and any descendant they have (particularly Nicole, Joey, Matthew, Dylan, Julianne, and Lizzie, who know me as “Papou”). 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 my girls. And when you study these, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*



**ChristIN
YouSeries**

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
Ezekiel 12 Part 1²

“They have eyes to see but not see and ears to hear but do not hear!” How many times has this been repeated Isaiah, Christ, and others? How many times has it been true of us? In this chapter, Ezekiel is commanded by the God to be a living parable, to act like a refugee in front of the people and God offers this thought: “perhaps they will understand.” God wants us to understand! He has given us personhood. He craves us to have understanding in the “inward” parts.

⁶ **Behold, thou dost desire truth in the inward parts, and in the secret things thou hast made me to know wisdom. (Psalm 51:6)**

Enjoy reading the word of the Lord!

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

² New International Version (NIV)

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(Author’s note: This translation, and the study notes that accompany it in The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 are also referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

The Exile Symbolized

12 The word of the LORD came to me: ²“Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are a rebellious people.”

Note: God had spoken to Isaiah about this. In Isaiah 6:8-10 it says:

Isaiah 6:8-10 New International Version (NIV)

⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

⁹He said, “Go and tell this people:

“Be ever hearing, but never understanding;
be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’

¹⁰Make the heart of this people calloused;
make their ears dull
and close their eyes.^[a]

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed.”

Footnotes:

- a. **Isaiah 6:10** Hebrew; Septuagint ‘*You will be ever hearing, but never understanding; / you will be ever seeing, but never perceiving.*’ / ¹⁰ *This people’s heart has become calloused; / they hardly hear with their ears, / and they have closed their eyes*

It seems like Jesus’ use of this phrase comes from the footnoted Septuagint translation, and it seems their

rebelliousness has something to do with the blindness and deafness and stubborn refusal to hear. But still, God desires wisdom in the

¹³This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

¹⁴In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

¹⁵For this people’s heart has become calloused;

they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,

hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts
and turn, and I would heal them.’

Matthew 13

“inward parts.” God wants them to understand. So He is going to give them a living parable.

³“Therefore, son of man, pack your belongings for exile and in the daytime, as they watch, set out and go from where you are to another place.

Perhaps they will understand, though they are a rebellious people.

Note: I love the way God interacts with us. Like another “Person” doing His best to reach our hearts! God wants to reach our hearts! Let me share a few scriptures along those lines.

1 Samuel 16:7	Jeremiah 17:10	Deuteronomy 4:29	1 Chronicles 28:9	Hebrews 4:12
But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart. ”	“I the LORD search the heart and test the mind , to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”	But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.	“And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will cast you off forever.	For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

God wants our hearts, and is willing to interact with us until He gets them. How amazing He is to condescend to us like that and interact with us mere “bags of dust” that way! Let’s see the parable.

⁴During the daytime, while they watch, bring out your belongings packed for exile. Then in the evening, while they are watching, go out like those who go into exile. ⁵While they watch, dig through the wall and take your belongings out through it.

Note: When I was listening to this, I couldn't figure it out. But as it turns out, NIV study bible says it was not the city wall he was to dig through, but the sun dried brick wall of his house.



Figure 1 Historic Sundried Brick Wall Trojan

Photo [5388332](#) © [Eladora](#) | [Dreamstime.com](#)

⁶Put them on your shoulder as they are watching and carry them out at dusk. Cover your face so that you cannot see the land, for I have made you a sign to the Israelites.”

Note: Ezekiel was lucky. God had Isaiah walk naked. At least, Isaiah 20 implies that. Micah 1:8 implies Micah had to do the same thing.

⁷So I did as I was commanded. During the day I brought out my things packed for exile. Then in the evening I dug through the wall with my hands.

I took my belongings out at dusk, carrying them on my shoulders while they watched.

Note: Would you find this embarrassing? Today, it's unsophisticated to be overtly religious or responsive to the Lord. You get type cast in a negative way. It's like Maggie Smith's character Lady Violet says in a scene in Downton Abbey about Isobel's idealism: "Ideals are like prayers at a party. Always noble, but awkward."



Figure 2 Highclere Castle Home of "Downton Abbey"

Photo [49419366](#) © [Katyenka](#) | [Dreamstime.com](#)

⁸In the morning the word of the LORD came to me: ⁹"Son of man, did not the Israelites, that rebellious people, ask you, 'What are you doing?'

Note: The word for rebellious in Hebrew is:

H4805 mriy mer-ee'

from **H4784**;

bitterness, i.e. (figuratively) rebellion; concretely, bitter, or rebellious.

This makes me think of those Scriptures that call people “children of wrath” in the New Testament. To me this pictures people that are always angry. (See Ephesians 2:3, Young’s Literal Translation and King James Version.)

¹⁰“Say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: This prophecy concerns the prince in Jerusalem and all the Israelites who are there.’ ¹¹Say to them, ‘I am a sign to you.’”

Note: Here’s how the CLV translates this:

(CLV) Ezk 12:10

Say to them, Thus says my Lord Yahweh: The prince is ^othis ^oload in Jerusalem, and all the house of Israel, they who are in [~]its[~] midst.

“This load” refers to the “burden” of prophecy pictured by this living parable.

“As I have done, so it will be done to them. They will go into exile as captives.

¹²“The prince among them will put his things on his shoulder at dusk and leave, and a hole will be dug in the wall for him to go through. He will cover his face so that he cannot see the land. ¹³I will spread my net for him, and he will be caught in my snare; I will bring him to Babylonia, the land of the Chaldeans, but he will not see it, and there he will die. ¹⁴I will scatter to the winds all those around him—his staff and all his troops—and I will pursue them with drawn sword.

Note: This was actually fulfilled.

Notice what happened in 2 Kings 25.

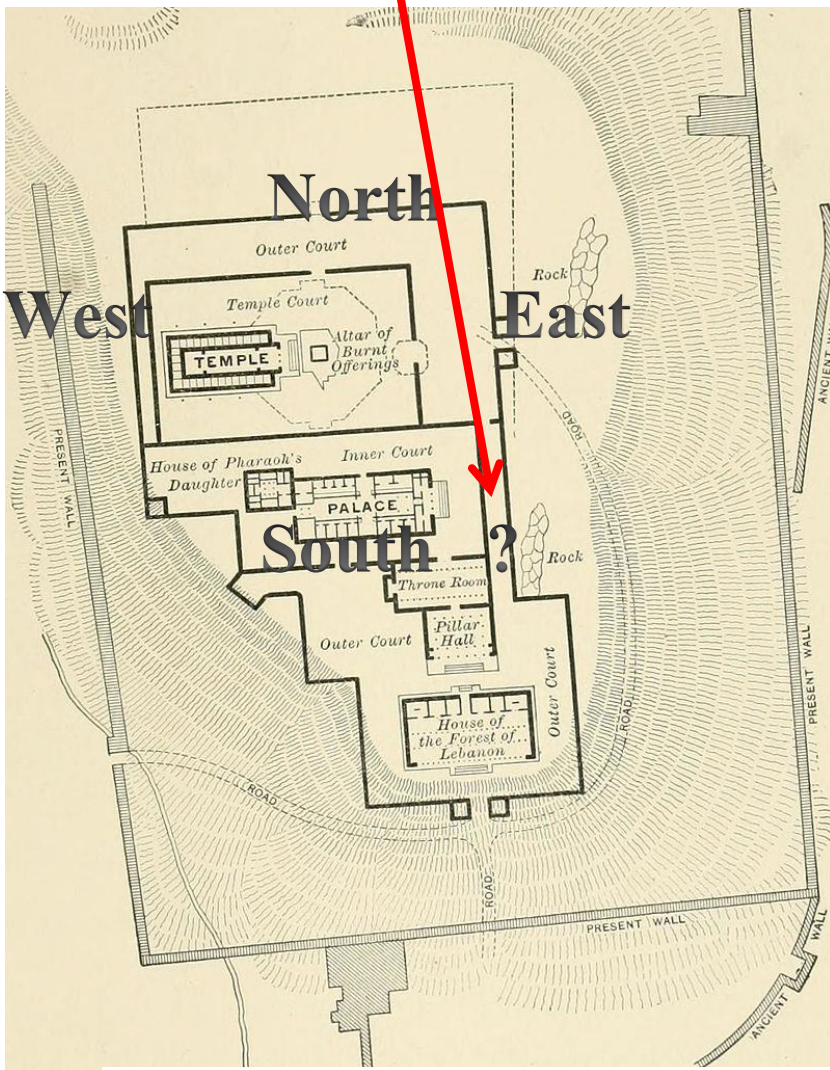
2 Kings 25 New International Version (NIV)

25 So in the ninth year of Zedekiah’s reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. He encamped outside the city and built siege works all around it. ²The city was kept under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

³By the ninth day of the fourth^[a] month the famine in the city had become so severe that there was no food for the people to eat. ⁴Then the city wall was

broken through, and the whole army fled at night through the gate between the two walls near the king's garden, though the Babylonians were surrounding the city. They fled toward the Arabah,⁵ but the Babylonian¹ army pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his soldiers were separated from him and scattered,⁶ and he was captured.

He was taken to the king of Babylon at Riblah, where sentence was pronounced on him.⁷ They killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. Then they put out his eyes, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.



Zedekiah did not see the land! Because he was blinded, after he saw the death of his own children.

There seems to be a repeated theme of "sight" in this chapter. About not "seeing" the word of the Lord, or God's will. Than losing sight of all that is near and dear.

Is the message that sins lead to that, as do "idolatry" of any sort?

Do we see clearly in our generation, or are we blind to the love of the Lord that so surrounds us!

Oh Lord, give us eyes to see!

We'll pick up here next time.