

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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Micah 3²



Micah 2 is filled with prophecies that pertain to the Lord Jesus Christ. The picture described in the last verse speaks volumes. God is to “gather” all of Jacob. We know from the New Testament that not “all of Israel” is of fleshly Israel. In Romans 9:6 it says: It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not **all** who are descended from **Israel** are **Israel**.⁷ . . .through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”^(b) ⁸ . . . the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring. **So this prophecies swells up into a prophecy about the Christ. Let’s look for Christ sightings in it. Enjoy.**

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

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Micah 3

New International Version

Leaders and Prophets Rebuked

3 Then I said,

“Listen, you leaders of Jacob,
you rulers of Israel.

Should you not embrace justice,

What a beautiful phrase! To embrace justice! Literally, to “know” justice. The same word is the word used for Adam “knowing” his wife Eve and her becoming pregnant. Hence, I guess, the “embracing” justice. The word for justice in Hebrew is:

H4941 mishpat mish-pawt'

properly, a verdict (favorable or unfavorable) pronounced judicially, especially a sentence or formal decree (human or (participant's) divine law, individual or collective), including the act, the place, the suit, the crime, and the penalty; abstractly, justice, including a participant's right or privilege (statutory or customary), or even a style.

from **H8199** - to judge, i.e. pronounce sentence (for or against); by implication, to vindicate or punish; by extension, to govern; passively, to litigate (literally or figuratively).

So that’s what leaders are supposed to do---embrace “justice.”

See the side bar for other Scriptures speaking of justice.

Exodus 23:2

“Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. When you give testimony in a lawsuit, do not pervert justice by siding with the crowd,

Exodus 23:6

“Do not deny justice to your poor people in their lawsuits.

Leviticus 19:15

“Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

Deuteronomy 16:19

Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent.

Deuteronomy 16:20

Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you.

CLV translation:

(CLV) Dt 16:20

Justice and justice only shall you pursue, so that you may live and tenant the land that Yahweh your Elohim is giving to you.

In this case, the word used for justice is:

H6664 tsedeq tseh'-dek

from **H6663**;

the right (natural, moral or legal); also (abstractly) equity or (figuratively) prosperity.

² you who hate good and love evil;

Fascinating concept. "Hating" the good, but loving the evil. Sounds like the Scripture in John 3 quoting Jesus after His "for God so loved the world" speech.

who tear the skin from my people

and the flesh from their bones;

³ who eat my people's flesh,

strip off their skin

and break their bones in pieces;

who chop them up like meat for the pan,

like flesh for the pot?"

God holds leadership in high accountability. And He wants justice for people.

⁴ Then they will cry out to the LORD,

but he will not answer them.

At that time he will hide his face from them

because of the evil they have done.

When it comes time for them to need help, God will ignore them the same way they ignored Him!

⁵ This is what the LORD says:

"As for the prophets

who lead my people astray,

they proclaim 'peace'

if they have something to eat,

but prepare to wage war against anyone

who refuses to feed them.

Wow. Such a warning to not do what you do, ministry wise, for the money.

⁶ Therefore night will come over you, without visions,

and darkness, without divination.

The sun will set for the prophets,

John 3

¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

The Greek word for "evil" is the word:

G5337 phaulos fow'-los

apparently a primary word;

"foul" or "flawed", i.e. (figuratively) wicked.

It sounds like the word "foul."

²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

Isaiah 44:25

who foils the signs of false prophets and makes fools of diviners, who overthrows the learning of the wise and turns it into nonsense,

Jeremiah 14:14

Then the LORD said to me, "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds.

Jeremiah 23:16

This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Do not listen to what the prophets are prophesying to you; they fill you with false hopes. They speak visions from their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD.

Jeremiah 50:36

A sword against her false prophets! They will become fools. A sword against her warriors! They will be filled with terror.

Lamentations 2:14

The visions of your prophets were false and worthless; they did not expose your sin to ward off your captivity. The prophecies they gave you were false and misleading.

That's an interesting statement. Prophets are to "expose" sin and ward off captivity.

Finally, here's one from the many in the New Testament.

2 Peter 2:1

False Teachers and Their Destruction

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.

and the day will go dark for them.

⁷ The seers will be ashamed and the diviners disgraced.

They will all cover their faces because there is no answer from God."

The Bible has at least 17 references to "false" prophets, many of them in the New Testament.

⁸ But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin.

Contrast that statement about the role of the prophet with this one.

Micah 3:8	Lamentation 2:14
<p>⁸ But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin.</p>	<p>The visions of your prophets were false and worthless; they did not expose your sin to ward off your captivity. The prophecies they gave you were false and misleading.</p>

⁹ Hear this, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel, who despise justice and distort all that is right;

¹⁰ who build Zion with bloodshed,

and Jerusalem with wickedness.

¹¹ Her leaders judge for a bribe,
her priests teach for a price,
and her prophets tell fortunes for money.
Yet they look for the LORD's support and say,
"Is not the LORD among us?
No disaster will come upon us."

¹² Therefore because of you,
Zion will be plowed like a field,
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,
the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.

What a graphic picture sin leads to.