

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*

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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 4 Part 3²



So we ended with this beautiful picture of what some have called the “peaceable kingdom” to come.

Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore.

⁴Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken.

⁵All the nations may walk in the name of their gods, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

What else does the Lord plan to do? We’ll continue in this chapter and see.

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

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Micah 4:6-13 New International Version

The LORD's Plan

⁶ "In that day," declares the LORD,

"I will gather the lame; I will assemble the exiles
and those I have brought to grief.

That's an interesting prophecy, God says He will gather the "lame," those He has brought to "grief." He repeats that concept in the following verse.

⁷ I will make the lame my remnant,
those driven away a strong nation.

The LORD will rule over them in Mount Zion
from that day and forever.

So there is one incident where my mind goes scripturally where someone was made lame. It was the scene in which Jacob wrestled with God, and limped after that because God touched the socket of his hip.

Genesis 32

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome."

²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. ³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel,^[g] saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel,^[h] and he was limping because of his hip

So perhaps it's referring to us as spiritual Israel. We wrestle with God. We become a bit lame in the process. In fact, God makes us lame as He did Jacob. But we come out "Isra-Els." Overcomers with God and men.

Notice how Israel is to be restored.

⁸As for you, watchtower of the flock,
stronghold^[a] of Daughter Zion,
the former dominion will be restored to you;
kingship will come to Daughter Jerusalem."

How can two conditions of Israel and Jerusalem exist side by side? I like the way my friend Jeff McSwain says it. They exist "simultaneously." Our true selves, what we always were and created to be, in Christ. And our false selves, guilty of everything we think it is, and more. But these two natures exist simultaneously in one person. So Israel is perfect in Christ, and to be fully restored. But she's broken and needs to be made aware of her sin. We are too! God wants us to "confess." The word for confess:

G3670 homologeō hom-ol-og-eh'-o

from a compound of the base of **G3674** and **G3056**;

to assent, i.e. covenant, acknowledge.

⁹Why do you now cry aloud—

have you no king^[b]?

Has your ruler^[c] perished,

that pain seizes you like that of a woman in labor?

¹⁰Writhe in agony, Daughter Zion,

Footnotes

- a. **Micah 4:8** Or *hill*
- b. **Micah 4:9** Or *King*
- c. **Micah 4:9** Or *Ruler*

1 John 1

⁸ If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

like a woman in labor,
for now you must leave the city
to camp in the open field.
You will go to Babylon;
there you will be rescued.
There the LORD will redeem you
out of the hand of your enemies.

It's like she has to go through the worst in order to be delivered.

¹¹ But now many nations
are gathered against you.

They say, "Let her be defiled,
let our eyes gloat over Zion!"

¹² But they do not know
the thoughts of the LORD;
they do not understand his plan,
that he has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing floor.

¹³ "Rise and thresh, Daughter Zion,
for I will give you horns of iron;
I will give you hooves of bronze,
and you will break to pieces many nations."

You will devote their ill-gotten gains to the LORD,
their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.

**They will not get away with their sin either. God will reap them of their sin as well,
and they will be brought to the Lord.**

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