

**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*



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**Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)**

<sup>27</sup>To 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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**Ezekiel 13<sup>2</sup>**

One thing that has fascinated me is where Christ got his “source” material for the brilliant alliterations He made. He spoke of Pharisees being “whitewashed” walls and rains descending upon the walls of houses not built on the Rock. Well, these things make an appearance in our next chapter in Ezekiel.

Let’s continue in Ezekiel chapter 13. Enjoy!

<sup>1</sup> NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.

<sup>2</sup> 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.)

## False Prophets Condemned

**13** The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>“Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel who are now prophesying. Say to those who prophesy out of their own imagination: ‘Hear the word of the LORD!

**Notes: So prophets were prophesying, but out of their own imaginations. The Hebrew says they spoke out of their “hearts.”**

**Christ said:** For the **mouth** speaks what the **heart** is full of. (Matthew 12:34). **Jeremiah spoke to this.**

<b>Jeremiah 23:16</b>	<b>Jeremiah 23:25-29</b>
<p><sup>16</sup>This is what the LORD Almighty says:</p> <p>“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.</p>	<p><sup>25</sup>“I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’ <sup>26</sup>How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? <sup>27</sup>They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship. <sup>28</sup>Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?” declares the LORD. <sup>29</sup><b>“Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”</b></p> <p><b>Note:</b> Hebrews 4:12 says this: <sup>2</sup>For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.</p> 

**That’s certainly the way the real Word of the Lord is.**

**Let’s continue in Ezekiel.**

<sup>3</sup>This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit and have seen nothing!

**Note: Even though we are true persons in the Personhood of Jesus Christ, we have apparently our own "spirits" from which we have a capacity to choose. I no longer say we have "freedom" of choice. Because true freedom is only found in God, and the choice to choose against God is neither a legitimate option nor does it produce freedom but slavery.**

Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who **sins** is a **slave** to **sin**."

John 8:34

<sup>4</sup>Your prophets, Israel, are like jackals among ruins.

**Note: Jackals are animals that travel in packs and feed on dead flesh.**



**Psalm 63:10**

**La 5:18**

<sup>10</sup>They will be given over to the sword

and become food for jackals. . .

<sup>7</sup>Because of this our hearts are faint, because of these things our eyes grow dim

<sup>18</sup>for Mount Zion, which lies desolate, with jackals prowling over it.

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<sup>5</sup>You have not gone up to the breaches in the wall to repair it for the people of Israel so that it will stand firm in the battle on the day of the LORD.

**Note: This is the function of true prophets. Here are some other Scriptures that speak to that. They are not to be like self-feeding animals, feeding themselves on the sheep of God's pasture and making their ministries about themselves.**

**They are stand in the gap, as the Scriptures below say.**

**They are to comfort, edify and encourage. They are to transform stubborn attitudes of independence to attitudes of “in-dependence.” Dependence on the Lord IN whom we live and from whom we derive, and recognition of our interconnectedness to others and the whole of creation.**

<b>Jeremiah 22:30</b>	<b>Psalms 106:23</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 14:3</b>
<p><sup>30</sup>“I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.</p>	<p><sup>23</sup>So he said he would destroy them— had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him to keep his wrath from destroying them.</p>	<p><sup>3</sup>But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.</p>

<sup>6</sup>Their visions are false and their divinations a lie. Even though the LORD has not sent them, they say, “The LORD declares,” and expect him to fulfill their words. <sup>7</sup>Have you not seen false visions and uttered lying divinations when you say, “The LORD declares,” though I have not spoken?

**Note: There is danger in having a certain “expectation” like this from the Lord. One of my favorite theologians says one of the greatest sins of our people is our idolatry of “individualism.” Coupled with that can come an almost arrogant, “contractual” based demand that the Lord do what we say once we do our part.**

<sup>8</sup>“Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because of your false words and lying visions, I am against you, declares the Sovereign LORD. <sup>9</sup>My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They will not belong to the council of my people or be listed in the records of Israel, nor will they enter the land of Israel.

**Now to me this is a fascinating concept---the “records of Israel.” Is this somehow connected with what is called the “Book of Life” elsewhere in the Bible?**

**Here are Scriptures the NIV study bible links this passage to.**

<b>Ezra 2:62</b>	<b>Daniel 12:1</b>	<b>Psalms 69:28</b>
<p><sup>62</sup>These searched for their family records, but they could not find them and so were excluded from the priesthood as unclean.</p>	<p>At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in <b>the book</b>—will be delivered.</p>	<p><sup>28</sup>May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous.</p>

Here are some references to think about in the New Testament.

Philippians 4:3	Revelations 3:5	Luke 10:20	Hebrews 12:23
<p><sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.</p>	<p><sup>5</sup>The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.</p>	<p><sup>20</sup>However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”</p>	<p><sup>23</sup>to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,</p>

**And consider this one:**

Revelation 13:8 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>8</sup>All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.<sup>[a]</sup>

**Footnotes:**

- a. **Revelation 13:8** Or written from the creation of the world in the book of life belonging to the Lamb who was slain

**We'll pick up with this concept next time.**

