

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 5 Part 2²

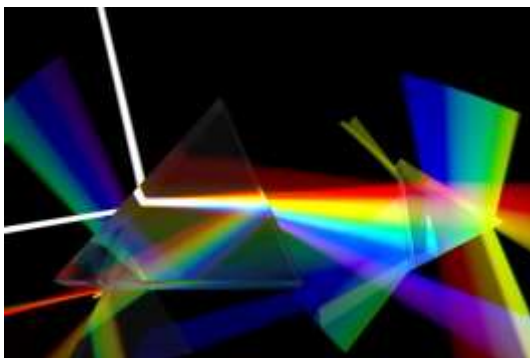


As Christmas approaches, I’m so happy to be studying the prophecies about Jesus birth and the ultimate good He has and will achieve for the whole world. Again, it’s amazing to study prophecy through the lens of Jesus Christ! Multiple realities exist side by side, simultaneously. Let’s continue to study how the joy of Jesus

even penetrated the problems of Israel and our problems, now. Happy Thanksgiving! Countdown to Christmas. Be sure to “reset” your lives in Him!

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

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Micah 5 New International Version

A Promised Ruler From Bethlehem

5 ^{a]} Marshal your troops now, city of troops,
for a siege is laid against us.
They will strike Israel's ruler
on the cheek with a rod.

Again, I saw Jesus in the very first statement.

2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans^{b]} of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times."

This ingenious action from God was nothing the ancients could have imagined or thought up. Like Paul told the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 2:6-9

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

7 No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory **before time began.**

8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 However, as it is written:

"What no eye has seen,

Footnotes

- a. **Micah 5:1** In Hebrew texts 5:1 is numbered 4:14, and 5:2-15 is numbered 5:1-14.
- b. **Micah 5:2** Or *rulers*
- c. **Micah 5:6** Or *crush*
- d. **Micah 5:6** Or *Nimrod in its gates*
- e. **Micah 5:14** That is, wooden symbols of the goddess Asherah

The pagans could not have made up a story to even hint at what God would do through Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:23

But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the **Greeks foolishness;**

The Jews expected a triumphant, political Messiah. The Greeks and Romans were sure that no reputable person would be crucified. It was unthinkable to them that a criminal would be the Savior of the world!

what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has
conceived"^[a]—

the things God has prepared for those
who love him—

Read full chapter

Footnotes

- a. **1 Corinthians 2:9** Isaiah 64:4

So as we continue, let's consider these verses again "Christologically."

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned

until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

Ok. Since everything in the Bible is in some way about Jesus, this makes me think of two things. One of them is the virgin Mary, obviously. But another is this Scripture in Revelation.

Revelation 12	Comments
<p>12 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars(the twelve tribes of Israel!)² And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.</p> <p>³ And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.</p>	<p>It's not just "Mary" that was in labor. It was Israel! Notice how Joseph saw Israel in a dream recorded in Genesis 37:</p> <p>⁹ And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. ¹⁰ And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?</p>

⁴ And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

⁵ And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

So when I read something like this in Micah, I read the story of Israel, whose whole existence was “pregnancy” and labor for the Christ to be brought forth in humanity, and this prophecy moving back and forth between the transcendent Reality established by God in Christ for all time, interposing His joy and healing into all points in our history and our future.

Look at what will happen!

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

That’s what’s in store for us!

⁵ And he will be our peace
when the Assyrians invade our land
and march through our fortresses.

We will raise against them seven shepherds,
even eight commanders,

⁶ who will rule^[c] the land of Assyria with the sword,
the land of Nimrod with drawn sword.^[d]

See the text box.

He will deliver us from the Assyrians
when they invade our land
and march across our borders.

Footnotes

c. or crush

d. **Micah 5:6** Or *Nimrod in its gates*

e. **Micah 5:14** That is, wooden symbols of the goddess Asherah

Genesis 10:8-10

8 And Cush begat Nimrod: he began to be a mighty one in the earth. 9 He was a mighty hunter before the Lord: wherefore it is said, Even as Nimrod the mighty hunter before the Lord. 10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

11 Out of that land went forth Asshur, and builded Nineveh, and the city Rehoboth, and Calah, 12 And Resen between Nineveh and Calah: the same is a great city.

⁷ The remnant of Jacob will be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the LORD, like showers on the grass, which do not wait for anyone or depend on man.

Matthew 5:13

Ye are **the salt of the earth**:

So God's people, the true spiritual Israel, will be sprinkled all over the world for God's salvific purposes.

⁸ The remnant of Jacob will be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among flocks of sheep, which mauls and mangles as it goes, and no one can rescue.

⁹ Your hand will be lifted up in triumph over your enemies, and all your foes will be destroyed.

¹⁰ "In that day," declares the LORD,

"I will destroy your horses from among you and demolish your chariots.

¹¹ I will destroy the cities of your land and tear down all your strongholds.

¹² I will destroy your witchcraft and you will no longer cast spells.

¹³ I will destroy your idols and your sacred stones from among you; you will no longer bow down to the work of your hands.

¹⁴ I will uproot from among you your Asherah poles^(e) when I demolish your cities.

¹⁵ I will take vengeance in anger and wrath on the nations that have not obeyed me."

Footnotes

e. **Micah 5:14** That is, wooden symbols of the goddess Asherah

Judgment for all fell upon Jesus at the Cross. But Christ will discipline; Christ will correct. Again, prophecy is prismatic, because Christ is interdimensional. Eternal Reality intersects with time and space as we experience it. That's why the Reality of Christ can speak into any dimension. And the Kaleidoscope that is formed will forever be beautiful.