

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 6²

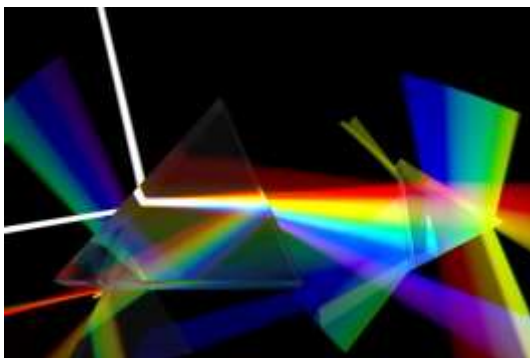


As Christmas approaches, I’m so happy to be studying the prophecies about Jesus birth and the ultimate good He has and will achieve for the whole world. Again, it’s amazing to study prophecy through the lens of Jesus Christ! Multiple realities exist side by side, simultaneously. Let’s continue to study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

even penetrated the problems of Israel and our problems, now. It’s now countdown to Christmas. Be sure to rest and “reset” your lives in Him!

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

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Micah 6
New International Version

The LORD’s Case Against Israel

6 Listen to what the LORD says:

“Stand up, plead my case before the mountains;
let the hills hear what you have to say.

This chapter depicts a courtroom scene, where God calls the earth and its “features” to serve as witnesses and the Lord lodges a legal complaint against Israel.

The Lord instructs his prophet to present His case.

²“Hear, you mountains, the LORD’s accusation;
listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth.

The mountains listen as witnesses. So do “the everlasting foundations.”

These are enduring objects. They were also witnesses to the Lord’s covenant.

Deuteronomy 30:19, 31:28	Deuteronomy 32:21	Psalm 50:1	Joshua 24:27	Isaiah 1:2
¹⁹ This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so	32 Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; hear, you earth, the words of my mouth. . . command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. ⁴⁷ They are not just idle words for you—	¹ The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the	²⁷ “See!” he said to all the people. “This stone will be a witness against us. It has heard all the words the LORD has said to us. It will be a witness against you if you are untrue to your God.”	² Hear me, you heavens! Listen, earth! For the LORD has spoken: “I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me.

that you and your children may live. . . 28 Assemble before me all the elders of your tribes and all your officials, so that I can speak these words in their hearing and call the heavens and the earth to testify against them.	they are your life. By them you will live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to possess."	sun to where it sets.		
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I find it interesting that the Lord speaks inanimate things. Jesus used to speak to fevers, the wind and the waves,³ and they "obeyed."⁴

For the LORD has a case against his people;
he is lodging a charge against Israel.

³ "My people, what have I done to you?
How have I burdened you? Answer me.

This sounds like we hurt God's feelings. I bet we do. And He has the right to ask.

⁴ I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery.

³ Luke 4:39 So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them. Matthew 8:26 He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

⁴ G5219 hupakouo hoop-ak-oo'-o - to hear under (as a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively; by implication, to heed or conform to a command or authority.

That phrase is repeated frequently in Exodus and all of Scripture. Let me look up a few.

Exodus 3:17

And I have promised to bring you up **out of** your misery in **Egypt**

Exodus 13:14

'With a mighty hand **the** LORD brought us **out of Egypt, out of the land of** slavery.

Exodus 20:2

"I am **the** LORD your God, who brought you **out of Egypt, out of the land of** slavery.

Leviticus 25:38

I am **the** LORD your God, who brought you **out of Egypt** to give you **the land of** Canaan and to be your God.

Deuteronomy 8:14

then your heart will become proud and you will forget **the** LORD your God, who brought you **out of Egypt, out of the land of** slavery.

It is repeated over and over again in Scripture. God brought His people (and Israel) out of the land of Egypt and out of slavery. He brought us to the land of Canaan to give it to us and to be our God.

Here's what else He did. He gave them leaders.

I sent Moses to lead you,
also Aaron and Miriam.

This says that He gave them three leaders---two males, one female. Interesting! A lady is listed as a leader!

⁵ My people, remember
what Balak king of Moab plotted
and what Balaam son of Beor answered.

When Balaam sought a curse over Israel, the Lord wouldn't let him give it! Even though he offered him fees of divination, but he couldn't curse them! God would not let him. In fact, he blessed them four times (Numbers 23-25). Later on, in Jude 1:11 talked about his madness, and his desire for reward.

Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD."

We will stop the study here today, and pick up on the next part about sacrifices and offerings that conceptually makes an important reappearance in the New Testament.

Hebrews 10:5-7

New International Version

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,

but a body you prepared for me;

⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings

you were not pleased.

⁷Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—

I have come to do your will, my God.’”

We’ll study that and other things in this chapter tomorrow.