

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER<sup>1</sup> 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)**

<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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**Micah 6<sup>2</sup>**



**The role of sacrifices has been huge in the history of religion, including the religion of God’s first covenant, with Israel.**

**Micah addresses the futility of sacrifices in this chapter. Was that something that mankind matured into, or that God revealed as time went on.**

**Perhaps it was both. Let’s see what we can learn about this subject. Enjoy!**

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

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## Micah 6:6-8 New International Version

<sup>6</sup>With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow down before the exalted God?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

**There are several relevant Old and New Testament passages that speak to this.**

Heb 10:4	Heb 10:5-7	1 Sa 15:22	Ps 40:6-7	Ps 50
<p><sup>4</sup>It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.</p>	<p><sup>5</sup>Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, my God.'"</p>	<p><sup>22</sup>But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.</p>	<p><sup>6</sup>Sacrifice and offering you did not desire— but my ears you have opened<sup>[a]</sup>— burnt offerings and sin offerings<sup>[b]</sup> you did not require. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, "Here I am, I have come— it is written about me in the scroll."<sup>[c]</sup></p>	<p>I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifices or concerning your burnt offerings, which are ever before me. <sup>9</sup>I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, <sup>10</sup>for every animal of the forest is mine,</p>

## **So why did God command sacrifices to His first people?**

**There are several reasons. First and foremost, we chose that system in the Garden of Eden.**

Genesis 3 New International Version

**3** Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

**He made her doubt God. He made her question His authority, and His motives. "Did God "really" say," He says, like its incredulous that He would! To me this implies that it was a ridiculous, over the top, commandment. I can almost hear the tone in the serpent's voice. The more literal translation renders this "Indeed, did God say . . ." He made her question the efficacy of this command.**

<sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

**God never said you must not touch it. I wonder if that's part of the problem of human made ascetic worship. It goes too far. See text box. What that does is almost make you obsess over the thing warned against, and makes the temptation for it larger than it is by blocking natural simple impulses of simply being human.**

<sup>4</sup>"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup>"For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**He made God out to have both motives for holding humans back, and a liar.**

Colossians 2

21 "Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!"? 22 These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. 23 Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.

<sup>6</sup>When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

**So, we choose to live by the tree of knowledge and become like God. That approach to living with the Deity included the “knowledge of Good and Evil” as given by the commands, which included both “doing” the right thing to obtain life, and also making up for the wrong with sacrifices and offerings.**

**So in effect, did God simply comply with our decision to try this way that was destined to fail, so we could learn from our mistake and from trusting our limited sight to make wise decisions. The “saw” the fruit was good---to her it looked good. It was “pleasing.” It was “desirable.” She didn’t trust God in a naïve, simple, “tree of life” way. She chose to “become” like God by what she did.**

**Humanity had to learn that this way didn’t work! God gave the law for a reason.**

Galatians 4

New International Version

**4** What I am saying is that as long as an heir is underage, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. <sup>2</sup> The heir is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. <sup>3</sup> So also, when we were underage, we were in slavery under the elemental spiritual forces<sup>[a]</sup> of the world. <sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

**He gave humanity a chance to grow up!**

**We can’t pay for our sins. No matter what we do! Micah continues:**

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,

the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
<sup>8</sup> He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.  
And what does the LORD require of you?  
To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly<sup>[a]</sup> with your God.

**We will pick up on verse 8 next time.**

***Footnotes***

- a. **Micah 6:8** Or *prudently*