

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 7 Part 1²



Micah 7 is an interesting chapter. So many things that surface in Jesus’ ministry surface in this chapter.

I’ve always suspected that Jesus got many of His “marching orders” from Scripture. I still cherish this scene in Luke 2: they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. His Father’s “business” apparently included learning the Scripture and growing in His understanding of it. I will study this chapter with this in mind. Enjoy!

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² New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (Author’s note: This translation, and the source for many of the study notes that accompany it, are taken from The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 . These notes are referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

Micah 7 New International Version

Israel's Misery

7 What misery is mine!

I am like one who gathers summer fruit
at the gleaning of the vineyard;
there is no cluster of grapes to eat,
none of the early figs that I crave.

I'm surprised the NIV Study notes section doesn't mention this. But this is what immediately came to mind when I read this Scripture.

Matthew 21	Mark 11
<p>⁸ Early in the morning, as Jesus was on his way back to the city, he was hungry. ¹⁹ Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered.</p>	<p>² The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³ Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it. ¹⁵ On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves,</p>
<p>This scene takes place during "Passion Week," the week before Jesus dies. He's come to His "Father's House," the Temple, looking for "fruit"---physical in this action, but also spiritual in its meaning. He was looking for spiritual fruit from the Temple system. It wasn't there. Instead, it had become a place people made money from. I can see Jesus reading this Scripture, and appropriating it into His ministry.</p>	

² The faithful have been swept from the land;
not one upright person remains.
Everyone lies in wait to shed blood;

they hunt each other with nets.

³ Both hands are skilled in doing evil;

the ruler demands gifts,

the judge accepts bribes,

the powerful dictate what they desire—

they all conspire together.

God was vehemently against the acceptance of bribes. These Scriptures are shared in the NIV Study notes.

1 Samuel 8:3	1 Samuel 12:3
³ But his sons did not follow his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.	³ Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the LORD and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me shut my eyes? If I have done any of these things, I will make it right."
Samuel's sons accepted bribes. They're a stark contrast, to Samuel, a judge who would not accept bribes. Perversion of justice through bribery was explicitly forbidden in the Law.	
Exodus 23:8	Deuteronomy 16:19
⁸ "Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the innocent.	¹⁹ Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent.
Here is the Hebrew for Deuteronomy 16:19 <small>(CLV) Dt.16:19</small>	
You shall not turn aside the judgment; you shall neither be biased nor take a bribe, for the bribe ^l blinds the eyes of the wise and ^l subverts the words of the righteous.	
The Hebrew word for "subverts" is translated "twists" in the NIV. It means: H5557 calaph saw-laf' properly, to wrench, i.e. (figuratively) to subvert.	

17 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. 18 When I say to a wicked person, ‘You will surely die,’ and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for[a] their sin . . . Ezekiel 3

God hates this type of behavior!

⁴The best of them is like a brier,
the most upright worse than a thorn hedge.
The day God visits you has come,
the day your watchmen sound the alarm.
Now is the time of your confusion.

The symbol of the watchman was indicative of the prophets warning of the day of judgment on the house of Israel.

⁵Do not trust a neighbor;
put no confidence in a friend.
Even with the woman who lies in your embrace
guard the words of your lips.
⁶For a son dishonors his father,
a daughter rises up against her mother,
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—
a man’s enemies are the members of his own household.

Again, this is ignored in the study notes section of the NIV. I wonder why? But here is where this Scripture surfaces on the lips of Christ.

Matthew 10:35-36	Mark 13:12
³⁵ For I have come to turn “a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law— ³⁶ a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’	¹² “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death.

Here’s what the NIV Study note says: “It is true that Christ came to bring peace. But it’s not the peace the world gives. It’s the peace:

- 1. Between the believer and God.**
- 2. Peace among humans.**

But the inevitable result of Christ's coming is conflict. That conflict can occur even among family members.

⁷ But as for me, I watch in hope for the LORD,
I wait for God my Savior;
my God will hear me.

And He will!