

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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Habakkuk Introduction

Part 1²

I am excited about studying this book. I took the opportunity to listening to it as I was doing my morning walk yesterday, and it has many choice gems and nuggets of immense value. At first I found it irksome to think about “having” to go through the minor prophets.

But they have been amazing! And I’m excited to get into this myself, and learn what the Lord wants to teach me from it at this season of my life. Let’s begin! Enjoy.

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AUTHOR

Little is known about Habakkuk except that he was a contemporary of Jeremiah and man of vigorous faith rooted deeply in the religious traditions of Israel.

Comment: How did they know this? The best that I can tell is that they have determined this because of his predictions of the Babylonian invasion.

Habakkuk 1:6 New International Version

⁶I am raising up the Babylonians,^[a]
that ruthless and impetuous people,
who sweep across the whole earth
to seize dwellings not their own.

That's the same time Jeremiah prophesied, as well as many others.

The indication is that Habakkuk lived in Judah toward the end of Josiah's reign (640 – 609 BC) or at the beginning of Jehoiakim's reign (609-598). The prophecy is generally dated a little before or after the Battle of Carcemish (605 BC) when Egyptian forces , which had earlier goen to the aide of the Assyrian King, were routed by the under Nabopolassar and Nebuchadnezzar and were pursued as far as the Egyptian border.

Jeremiah 46

New International Version

A Message About Egypt

46 This is the word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations:

² Concerning Egypt:

This is the message against the army of Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt, which was defeated at Carchemish on the Euphrates River by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah:

³ "Prepare your shields, both large and small,
and march out for battle! ⁴ Harness the horses,
mount the steeds! Take your positions
with helmets on! Polish your spears,
put on your armor! ⁵ What do I see?
They are terrified, they are retreating,
their warriors are defeated. They flee in haste
without looking back, and there is terror on every
side,"

declares the LORD.

⁶ "The swift cannot flee nor the strong escape.
In the north by the River Euphrates
they stumble and fall.

²⁴ Daughter Egypt will be put to shame,
given into the hands of the people of the north."

Footnotes

- a. **Jeremiah 46:9** That is, the upper Nile region

The Battle of Carchemish was a decisive battle fought in 605 BCE between the remnants of **Assyria** and their **Egyptian** mercenary allies led by the king **Necho II** and the **Neo-Babylonia** coalition led by **Nabopolassar** and his son **Nebuchadnezzar II**. . .

The major record of the battle is known as the **Nebuchadnezzar Chronicle** which is currently housed in the British Museum. According to the Babylonian account, Nebuchadnezzar and his armies had to cross the Euphrates to crush the Assyrians at Carchemish. The Egyptian army withdrew first and in the aftermath the Assyrians were utterly crushed. The Egyptians that retreated were not so lucky as the Babylonians cut them off at the Hamath district and slaughtered them down to the last man. The Battle of Carchemish is also mentioned in the Bible, such as in the Book of Jeremiah and 2 Chronicles.

Warfare | Battle of Carchemish
(ancientmesopotamia.org)

That's just a thumbnail sketch of that battle. Assyria was "slaughtered" to the last man! Wow. Egypt's defeat by Babylonia at Carcemesh (the name means fortress of Chemosh) was one of the most decisive battles of the ancient world, and ended Egypt's age long claims and pretensions to power in Syro-Palestine.

²⁵ The LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "I am about to bring punishment on Amon god of Thebes, on Pharaoh, on Egypt and her gods and her kings, and on those who rely on Pharaoh. ²⁶ I will give them into the hands of those who want to kill them—Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his officers. Later, however, Egypt will be inhabited as in times past," declares the LORD. . . "Do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed, Israel. I will surely save you out of a distant place, your descendants from the land of their exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid. ²⁸ Do not be afraid, Jacob my servant, for I am with you," declares the LORD. "Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only in due measure; I will not let you go entirely unpunished."

I think the theme of punishment is amazing. God does punish. But He does so in mercy. And, like it says above, only in "due measure." I looked up the text in the original.

[\(CLV\) Jer 46:27](#)

And you^l, do not ^lfear, My servant Jacob,

And do not be ^ldismayed, Israel;

For behold, I shall save^l you from afar

And [»]your seed from the land of their captivity;

And Jacob will return and be given quietness

And be tranquil ⁺with no one ^cmaking him tremble.

I like that phrase. “Be tranquil, with no more making him tremble.”

And to be given “quietness.”

It reminds me of what Zechariah said in rejoicing in the birth of John the Baptist.

Luke 1

Zechariah’s Song

⁶⁷ His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

⁶⁸ “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹ He has raised up a horn^d of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David

⁷⁰ (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

⁷¹ salvation from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us—

⁷² to show mercy to our ancestors
and to remember his holy covenant,

⁷³ the oath he swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴ to rescue us from the hand of our enemies,
and to enable us to serve him without fear

⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

To serve God . . . without fear. In holiness and righteousness.