

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER!** **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 Paige, Stephanie, and Ashley, and any descendant they have (particularly Nicole, Joey, Matthew, Dylan, Julianne, and Lizzie, who know me as “Papou”). 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 my girls. And when you study these, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*



**ChristIN**  
**YouSeries**

**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

**graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER**  
**Ezekiel 14 Part 2<sup>2</sup>**

**So we’ll find out God’s attitude toward those who set up idols in their own hearts, and stumbling blocks before their own faces**

**We’ll also see who were considered three of the most righteous men in Israel’s sacred history, and what good their righteousness would do in the current distress upon God’s people. God speaks to the reason of His punishment in this chapter. Enjoy!**

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

<sup>2</sup> New International Version (NIV)

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(Author’s note: This translation, and the study notes that accompany it in The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 are also referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

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## Deuteronomy 13:6-18 (NIV)

<sup>6</sup> If your very own brother, or your son or daughter, or the wife you love, or your closest friend secretly entices you, saying, “Let us go and worship other gods” (gods that neither you nor your ancestors have known, <sup>7</sup> gods of the peoples around you, whether near or far, from one end of the land to the other), <sup>8</sup> do not yield to them or listen to them. Show them no pity. Do not spare them or shield them. <sup>9</sup> You must certainly put them to death. Your hand must be the first in putting them to death, and then the hands of all the people. <sup>10</sup> Stone them to death, because they tried to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

<sup>11</sup> Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and no one among you will do such an evil thing again. <sup>12</sup> If you hear it said about one of the towns the LORD your God is giving you to live in <sup>13</sup> that troublemakers have arisen among you and have led the people of their town astray, saying, “Let us go and worship other gods” (gods you have not known), <sup>14</sup> then you must inquire, probe and investigate it thoroughly. And if it is true and it has been proved that this detestable thing has been done among you, <sup>15</sup> you must certainly put to the sword all who live in that town. You must destroy it completely, <sup>[the Hebrew word means giving it over irrevocably to the Lord]</sup>

both its people and its livestock. <sup>16</sup> You are to gather all the plunder of the town into the middle of the public square and completely burn the town and all its plunder as a whole burnt offering to the LORD your God. That town is to remain a ruin forever, never to be rebuilt, <sup>17</sup> and none of the condemned things are to be found in your hands. Then the LORD will turn from his fierce anger, will show you mercy, and will have compassion on you. He will increase your numbers, as he promised on oath to your ancestors— <sup>18</sup> because you obey the LORD your God by keeping all his commands that I am giving you today and doing what is right in his eyes.

## Ezekiel 14 New International Version (NIV)

**14** Some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat down in front of me. 2 Then the word of the LORD came to me: 3 “Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces. Should I let them inquire of me at all?

**Note: One thing to consider is that the punishment for idolatry was death. See sidebar.**

4 Therefore speak to them and tell them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When any of the Israelites set up idols in their hearts and put a wicked stumbling block before their faces and then go to a prophet, I the LORD will answer them myself in keeping with their great idolatry.

**Note: God was going to answer through direct action, and not through an intermediary or a prophet.**

5 I will do this to recapture the hearts of the people of Israel, who have all deserted me for their idols.’

**Note: I think this is a significant phrase. God wants to “recapture the hearts of the people of Israel.” God wants to recapture the “hearts” of those that have deserted Him.**

**Punishment from God is restorative. Hebrews 12 speaks to this.**

Proverbs 3:11-12

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those He loves, as a father the son he delights in.



*My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son."*

**Note: The word for chasten means "to whip." God whips his children. And they accepted it! Wow.**

*7 Endure hardship as discipline;*

**Note: The Greek word for discipline is:**

**G3809** paideia pahee-di'-ah

from **G3811**;

tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction.

*God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live!*

**God is the Father of "spirits."**

*10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.*

**God disciplines us so that we might share in His Holiness. The word is metalabein, and it means to get, to share in.**

**G3335** metalambano met-al-am-ban'-o

from **G3326** and **G2983**;

to participate; genitive case, to accept (and use).

*11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

**Back to Ezekiel.**

6 “Therefore say to the people of Israel, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Repent! Turn from your idols and renounce all your detestable practices!  
7 “When any of the Israelites or any foreigner residing in Israel separate themselves from me and set up idols in their hearts and put a wicked stumbling block before their faces and then go to a prophet to inquire of me, I the LORD will answer them myself.

**Note: Note that phrase---when they separate themselves “from me.” The word used here is interesting.**

**H5144** nazar naw-zar'

a primitive root;

to hold aloof, i.e. (intransitively) abstain (from food and drink, from impurity, and even from divine worship (i.e. apostatize)); specifically, to set apart (to sacred purposes), i.e. devote.

**Note the concept of holding yourself “aloof” from God. Here’s the definition of “aloof.”**

# aloof<sup>3</sup>

[ə'loʊf]

ADJECTIVE

1. not friendly or forthcoming; cool and distant.

**distant · detached · unresponsive · remote · unapproachable · forbidding · standoffish · formal · impersonal · stiff · austere · stuffy · withdrawn · reserved · unforthcoming · conspicuously uninvolved and uninterested, typically through distaste. independent · standing on one's own two feet · self-sufficient · self-reliant · introverted · undemonstrative · quiet · private · insular · reserved · unemotional · uncommunicative · reticent · secretive**

8 I will set my face against them and make them an example and a byword. I will remove them from my people. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.bing.com/search?q=define+aloof&cvid=d5d12b53cb08466fa0200620eabc5fcf&pglt=43&FORM=ANS PA1&PC=U51>

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### Numbers 6:25

the Lord make his **face shine** on you and be gracious to you;

### Psalm 4:6

Many, Lord, are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity?” Let the light of your **face shine** on us.

### Psalm 31:16

Let your **face shine** on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.

### Psalm 67:1

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his **face shine** on us—

### Psalm 80:3

Restore us, O God; make your **face shine** on us, that we may be saved.

### Psalm 80:7

Restore us, God Almighty; make your **face shine** on us, that we may be saved.

### Psalm 80:19

Restore us, Lord God Almighty; make your **face shine** on us, that we may be saved.

### Psalm 119:135

Make your **face shine** on your servant and teach me your decrees.

### 2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, who with unveiled faces **contemplate (reflect)** the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

**Note: You don’t want the Lord to set His face against you. See sidebar for comments about that.**

9 “And if the prophet is enticed to utter a prophecy, I the LORD have enticed that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him and destroy him from among my people Israel.

**Note. The Lord never tempts us with evil. But the Lord does put us to the test, I would imagine by letting Satan have his way with us for a while.**

10 They will bear their guilt—the prophet will be as guilty as the one who consults him. 11 Then the people of Israel will no longer stray from me, nor will they defile themselves anymore with all their sins. They will be my people, and I will be their God, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

**Again, judgment and punishment are restorative.**

### Jerusalem’s Judgment Inescapable

12 The word of the LORD came to me:  
13 “Son of man, if a country sins against me by **being unfaithful**

**The Hebrew says acting**

James 1

When **tempted**, no one should say, “God is **tempting** me.” For God cannot be **tempted** by evil, nor does he **tempt** anyone. . .

1 Kings 22:19-23

<sup>19</sup> Micaiah continued, “Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne with all the multitudes of heaven standing around him on his right and on his left. <sup>20</sup> And the LORD said, ‘Who will entice Ahab into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?’

“One suggested this, and another that. <sup>21</sup> Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the LORD and said, ‘I will entice him.’

<sup>22</sup> “‘By what means?’ the LORD asked.

“‘I will go out and be a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,’ he said.

“‘You will succeed in enticing him,’ said the LORD. ‘Go and do it.’

**God allowed this. But God never tempts with evil.**

<sup>23</sup> “So now the LORD has put a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all these prophets of yours. The LORD has decreed disaster for you.”

**treacherously.**

and I stretch out my hand against it to cut off its food supply and send famine upon it and kill its people and their animals, 14 even if these three men—Noah, Daniel[Danel, a man renowned in literature] and Job—

### **An article in Wikipedia<sup>4</sup> says this about “Danel.”**

The **Book of Ezekiel** (14:14, 14:20 and 28:3) refers to a legendary Daniel famed for wisdom and righteousness. In verse 14:14, Ezekiel says of the sinful land of Israel that "even if these three, Noah, Daniel and Job, were in it, they would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness." In chapter 28, Ezekiel taunts the king of Tyre, asking rhetorically, "art thou wiser than Daniel?" The author of the Book of Daniel appears to have taken this legendary figure, renowned for his wisdom, to serve as his central human character.<sup>[8]</sup>

### **There is another character named “Danel” that appears in Ugaritic literature.**

Danel and the Book of Ezekiel[[edit](#)]

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Three verses in the **Book of Ezekiel** (14:14, 14:20, and 28:3) refer to "Danel" which, according to the **Masoretic Text**, should be read as "Daniel". This notwithstanding, parallels and contrasts with Danel (without /)<sup>[6]</sup> of the Book of Ezekiel, placed between **Noah** and **Job**<sup>[7]</sup> and invoked as the very example of righteous judgement,<sup>[8]</sup> first pointed out by **René Dussaud** in 1931,<sup>[9]</sup> have led readers commonly to accept <sup>[10]</sup> or occasionally to reject <sup>[11][12]</sup> a degree of identification with Ugaritic Danel of the "Aqhat text", amounting virtually to the same figure.<sup>[13]</sup> The three figures referred to in **Ezekiel 14:14** — "Even if **Noah**, Danel and **Job** were in it..." — links the name with two non-Israelites of great antiquity. In **Ezekiel 28:3**, Danel is one noted for his wisdom in the prophecy addressed to the king of **Tyre**: "you are indeed wiser than Danel, no secret is hidden from you". The name "Danel" had a long tradition in Hebrew culture: he is supplied as the father-in-law of **Enoch** in **Jubilees**.<sup>[14]</sup>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danel>

were in it, they could save only themselves by their righteousness, declares the Sovereign LORD.

**In the human sphere, your righteousness only save you. It doesn't even save your kids, as the next passage shows.**

15 "Or if I send wild beasts through that country and they leave it childless and it becomes desolate so that no one can pass through it because of the beasts, 16 as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if these three men were in it,

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<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel\\_\(biblical\\_figure\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_(biblical_figure))

**they could not save their own sons or daughters.** They alone would be saved, but the land would be desolate.

17 “Or if I bring a sword against that country and say, ‘Let the sword pass throughout the land,’ and I kill its people and their animals, 18 as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if these three men were in it, they could not save their own sons or daughters. They alone would be saved.

19 “Or if I send a plague into that land and pour out my wrath on it through bloodshed, killing its people and their animals, 20 as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, even if Noah, Daniel and Job were in it, they could save neither son nor daughter. They would save only themselves by their righteousness.

21 “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: How much worse will it be when I send against Jerusalem my four dreadful judgments—**sword and famine and wild beasts and plague**—to kill its men and their animals!

22 Yet there will be some survivors—sons and daughters who will be brought out of it. They will come to you, and when you see their conduct and their actions, you will be consoled regarding the disaster I have brought on Jerusalem—every disaster I have brought on it. 23 You will be consoled when you see their conduct and their actions, for you will know that I have done nothing in it without cause, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

**Note: NIV study bible says when the exiles see the wickedness of those brought to Babylonia from Jerusalem, they will know the judgment on the city was just.**