

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*



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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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Ezekiel 18²

My friend, bible student and life long Christian John Wright, has a lot to say about this chapter. I think he summarizes it wisely. He writes:

Many things can be passed on from one generation to another, good or bad. However God is talking about guilt, and being held accountable. Over and over again God makes the point that each individual will be held accountable for his or her own actions.

So how does God say this? Let’s read the chapter and see. Enjoy!

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

² 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.)

Ezekiel 18 New International Version (NIV)

The One Who Sins Will Die

18 The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

“‘The parents eat sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?”

The NIV study notes say this proverb originated from a misunderstanding of Exodus 20:5 and Numbers 14:18:

Exodus 20:5	Numbers 14:18
⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,	¹⁸ ‘The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.’

Apparently, there is something called “the doctrine of guilt” that the people of Jerusalem were buying into, perhaps because they were trying to foist off the responsibility of what was happening to them on the sins of their ancestors rather than their own sin.

The Scriptures do indicate God “punishes” the children for the sin of the parents. But in Jeremiah 31:29 there is a prediction of the end of this approach:

Jeremiah 31:29-30 New International Version (NIV)

²⁹ “In those days people will no longer say,

‘The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’

³⁰ Instead, everyone will die for their own sin; whoever eats sour grapes—their own teeth will be set on edge.

Apparently it’s beginning to come true in Ezekiel’s time. To me that shows the “evolving” way God’s relationship with mankind developed. As man matured, spiritually, God was able to do “more” with him. That ties in perfectly with this concept in Galatians, shown in the text box. What was required earlier was not required any longer. A way of operating in one time changed as man developed spiritually. Perhaps that is what is being indicated here.

“When we were underage, we were in bondage to the elemental spiritual forces of the world. But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son . . .to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship (Galatians 4:3-4).

Notice the change taking place.

³“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. ⁴For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

Personal responsibility and personal culpability is being asserted. There is a move toward the responsibility of the individual. Individualism would take full expression many centuries later in the Enlightenment. But perhaps this was a first, godly step.

⁵“Suppose there is a righteous man who does what is just and right.

So look at what is considered “just and right.” Many of these things had to do with financial approaches that were not “selfish.”

⁶He does not eat at the mountain shrines or look to the idols of Israel. He does not defile his neighbor’s wife or have sexual relations with a woman during her period.

⁷He does not oppress anyone, but returns what he took in pledge for a loan.

He does not commit robbery but gives his food to the hungry and provides clothing for the naked.

⁸He does not lend to them at interest or take a profit from them.

He withholds his hand from doing wrong and judges fairly between two parties.

⁹He follows my decrees and faithfully keeps my laws.

That man is righteous; he will surely live, declares the Sovereign LORD.

Exodus 22:25-27 If you lend money to one of my people who is needy, do not treat it like a business deal; charge no interest. If you take your neighbor’s cloak as a pledge return it by sunset, because that cloak is the only covering your neighbor has. What else can they sleep in? when they cry out to me, I will hear them, for I am compassionate.

NIV says “after a checklist of commandments has been gone over, the verdict is rendered.” Others are listed. Perhaps this is a picture of how God judges.

¹⁰“Suppose he has a violent son, who sheds blood or does any of these other things^[a The foot note says “to a brother”] ¹¹ (though the father has done none of them):

“He eats at the mountain shrines.

He defiles his neighbor’s wife.

¹²He oppresses the poor and needy.

He commits robbery.

He does not return what he took in pledge.

He looks to the idols.

He does detestable things.

¹³ He lends at interest and takes a profit.

About half of the previous eight commandments are included here, in a different order. I think it's interesting that "returning" what is taken as collateral ("in a pledge") is included. To look to an idol is to "seek help" from an idol. What do you look to? What do I? That's a great diagnostic question.

Will such a man live? He will not! Because he has done all these detestable things, he is to be put to death; his blood will be on his own head.

Again, personal responsibility is indicated. "His blood will be on his own head" is a phrase used elsewhere in the Scripture.

Leviticus 20:9	Leviticus 20: 11-12	Leviticus 20:16	Leviticus 20:27
"Anyone who curses their father or mother is to be put to death. Because they have cursed their father or mother, their blood will be on their own head. "	"If a man has sexual relations with his father's wife, he has dishonored his father. Both the man and the woman are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.	"If a woman approaches an animal to have sexual relations with it, kill both the woman and the animal. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads. "	"A man or a woman who is a medium or a spiritist among you must be put to death. You are to stone them; their blood will be on their own heads.

¹⁴ "But suppose this son has a son who sees all the sins his father commits, and though he sees them, he does not do such things:

¹⁵ "He does not eat at the mountain shrines or look to the idols of Israel.

He does not defile his neighbor's wife.

¹⁶ He does not oppress anyone or require a pledge for a loan.

He does not commit robbery but gives his food to the hungry and provides clothing for the naked.

¹⁷ He withholds his hand from mistreating the poor and takes no interest or profit from them.

He keeps my laws and follows my decrees.

Notice how being financially "kind" is included. Also notice how giving clothing to the "naked" and providing food for the "hungry" is included. Christ included these in His judgment list in Matthew 25:35 -36 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me. The sheep and the goats are judged by these criteria.

He will not die for his father's sin; he will surely live. ¹⁸ But his father will die for his own sin, because he practiced extortion, robbed his brother and did what was wrong among his people.

¹⁹ "Yet you ask, 'Why does the son not share the guilt of his father?' Since the son has done what is just and right and has been careful to keep all my decrees, he will surely live. ²⁰ **The one who**

sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them.

The Young's Literal Translation doesn't use the word "credited." It says "on" him.

²¹ "But if a wicked person turns away from all the sins they have committed and keeps all my decrees and does what is just and right, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²² None of the offenses they have committed will be remembered against them. Because of the righteous things they have done, they will live. ²³ Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?"

So verses 1-20 indicate the chain of inherited guilt can be broken. Verses 21-29 teach that the power of accumulated guilt can be broken too!

One man recently wrote that sin is going against the grain of God's Reality---the Life that is really Life, the Life that "appeared" in Jesus! So sin is going against the grain of Real "Life"---and when you do, you get splinters.

²⁴ "But if a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin and does the same detestable things the wicked person does, will they live? None of the righteous things that person has done will be remembered. Because of the unfaithfulness they are guilty of and because of the sins they have committed, they will die."

It's so wonderful that we are no longer under this covenant, but a new covenant. God has saved us from our bad choice in the Garden of Eden, and from ourselves. Thank you God for Jesus! In Him, our old sinful selves, so very true, so much a part of us, has died! And we've been brought back to life, in Him!

Interesting how turning to unrighteousness cancels out all the righteousness you did before. Seems to indicate to me that righteousness--- e.g., going in harmony with Real Life, God's Life, God's Ways---is a "life giving way" you participate in. Stop participating in it, and there is no "cumulative" you-owe-me factor. You just "die." "Dying you will die" is what the literal

1 John 1
...the Word of life. 2 **The life appeared**; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you **the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us.**

Genesis 2:17 Young's Literal Translation (YLT)

¹⁷ and of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou dost not eat of it, for in the day of thine eating of it -- dying thou dost die.'

Young's Literal Translation (YLT)

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translation of God's warning says.

²⁵ “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? ²⁶ If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. ²⁷ But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. ²⁸ Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. ²⁹ Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

³⁰ “Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall.

³¹ Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? ³² For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!



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**Get a new heart!
Repent and live!
Wow. We'll see how
this is pursued even
more deeply as we
get into this book!**

**God will create new
hearts in us! We
can ask for that!**

Get a new heart!

Live!

Footnotes:

1. **Ezekiel 18:10** Or *things to a brother*