

**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  
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**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 20 Part 1<sup>2</sup>**

**What happens when you go against the grain of wood? You get splinters!**

**Ancient Israel did that a lot. And go a lot of splinters. God loved them and forgave them and saved them. But they kept getting splinters as long as they kept “Going Against the Grain.” Maybe you’ve gotten a few splinters yourself lately.**

**Let’s see what we can learn from God’s word. 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.)

## Rebellious Israel Purged

**20** In the seventh year, in the fifth month on the tenth day, some of the elders of Israel came to inquire of the LORD, and they sat down in front of me.

**I wanted to check out the concept of “elders,” but it led me (in the NIV study Bible) to two passages in Ezekiel we’ve already read.**

<b>Ezekiel 8:1</b>	<b>Ezekiel 14:1</b>
<b>8</b> In the sixth year, in the sixth month on the fifth day, while I was sitting in my house and the elders of Judah were sitting before me, the hand of the Sovereign LORD came on me there.	<b>14</b> Some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat down in front of me.

**What I find interesting here is not so much a discussion of what constituted an elder, as much as that some think this might have been the origin of a synagogue service. This is kind of cool to think about, because up to that time they did not have a synagogue service. They went to the temple, and maybe had addresses given to them (on occasion) in the temple courts. I need to research that sometimes!**

<sup>2</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to me: <sup>3</sup>“Son of man, speak to the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Have you come to inquire of me? As surely as I live, I will not let you inquire of me, declares the Sovereign LORD.’”

**Has your wife (or mate) ever been so put out with you they wouldn’t let you talk to them? God was angry. Not petulantly or pitching a fit. But angry that they kept going against Reality--going against the “grain” of God’s life!**

Colossians 2:17(NIV)

<sup>17</sup>These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the **REALITY, HOWEVER, IS FOUND IN CHRIST.**

**When you go against "Reality," you go into "anti-Reality." You go against the grain of Real Life, Christ. It's the same as being "anti-Christ." If people could associate Christ with "Life," maybe they'd see things differently.**

John 1:4 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

<sup>4</sup>"Will you judge them? Will you judge them, son of man? Then confront them with the detestable practices of their ancestors <sup>5</sup>and say to them:

**God now will rehearse the direction of the grain of their life from their very beginnings as a nation. It was always "against" God. Embedded sin led to wrong behavior at virtually every turn of their lives. Notice:**

**The Egyptian Period**

'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On the day I chose Israel, I swore with uplifted hand to the descendants of Jacob and revealed myself to them in Egypt.

**Notice what God (and does). God "reveals" Himself to people. Notice these two Scriptures about God's self-revelation to mankind. One talks about His self-revelation leading up to the time of Christ. One speaks of His Revelation through Jesus Christ. We have a Father who wants to be found by us, wants to reveal Himself to us!**

<b>Hebrews 1</b>	<b>John 1:18</b>	<b>Acts 17</b>
<p>In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup>but <b>in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son</b>, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup><b>The</b></p>	<p><sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. . . <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen <b>God, but the one and only Son</b>, who is himself God and<sup>[b]</sup> is in</p>	<p><sup>26</sup>From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. <sup>27</sup>God did this so that they <b>would seek him and perhaps</b></p>

<p><b>Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being,</b></p>	<p>closest relationship with the Father, <b>has made him known.</b></p> <p><b>(b)</b> Some manuscripts <i>but the only Son, who</i></p>	<p><b>reach out for him</b> and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.</p>
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**The Son is the "exact representation of His Being."**

**The Greek word used here is:**

**G5481** karakter khar-ak-tare'

from the same as **G5482**;

a graver (the tool or the person), i.e. (by implication) engraving ("character"), the figure stamped, i.e. an exact copy or (figuratively) representation).

The word itself comes from the verb *charasso* (χαράσσω) which in its technical sense means to engrave or inscribe, most often on coins. That is the essential idea behind the metaphor being used here. Coins bore the image of persons - at this time the Caesars in particular come to mind. God is spirit, but Jesus became flesh too, so that He provides a visible, tangible "imprint" of who God is and what He is like in a way that would be impossible for anyone who was not both man (and so visible) and God (and so displaying the attributes of divinity stamped in the flesh) could ever do. Just as we haven't seen Caesar, but get a picture of what he is like from the precise representation of his likeness on coins, so we haven't seen God, but we get to know what He is like from His precise "imprint" on the humanity of the Son (**Jn.14:8-9**).<sup>3</sup>

John 14:8-9 New International Version (NIV)

° Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

° Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

**The Son has made the Father known.**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ichthys.com/mail-character.htm>

**God placed people in various nations and times so they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him.**

**The word for “reach out:”**

**G5584** pselaphao psay-laf-ah'-o

from the base of **G5567** (compare **G5586**);

to manipulate, i.e. verify by contact; figuratively, to search for.

**So God wanted to “reveal” Himself to them. How? We’ll see more of that next time.**