

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 22 Part 1²

We get into some of the details of things God hates---the shedding of blood, sexual depravity, contemptuous treatment of parents, and the despising of holy things. There’s a Scripture in Romans 9:22 that talks about “vessels of wrath” upon whom God displayed His anger:

What if God, willing to shew his **wrath**, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the **vessels of wrath** fitted to destruction:

God used these “vessels” to make His power known! And to make His hatred of acts that harm, and miss the joy of life. Let’s learn from this chapter.

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 22 New International Version (NIV)

Judgment on Jerusalem's Sins

Under Manasseh, Amon and Jehoiakim, Jerusalem had become a city of idolatry and pervasive moral corruption. See the sidebar for highlights from 2 Kings 21.

2 Kings 21

1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. His mother's name was Hephzibah. 2 He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, following the detestable practices of the nations the Lord had driven out before the Israelites. 3 He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he also erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah pole, as Ahab king of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. 4 He built altars in the temple of the Lord, of which the Lord had said, "In Jerusalem I will put my Name." 5 In the two courts of the temple of the Lord, he built altars to all the starry hosts. 6 He sacrificed his own son in the fire, practiced divination, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the Lord, arousing his anger. 7 He took the carved Asherah pole he had made and put it in the temple . . . 16 Moreover, Manasseh also shed so much innocent blood that he filled Jerusalem from end to end—besides the sin that he had caused Judah to commit, so that they did evil in the eyes of the Lord. . . 19 Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem two years. His mother's name was Meshullemeth daughter of Haruz; she was from Jotbah. 20 He did evil in the eyes of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done. 21 He followed completely the ways of his father, worshiping the idols his father had

22 The word of the LORD came to me:

² "Son of man, will you judge her? Will you judge this city of bloodshed?

She had become a city of bloodshed. God hates bloodshed.

Then confront her with all her detestable practices ³ and say: "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: You city that brings on herself doom by shedding blood in her midst and defiles herself by making idols,

A profound concept. She brings doom on herself!

⁴ you have become guilty because of the blood you have shed and have become defiled by the idols you have made. You have brought your days to a close, and the end of your years has come. Therefore I will make you an object of scorn to the nations and a laughingstock to all the countries. ⁵ Those who are near and those who are far away will mock you, you infamous city, full of turmoil.

⁶ "See how each of the princes of Israel who are in you uses his power to shed blood.

NIV says this refers to leaders, not kings. It says to contrast 21:12 with 19:1.

Ezekiel 21:12	Ezekiel 19:1
Cry out and wail, son of man, for it is against my people; it is against all the princes of Israel. They are thrown to the sword along with my people. Therefore beat your breast.	Take up a lament concerning the princes of Israel

The word for princes in 21 is:

H5387 nasiy' naw-see'

or nasi8 {naw-see'};

from **H5375**; properly, an exalted one, i.e. a king or sheik; also a rising mist.

The word for princes in 19 is the same word. I guess I don't see how the NIV makes this distinction, but it does.

⁷ In you they have treated father and mother with contempt;

The Hebrew used here for "contempt" is translated "maledict" in CLV. The word is:

H7043 qalal kaw-lal'

a primitive root;

to be (causatively, make) light, literally (swift, small, sharp, etc.) or figuratively (easy, trifling, vile, etc.).

The Bible has a lot to say about honoring parents. The idea is to place a high value on them, to make them "weighty."

in you they have oppressed the foreigner and mistreated the fatherless and the widow. ⁸ You have despised my holy things and desecrated my Sabbaths.

You have despised holy things. So many things in our society are defiled because we don't want to maintain a sense of holiness.

⁹ In you are slanderers who are bent on shedding blood; in you are those who eat at the mountain shrines and commit lewd acts.

The word used for lewdness:

H2154 zimmah zim-maw'

or zammah {zam-maw'};

Ephesians 6 New International Version (NIV)

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³ "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

The Greek word for "honor."

Tima - to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon; by implication, to revere.

Deuteronomy 5:16 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁶ "Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

Hebrew word for honor:

H3513 kabad kaw-bad'

or kabad {kaw-bade'};

in a good sense (numerous, rich, honorable; causatively, to make weighty (in the same two senses).

from **H2161**; a plan, especially a bad one.

KJV: heinous crime, lewd(-ly, -ness), mischief, purpose, thought, wicked (device, mind, -ness).

¹⁰ In you are those who dishonor their father's bed; in you are those who violate women during their period, when they are ceremonially unclean. ¹¹ In you one man commits a detestable offense with his neighbor's wife, another shamefully defiles his daughter-in-law, and another violates his sister, his own father's daughter.

Sex is holy. Marriage is honorable, the book of Hebrews says. And the bed is undefiled. (Hebrews 13:4) But "paramours (lovers) and adulterers God will judge."

¹² In you are people who accept bribes to shed blood; you take interest and make a profit from the poor.

In Exodus, God forbade the taking of interest on loans.

In the text box is one such law. But apparently there are others, and it makes me wonder whether some loans are to be treated "like a business deal." So I'm going to take the time to look at a few. God is especially concerned about defenseless people- the widow, the orphan and the foreigner.

Exodus 22:25-27 New International Version (NIV)

²⁵ "If you lend money to one of my people among you who is needy, do not treat it like a business deal; charge no interest. ²⁶ If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, return it by sunset, ²⁷ 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, for I am compassionate.

Lev 25:35-37	Dt 15:1	Dt 15:7-11	Dt 23:19-20	Neh 5:10
³⁵ "If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and are unable to support themselves among you, help them as you would a foreigner and stranger, so they can continue to live among you. ³⁶ Do not take interest or any profit from them, but fear your	At the end of every seven years you must cancel debts.	⁷ If anyone is poor among your fellow Israelites in any of the towns of the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not be hardhearted or tightfisted toward them. ⁸ Rather, be openhanded and freely lend them whatever they need. ⁹ Be careful not to harbor this	¹⁹ Do not charge a fellow Israelite interest, whether on money or food or anything else that may earn interest. ²⁰ You may charge a foreigner interest, but not a fellow Israelite, so that the LORD your God may bless you in everything you put your hand to	

<p>God, so that they may continue to live among you. ³⁷ You must not lend them money at interest or sell them food at a profit.</p>		<p>wicked thought: “The seventh year, the year for canceling debts, is near,” so that you do not show ill will toward the needy among your fellow Israelites and give them nothing. They may then appeal to the LORD against you, and you will be found guilty of sin.¹⁰ Give generously to them and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to.¹¹ There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your fellow Israelites who are poor and needy in your land.</p>	<p>in the land you are entering to possess.</p>	
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Obviously, generosity was encouraged to the poor and fellow Israelites. Wow, whole businesses would not exist in our day if we lived by these laws.

Look at how God viewed this among the Israelites in Jerusalem---as a sin that made them worthy of punishment!

You extort unjust gain from your neighbors. And you have forgotten me, declares the Sovereign LORD.

¹³ “I will surely strike my hands together at the unjust gain you have made and at the blood you have shed in your midst. ¹⁴ Will your courage endure or your hands be strong in the day I deal with you? I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it. ¹⁵ I will disperse you among the nations and scatter you through the countries; and I will put an end to your uncleanness. ¹⁶ When you have been defiled^[a] in the eyes of the nations, you will know that I am the LORD.”

I'll save the next section for next time.

Footnotes:

1. **Ezekiel 22:16** Or *When I have allotted you your inheritance*
2. **Ezekiel 22:25** Septuagint; Hebrew *prophets*