

**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)**

<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 24 Part 1<sup>2</sup>**

We talked about sanctification yesterday at church, and in this chapter is a graphic depiction of sanctification! We the ancients heard things like “He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit, and in *fire*” I can’t help but think these are the Scriptural references they would bring to mind, as the only Bible the folks in Jesus’ day had was the Old Testament. Jerusalem in under the siege of a trial. Jerusalem is about to be purged with fire of her “corrosion.” It won’t be enough, because the only purging that worked was of Jesus’ flesh for us all!

<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.)

## Ezekiel 24 New International Version (NIV)

### Jerusalem as a Cooking Pot

24 In the ninth year, in the tenth month on the tenth day, the word of the LORD came to me:

**Different forms of dating are given in this book, so it gets confusing sometimes. But this apparently is the 9<sup>th</sup> year of King Zedekiah's reign, and in our time, it would be January 15, 588 B.C. The city is likened to a cooking pot that has corroded. The corrosion must be dealt with**

<sup>2</sup>“Son of man, record this date, this very date, because the king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem this very day.

**Here's a little background on this siege. Forgive me for just using Wikipedia<sup>3</sup>, but at least it's a start.**

In 589 BC, **Nebuchadnezzar II** laid siege to **Jerusalem**, culminating in the destruction of the city and **its temple** in the summer of 587 or 586 BC. . . Nebuchadnezzar began a siege of **Jerusalem** in December 589 BC. During this siege, the duration of which was either 18 or 30 months (**see below at "Chronological notes"**),<sup>[1]</sup> the Bible describes the city as enduring horrible deprivation (**2 Kings 25:3; Lamentations 4:4, 5, 9**). After completion of the eleventh year of Zedekiah's reign (**Jeremiah 1:3**), Nebuchadnezzar broke through Jerusalem's walls, conquering the city. Zedekiah and his followers attempted to escape but were captured on the plains of **Jericho** and taken to **Riblah**. There, after seeing his sons killed, Zedekiah was blinded, bound, and taken captive to Babylon (**2 Kings 25:1–7; 2 Chronicles 36:12; Jeremiah 32:4–5; 34:2–3; 39:1–7; 52:4–11**), where he remained a prisoner until his death.

### Back to Ezekiel/

<sup>3</sup> Tell this rebellious people a parable and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“Put on the cooking pot; put it on and pour water into it.

<sup>4</sup> Put into it the pieces of meat, all the choice pieces—the leg and the shoulder. Fill it with the best of these bones; <sup>5</sup> take the pick of the flock. Pile wood beneath it for the bones; bring it to a boil and cook the bones in it.



Figure 1 Ancient Middle Eastern Cooking Pot

<https://i.ebayimg.com/images/g/JSgAAOSwx2haxWuH/s-l300.jpg>

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege\\_of\\_Jerusalem\\_\(587\\_BC\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_(587_BC))

<sup>6</sup>“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“Woe to the city of bloodshed,  
to the pot now encrusted,  
whose deposit will not go away!  
Take the meat out piece by piece  
in whatever order it comes.

**So consider the analogy. Jerusalem is a city of sin, that is so heinous it is “encrusted” on it. The people within it are suffering as she goes under the heat of the trail of Nebuchadnezzar’s attack. What was her sin from God’s perspective? There are many things to pick from, but notice what God says in the prophecy.**

<sup>7</sup>“For the blood she shed is in her midst:  
She poured it on the bare rock;  
she did not pour it on the ground,  
where the dust would cover it.

**The NIV study note says: “Jerusalem had brazenly left on display the blood she unjustly shed. (Isaiah 3:9 – see text box for a description of what “brazen” looks like.)**

**There are also several scriptures that speak to “uncovered blood”---blood that was unjustly shed.**

**We’ll look at those referenced in the NIV study bible notes.**

**Isaiah 3:9 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup>The look on their faces testifies against them;  
they parade their sin like Sodom;  
they do not hide it.  
Woe to them!  
They have brought disaster upon themselves.

<b>Genesis 4:10</b>	<b>Job 16:18</b>	<b>Leviticus 17:13-14</b>
<p><sup>9</sup>Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”</p> <p>“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”</p> <p><sup>10</sup>The LORD said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground.</p>	<p>18 “Earth, do not cover my blood; may my cry never be laid to rest!</p>	<p><sup>13</sup>“Any Israelite or any foreigner residing among you who hunts any animal or bird that may be eaten must drain out the blood and cover it with earth, <sup>14</sup>because the life of every creature is its blood. That is why I have said to the Israelites, “You must not eat the blood of any creature, because the life of every creature is its blood; anyone who eats it must be cut off.”</p>

**God hates the shedding of blood. Originally, mankind was simply given “every green plant” to eat. (Genesis 1:29-30) But the shedding of blood didn’t occur until Cain killed Abel, and it’s highlighted as major catastrophe that happened because of sin.**

God apparently wants this unconfessed sin to be either confessed, or exposed.

<sup>8</sup>To stir up wrath and take revenge  
I put her blood on the bare rock,  
**so that it would not be covered.**

1 John 1:9 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

**What Jerusalem had done would be done to them.**

Ezekiel 16:43 (NIV)	1 Kings 8:32 NIV	Isaiah 3:1	Exodus 4:21	Exodus 21:23-25	Leviticus 24:17-22	Dt 19:21
<sup>43</sup> “Because you did not remember the days of your youth but enraged me with all these things, <b>I will surely bring down on your head what you have done,</b> declares the Sovereign LORD. Did you not add lewdness to all your other detestable practices?	<sup>32</sup> then hear from heaven and act. Judge between your servants, condemning the guilty by <b>bringing down on their heads what they have done,</b> and vindicating the innocent by treating them in accordance with their innocence.	See now, the Lord, the LORD Almighty, is about to take from Jerusalem and Judah both supply and support: all supplies of food and all supplies of water,	<sup>21</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.	<sup>23</sup> But if there is serious injury, you are to take life for life, <sup>24</sup> <b>eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot,</b> <sup>25</sup> <b>burn for burn, wound for wound, bruise for bruise.</b>	<sup>17</sup> “Anyone who takes the life of a human being is to be put to death. <sup>18</sup> Anyone who takes the life of someone’s animal must make restitution—life for life. <sup>19</sup> Anyone who injures their neighbor is to be injured in the same manner: <sup>20</sup> fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. The one who has inflicted the injury must suffer the	<sup>21</sup> Show no pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot.

				<p>same injury.  <sup>21</sup> Whoever kills an animal must make restitution, but whoever kills a human being is to be put to death.  <sup>22</sup> You are to have the same law for the foreigner and the native-born. I am the LORD your God.”</p>	
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**At any rate, God was following this principle here!**

<sup>9</sup> “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“Woe to the city of bloodshed!  
I, too, will pile the wood high.

<sup>10</sup> So heap on the wood  
and kindle the fire.

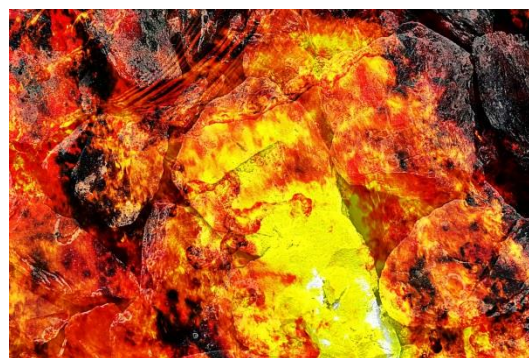
Cook the meat well,  
mixing in the spices;  
and let the bones be charred.

<sup>11</sup> Then set the empty pot on the coals  
till it becomes hot and its copper glows,

**so that its impurities may be melted  
and its deposit burned away.**

<sup>12</sup> It has frustrated all efforts;  
its heavy deposit has not been removed,  
not even by fire.

<sup>13</sup> “Now your impurity is lewdness.



“He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit, and in fire!” Matthew 4:11

He would sanctify His flesh.  
Then ours! (John 17:19)

**The word for “lewdness” comes from a word root that connotes the concept of “foul.”**

Because I tried to cleanse you but you would not be cleansed from your impurity, you will not be clean again until my wrath against you has subsided.

**God hates sin. God is angry against that which kills. His wrath has to “subside.”**

**The wrath of God was poured out on Jesus Christ. Maybe this is a great break off place, and good “side” study---The Wrath of God, and How it was Satisfied on Christ!**

<sup>14</sup> “I the LORD have spoken. The time has come for me to act. I will not hold back; I will not have pity, nor will I relent. You will be judged according to your conduct and your actions, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

*Footnotes:*

1. **Ezekiel 24:23** Or *away in*

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