

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)

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

**graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER
Ezekiel 25 Part 2²**

Today we’ll gather more insight from the God of justice and the God of mercy. God actually does inflict punishment and exact vengeance. He’s God. He’s got the right to do whatever He wants to do.

He hates malice and deceit in people. He deals with it.

Learn from this . . .and 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.)

Mark 7:22

For it is within a persons heart that evil thoughts come . . . adultery, greed, **malice**, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.

Romans 1:29

They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and **malice**. They are gossips,

1 Corinthians 5:8

Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with **malice** and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Ephesians 4:31

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of **malice**.

Colossians 3:8

But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, **malice**, slander, and filthy language from your lips.

Titus 3:3

At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in **malice** and envy, being hated and hating one another.

1 Peter 2:1

Therefore, rid yourselves of all **malice** and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

Greek word for malice:
G2549 kakia kak-ee'-ah

badness, i.e. (subjectively) depravity, or (actively) malignity, or (passively) trouble.

Ezekiel 25 New International Version (NIV)

I'll pick up here. There is something I want to bring out.

6 For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet, rejoicing with all the malice of your heart against the land of Israel, 7 therefore I will stretch out my hand against you and give you as plunder to the nations.

I'm intrigued by this reaction---"clapped your hands and stamped your feet" and also "rejoicing with all the malice of your heart."

Let me look at the literal Hebrew here.

clapped your hands and stamped your feet	rejoicing with all the malice of your heart
In-foot to-stamp-of-you hand to-clap-of-you	in-soul disdain-of-you in-all-of and-you-are-rejoicing
Stamp - "to pound the earth"	disdain – contempt
Clap - "To strike hands together in joy or exultation"	contempt - the feeling that a person or a thing is beneath consideration, worthless, or deserving scorn.
	Powered by Oxford Dictionaries · Bing Translator

"with all the malice of your heart" Alternate translations:

- rejoiced in heart with all thy despite (KJV)
- rejoiced in heart with all your disdain (NKJV)
- rejoiced with all the malice within your soul (ESV)
- rejoiced with all the scorn of your soul

Christ saw malice as an evil thing. See the sidebar for New Testament scriptures about malice and God's desire for us to have our hearts cleansed from it.

Deuteronomy 17:14

When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, "Let us set a king over us like all the nations around us,"

1 Samuel 8:20

Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

But God wanted them to be special!

Jeremiah 18:13

Therefore this is what the Lord says: "Inquire among the nations: Who has ever heard anything like this? A most horrible thing has been done by Virgin Israel.

He wants you to be special too!

REMEMBRANCE WORDS

Luke 22:19

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:24

and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:25

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Back to Ezekiel:

I will wipe you out from among the nations and exterminate you from the countries. I will destroy you, and you will know that I am the LORD."

A Prophecy Against Moab

The NIV study Bible says Moab was immediately to the south of Ammon, east of the Dead Sea. As we learned yesterday, both Moab and Ammon originated when Lot's daughters became pregnant by their father! (Genesis 19:36-38)

8 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'Because Moab and Seir said, "Look, Judah has become like all the other nations,"

This is interesting. God's people are supposed to be different, but they are often tempted to want to become "like the other nations." See sidebar.

9 therefore I will expose the flank of Moab, beginning at its frontier towns—Beth Jeshimoth, Baal Meon and Kiriathaim—the glory of that land. 10 I will give Moab along with the Ammonites to the people of the East as a possession, so that the Ammonites will not be remembered among the nations; 11 and I will inflict punishment on Moab. Then they will know that I am the LORD."

The concept of "remembrance" seems to be important in the Scripture, and to the Lord. Let me look that word up and see what surfaces.

Malachi 3:16

[*The Faithful Remnant*] Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of **remembrance** was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.

This says that those who have not given way to doubt and cynicism and seek mutual encouragement in the Lord rather than widespread complaining.

Anyway, we're supposed to do things in remembrance of Christ (the 3 other remembrance words that surfaced in my study---SEE SIDEBAR).

Now being remembered by the Lord is something you want to happen! Just look at what this quick search says:

Genesis 8:1 But God **remembered** Noah and all the wild animals . . . and the waters receded.

Genesis 9:15

I will **remember** my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

Genesis 9:16

Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and **remember** the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”

Genesis 19:29

So when God destroyed the cities of the plain, he **remembered** Abraham, and he brought Lot out

Genesis 30:22

Then God **remembered** Rachel; he listened to her and enabled her to conceive.

Exodus 2:24

God heard their groaning and he **remembered** his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.

Exodus 6:5

Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have **remembered** my covenant.

Exodus 17:14

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Write this on a scroll as something to be **remembered** and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven.”

Another case where people’s name will be blotted out! “Completely” blotted out--- forgotten!

Exodus 32:13

Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’”

God’s remembrance is something we seek!

Exodus 33:13

If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. **Remember** that this nation is your people.”

Leviticus 26:42

I will **remember** my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will **remember** the land.

God remembers His covenant and His people. God remembers His land.

Leviticus 26:45

But for their sake I will **remember** the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out of Egypt in the sight of the nations to be their God. I am the Lord.”

Numbers 10:9

When you go into battle in your own land against an enemy who is oppressing you, sound a blast on the trumpets. Then you will be **remembered** by the Lord your God and rescued from your enemies.

The Greeks have a saying after someone’s death. They say “May their memory be eternal.”

I guess I need to move on. Love a leisurely stroll through God's word. Here's the rest of the chapter.

A Prophecy Against Edom

12 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'Because Edom took revenge on Judah and became very guilty by doing so, 13 therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will stretch out my hand against Edom and kill both man and beast. I will lay it waste, and from Teman to Dedan they will fall by the sword. 14 I will take vengeance on Edom by the hand of my people Israel, and they will deal with Edom in accordance with my anger and my wrath; they will know my vengeance, declares the Sovereign LORD.'"

The Lord says in Romans 12:19 "Vengeance is mine and I will repay!" And for us to leave room for God's wrath! It's like our wrath could get in the way of God doing His part. And in this case, since Edom took its own revenge, God took vengeance on them! In His anger and wrath. And note they phrase "And they will know my vengeance." God has vengeance upon the vengeful.

A Prophecy Against Philistia

15 "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: 'Because the Philistines acted in vengeance and took revenge with malice in their hearts, and with ancient hostility sought to destroy Judah, 16 therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am about to stretch out my hand against the Philistines, and I will wipe out the Kerethites and destroy those remaining along the coast. 17 I will carry out great vengeance on them and punish them in my wrath. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I take vengeance on them.'"

Wow. Ancient hostility. What does that mean? The original Hebrew translates "eonian enmity." Deep seated enmity. But God's response---great vengeance and punishment.

God hates sin. God obliterates sin. Not the sinner, but the sin. Praise be to the name of the Lord.