

**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 26<sup>2</sup>**

Years ago I was on a search for understanding God, and how there are proofs of His existence. Prophecy was one of them, and I spent a lot of time meditating on this prophecy about the city of Tyre in ancient times--- apparently a powerful seagoing city that was brought to ruin. It brings back memories of my earliest searches for God. I love that I’m coming full circle on this, and seeing Him again over and over again. He is so great!

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.)

## Ezekiel 26 New International Version (NIV)

### A Prophecy Against Tyre

26 In the eleventh month of the twelfth year, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:

Ok, through rummaging around the NIV study bible, this is what I learned here, I learned that something called the “Masoretic” text<sup>3</sup>, which is described by the study notes as “the traditional Hebrew texts” does not have the phrase “month of the twelfth” and hence reads “eleventh year.” Again, it was not even begun until the 6<sup>th</sup> century A.D., so I guess there are some room for errors. The problem with the Masoretic date is that it occurs before the fall of Jerusalem, so some have wondered how Tyre could have “gloated” over a city that hadn’t been ruined yet. The Masoretic text is primarily the Rabbi approved version of the text, so it does have its prejudices and issues as well. But the bottom line is that whatever the timeline is referring to, it’s accurate. Either the interpreters of chronology are slightly off, or better yet, God is prophetically speaking of what Tyre will do and what He will do in response.

Now for a little background on Tyre. It was a very ancient city, and came under Egyptian influence for a long period of time. But apparently it achieved its independence. King David of Israel had some relationship with it. So did his son king Solomon.

2 Samuel 5:11	1 Kings 5:11	2 Chronicles 2:3	1 Kings 7:13-14	1 Kings 9:12
Now Hiram king of Tyre sent envoys to David, along with cedar logs and carpenters and stonemasons, and they built a palace for David.	When Hiram king of Tyre heard that Solomon had been anointed king to succeed his father David, he sent his envoys to Solomon, because he had always been on friendly terms	Solomon sent this message to Hiram king of Tyre: “Send me cedar logs as you did for my father David when you sent him cedar to build a palace to live in.	King Solomon sent to Tyre and brought Hiram. . . whose father was from Tyre and a skilled craftsman in bronze. Hiram was filled with wisdom, with understanding and with knowledge to do	But when Hiram went from Tyre to see the towns that Solomon had given him, he was not pleased with them.

<sup>3</sup> Question: "What is the Masoretic Text?" (from <https://www.gotquestions.org/Masoretic-Text.html>)

Answer: The Hebrew text of the Old Testament is called the Masoretic Text because in its present form it is based upon the Masora—the Hebrew, textual tradition of the Jewish scholars known as the **Masoretes** (or Masorites). The Masoretes were rabbis who made it their special work to correct the faults that had crept into the text of the Old Testament during the Babylonian captivity, and to prevent, for the future, its being corrupted by any alteration. They first separated the apocryphal from the canonical books, and divided the latter into twenty-two books, being the number of letters in the Hebrew alphabet. Then they divided each book into sections and verses.

	with David.		all kinds of bronze work. He came to King Solomon and did all the work assigned to him.	
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**Its downfall is predicted in this chapter for their gloating over the fall of Jerusalem. Whether this is a prophesied gloating or actual, is of no difference. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.” As Peter says, prophets, though human, were carried along by the Spirit. I know that to be true from the Spirit’s interaction with me!**

<sup>2</sup> “Son of man, because Tyre has said of Jerusalem, ‘Aha! The gate to the nations is broken, and its doors have swung open to me; now that she lies in ruins I will prosper,’

**Again an example of malice against a rival. In this case, the rival is God’s city. God always kept this promise to Abraham:**

<b>Genesis 12</b>
<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse;

**Look at what will happen to Tyre.**

<sup>3</sup> therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Tyre, and I will bring many nations against you, like the sea casting up its waves.

**The ancients had an interesting relationship with the sea. Since they didn’t know the world was round that to them, all land masses somehow existed in the midst of (or in some cases, floated on top of) the sea, this chaos could overwhelm at any time, like it did in the Flood. Trials for this city are going to multiply like “waves” of the sea. A dire consequences are predicted.**

**Here’s a bit more history to put this into context<sup>4</sup>.**

Tyre was blessed with not one but two separate harbours which faced opposite sides of the island. The north harbour (also called the “Sidonian Harbour”) which is still in operation today was one of the best natural harbours on the eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea. Having two excellent sheltered harbours gave the city great advantages and enabled Tyre to become a major destination for merchant ships hoping

**2 Timothy 3:16 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

**2 Peter 1:20-21 New International Version (NIV)**

<sup>20</sup> Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet’s own interpretation of things. <sup>21</sup> For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> <https://biblereadingarcheology.com/2017/09/13/what-happened-to-tyre/>

to trade and practice commerce with the people of the eastern Mediterranean. Tyre became very wealthy and the island portion of the city over time became heavily fortified. The city on the mainland was the secondary part of the city and principally served to supply the island with water and supplies. One might think of the mainland portion of the city as being the “suburbs” while the island was the home of the wealthy and those of noble birth. The island also served as the city’s religious centre and the principal location for trade and commerce.

## The Wealth Of Tyre

At first, the city/state of Tyre enjoyed good relations with Israel and Judah although the relationship was commercial and not based on any religious or cultural sympathy. When King Solomon built the first temple in Jerusalem, King Hiram of Tyre famously supplied cedar from the forests of Lebanon as well as other materials and even skilled workmen. For this, Hiram was well paid. (1 Kings 5)

One export that contributed to the great wealth of Tyre was purple clothing dye, which came to be known as Tyrian purple. This was the most precious dye of its time, in large part because of the great amount of labour required to produce even small amounts. First, Murex shellfish from the Mediterranean Sea were captured in traps in large numbers. It took an incredible amount of these shellfish to produce a single gram of dye. For example, as many as 12,000 shellfish were used to produce the dye for a single garment. For this reason, owning garments dyed purple was prohibitively expensive for most people. In time, purple came to be a colour associated with royalty.

The people of Tyre along with the people of its neighbouring city of Sidon are generally called, “Phoenician”. The principal cities of the Phoenicians were originally Byblos, Sidon and Tyre but they established colonies all along the north-African coast and as far west as Portugal and Spain. The cities of Byblos, Sidon and Tyre are located within the territory of modern Syria and Lebanon. A Phoenician colony in North Africa called Carthage later became a major city and a fierce competitor with the republic of Rome. The Phoenician cities were organised as city-states and there does not seem to have been a centralised Phoenician government. The Phoenicians were a seafaring people and their merchants-ships ventured all over the Mediterranean Sea making their cities very wealthy.

<sup>4</sup> They will destroy the walls of Tyre and pull down her towers; I will scrape away her rubble and make her a bare rock. <sup>5</sup> Out in the sea she will become a place to spread fishnets, for I have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD. She will become plunder for the nations, <sup>6</sup> and her settlements on the mainland will be ravaged by the sword. Then they will know that I am the LORD.

**This will happen over time, as “many nations” like the waves of the sea come up against Tyre. What Nebuchadnezzar starts, Alexander the Great finishes.**

<sup>7</sup>“For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: From the north I am going to bring against Tyre Nebuchadnezzar<sup>[b]</sup> king of Babylon, king of kings, with horses and chariots, with horsemen and a great army. <sup>8</sup>He will ravage your settlements on the mainland with the sword; he will set up siege works against you, build a ramp up to your walls and raise his shields against you. <sup>9</sup>He will direct the blows of his battering rams against your walls and demolish your towers with his weapons. <sup>10</sup>His horses will be so many that they will cover you with dust. Your walls will tremble at the noise of the warhorses, wagons and chariots when he enters your gates as men enter a city whose walls have been broken through. <sup>11</sup>The hooves of his horses will trample all your streets; he will kill your people with the sword, and your strong pillars will fall to the ground.

**Nebuchadnezzar in most likelihood did destroy the mainland portion of this city. It was a city in two parts---a mainland part, and an island part. The prophecy seems to lift now into the distant future. Ezekiel himself acknowledges Nebuchadnezzar’s failure to be completely satisfied with his job at Tyre. But it seems here that prophecy shifts into a higher, more long term gear. The “they” being spoken of are understood to be the “many nations” spoken of Ezekiel 26:3, like waves of the sea. The waves will roar until Alexander completely levels the island city in a way no one could have foreseen, but does so in a way that completely fulfills this prophecy.**

Ezekiel 29:18

18 “Son of man, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon drove his army in a hard campaign against Tyre; every head was rubbed bare and every shoulder made raw. Yet he and his army got no reward from the campaign he led against Tyre.

<sup>12</sup>They will plunder your wealth and loot your merchandise; they will break down your walls and demolish your fine houses and throw your stones, timber and rubble into the sea.

**Alexander did this, and created a causeway to the rebuilt mainland city.**

<sup>13</sup>I will put an end to your noisy songs, and the music of your harps will be heard no more. <sup>14</sup>I will make you a bare rock, and you will become a place to spread fishnets. You will never be rebuilt, for I the LORD have spoken, declares the Sovereign LORD.

**This is indeed what did happen!**

<sup>15</sup>“This is what the Sovereign LORD says to Tyre: Will not the coastlands tremble at the sound of your fall, when the wounded groan and the slaughter takes place in you? <sup>16</sup>Then all the princes of the coast will step down from their thrones and lay aside their robes and take off their embroidered garments. Clothed with terror, they will sit on the ground, trembling every moment, appalled at you. <sup>17</sup>Then they will take up a lament concerning you and say to you:

**There are three separate chapters dealing with Tyre. The prophecies of Tyre seem to have an inclination to “morph” into prophecies of more universal destruction representing things greater than just the city of Tyre. Similar language to this is echoed in Revelation about the Bablyon-like system that rules our world. See sidebar on next page.**

“How you are destroyed, city of renown,  
peopled by men of the sea!  
You were a power on the seas,  
you and your citizens;  
you put your terror

on all who lived there.  
<sup>18</sup> Now the coastlands tremble  
on the day of your fall;  
the islands in the sea  
are terrified at your collapse.’

<sup>19</sup> “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When I make you a desolate city, like cities no longer inhabited, and when I bring the ocean depths over you and its vast waters cover you, <sup>20</sup> then I will bring you down with those who go down to the pit, to the people of long ago. I will make you dwell in the earth below, as in ancient ruins, with those who go down to the pit, and you will not return or take your place<sup>[c]</sup> in the land of the living. <sup>21</sup> I will bring you to a horrible end and you will be no more. You will be sought, but you will never again be found, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

**Knock offs have reemerged, bearing the same name. But the Tyre of old is done. God decreed it so.**

*Footnotes:*

1. **Ezekiel 26:1** Probable reading of the original Hebrew text; Masoretic Text does not have *month of the twelfth*.
2. **Ezekiel 26:7** Hebrew *Nebuchadrezzar*, of which *Nebuchadnezzar* is a variant; here and often in Ezekiel and Jeremiah
3. **Ezekiel 26:20** Septuagint; Hebrew *return, and I will give glory*

Revelation 18

9 “When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. <sup>10</sup> Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:

“Woe! Woe to you, great city,  
you mighty city of Babylon!  
In one hour your doom has come!”

<sup>11</sup> “The merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore— <sup>12</sup> cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; <sup>13</sup> cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and human beings sold as slaves.

<sup>14</sup> “They will say, ‘The fruit you longed for is gone from you. All your luxury and splendor have vanished, never to be recovered.’ <sup>15</sup> The merchants who sold these things and gained their wealth from her will stand far off, terrified at her torment. They will weep and mourn <sup>16</sup> and cry out . . .