

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

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Ezekiel 28 Part 3 ²

So we saw how God addressed Satan himself. Sidon is next on his list. I find it fascinating that God is really involved in the lives and histories of his people, and the people that are in the periphery of his people.

Sidon will be addressed next, and then the nation of Egypt.

What does God have to say to each of them? Let’s examine this scripture.

Enjoy!

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A Prophecy Against Sidon

20 The word of the LORD came to me: 21 “Son of man, set your face against Sidon; prophesy against her

Sidon was another major city on the coast of the Mediterranean. It figured prominently in the history of the region, and even existed during the time of Christ.

Let me word search it and see what surfaces.

Genesis 10:15

Canaan was the father of **Sidon** his firstborn, and of the Hittites,
It’s roots go far back. Noah’s grandson fathered Sidon.

Genesis 10:19

and the borders of Canaan reached from **Sidon** toward Gerar as far as Gaza, and then toward Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim, as far as Lasha.

It figured predominantly in the earliest part of Israel’s history.

Genesis 49:13

“Zebulun will live by the seashore and become a haven for ships; his border will extend toward **Sidon**.

This just shows how ancient Sidon figured predominantly in the history and “thought world” of the Israelites.

Deuteronomy 3:9

(Hermon is called Sirion by the **Sidonians**; the Amorites call it Senir.)

They were in the area even when Israel settled in the land.

Joshua 11:8

and the Lord gave them into the hand of Israel. They defeated them and pursued them all the way to Greater **Sidon**, to Misrephoth Maim, and to the Valley of Mizpah on the east, until no survivors were left.

Joshua 13:4

on the south; all the land of the Canaanites, from Arah of the **Sidonians** as far as Aphek and the border of the Amorites;

Joshua 13:6

“As for all the inhabitants of the mountain regions from Lebanon to Misrephoth Maim, that is, all the **Sidonians**, I myself will drive them out before the Israelites. Be sure to allocate this land to Israel for an inheritance, as I have instructed you,

Joshua 19:28

It went to Abdon, Rehob, Hammon and Kanah, as far as Greater **Sidon**.

Judges 1:31

Nor did Asher drive out those living in Akko or **Sidon** or Ahlab or Akzib or Helbah or Aphek or Rehob.

There was a desire by God for Israel to drive these people out. But they didn’t. They were thorns in the side of God’s people.

Judges 3:3

the five rulers of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the **Sidonians**, and the Hivites living in the Lebanon mountains from Mount Baal Hermon to Lebo Hamath.

Judges 10:6

[*Jephthah*] Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord. They served the Baals and the Ashtoreths, and the gods of Aram, the gods of **Sidon**, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites and the gods of the Philistines. And because the Israelites forsook the Lord and no longer served him,

They retained their gods. And the Israelites were tempted by them.

Judges 10:12

the **Sidonians**, the Amalekites and the Maonites oppressed you and you cried to me for help, did I not save you from their hands?

Judges 18:7

So the five men left and came to Laish, where they saw that the people were living in safety, like the **Sidonians**, at peace and secure. And since their land lacked nothing, they were prosperous. Also, they lived a long way from the **Sidonians** and had no relationship with anyone else.

Judges 18:28

There was no one to rescue them because they lived a long way from **Sidon** and had no relationship with anyone else. The city was in a valley near Beth Rehob. The Danites rebuilt the city and settled there.

2 Samuel 24:6

They went to Gilead and the region of Tahtim Hodshi, and on to Dan Jaan and around toward **Sidon**.

1 Kings 5:6

“So give orders that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. My men will work with yours, and I will pay you for your men whatever wages you set. You know that we have no one so skilled in felling timber as the **Sidonians**.”

When David and later Solomon was building up Jerusalem, they entered into relationship with these nations. In the long run it was good, but also bad. See the next Scripture.

1 Kings 11:1

[*Solomon's Wives*] King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, **Sidonians** and Hittites.

The result of this relationship with a Sidonian woman?

1 Kings 11:5

He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the **Sidonians**, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites.

1 Kings 11:33

I will do this because they have forsaken me and worshiped Ashtoreth the goddess of the **Sidonians**, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Molek the god of the Ammonites, and have not walked in obedience to me, nor done what is right in my eyes, nor kept my decrees and laws as David, Solomon's father, did.

1 Kings 16:31

He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the **Sidonians**, and began to serve Baal and worship him.

One of the worst rulers in the land of Israel, Jezebel, came from this troublesome idolatrous city.

1 Kings 17:9

“Go at once to Zarephath in the region of **Sidon** and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.”

Yet, God used some people in Sidon to bless His prophets, as in this example.

2 Kings 23:13

The king also desecrated the high places that were east of Jerusalem on the south of the Hill of Corruption—the ones Solomon king of Israel had built for Ashtoreth the vile goddess of the **Sidonians**, for Chemosh the vile god of Moab, and for Molek the detestable god of the people of Ammon.

1 Chronicles 1:13

Canaan was the father of **Sidon** his firstborn, and of the Hittites,

Their history goes way back. But it was spotted, and troubled.

1 Chronicles 22:4

He also provided more cedar logs than could be counted, for the **Sidonians** and Tyrians had brought large numbers of them to David.

Ezra 3:7

[*Rebuilding the Temple*] Then they gave money to the masons and carpenters, and gave food and drink and olive oil to the people of **Sidon** and Tyre, so that they would bring cedar logs by sea from Lebanon to Joppa, as authorized by Cyrus king of Persia.

Trade led to a relationship with this city---which was both good, and bad.

Now we'll see how other prophets spoke to them.

Isaiah 23:2

Be silent, you people of the island and you merchants of **Sidon**, whom the seafarers have enriched.

This was in the context of a prophecy to Tyre, but Sidon was implicated.

Isaiah 23:4

Be ashamed, **Sidon**, and you fortress of the sea, for the sea has spoken: “I have neither been in labor nor given birth; I have neither reared sons nor brought up daughters.”

Isaiah 23:12

He said, “No more of your reveling, Virgin Daughter **Sidon**, now crushed! “Up, cross over to Cyprus; even there you will find no rest.”

Jeremiah 25:22

all the kings of Tyre and **Sidon**; the kings of the coastlands across the sea;

This was in the context of drinking the cup of God's wrath, along with the other nations. It was to make the nations “stagger” and “go mad.” See verse 15-16 of this chapter.

Jeremiah 27:3

Then send word to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre and **Sidon** through the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah.

Sidon, along with other nations, was being told they would be given over to the rule of Nebuchadnezzar.

Jeremiah 47:4

For the day has come to destroy all the Philistines and to remove all survivors who could help Tyre and **Sidon**. The Lord is about to destroy the Philistines, the remnant from the coasts of Caphtor.

Ezekiel 27:8

Men of **Sidon** and Arvad were your oarsmen; your skilled men, Tyre, were aboard as your sailors.

Joel 3:4

“Now what have you against me, Tyre and **Sidon** and all you regions of Philistia? Are you repaying me for something I have done? If you are paying me back, I will swiftly and speedily return on your own heads what you have done.

God says He’s going to repay Sidon and the other nations---He’s going to turn their sin on their heads.

Zechariah 9:2

and on Hamath too, which borders on it, and on Tyre and **Sidon**, though they are very skillful. **Sidon was both Israel’s rival and enemy. God was going to put judgment on Israel’s enemies.**

Matthew 11:21

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and **Sidon**, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

Even so, Christ spoke somewhat positively about Sidon here and elsewhere. He knew they would have repented. Christ ministered in the regions of those cities.

Matthew 11:22

But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and **Sidon** on the day of judgment than for you.

Matthew 15:21

[*The Faith of a Canaanite Woman*] Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and **Sidon**.

Mark 3:8

When they heard about all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and **Sidon**.

Mark 7:31

[*Jesus Heals a Deaf and Mute Man*] Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through **Sidon**, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis.

Luke 4:26

Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of **Sidon**. **In the midst of all that sin, there was a widow who responded well and took care of the prophet.**

Luke 6:17

[*Blessings and Woes*] He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and **Sidon**,

Luke 10:13

“Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and **Sidon**, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.

Luke 10:14

But it will be more bearable for Tyre and **Sidon** at the judgment than for you.

Sidon will be implicated in the Judgment day. All people will!

Acts 12:20

He had been quarreling with the people of Tyre and **Sidon**; they now joined together and sought an audience with him. After securing the support of Blastus, a trusted personal servant of the king, they asked for peace, because they depended on the king’s country for their food supply.

Acts 27:3

The next day we landed at **Sidon**; and Julius, in kindness to Paul, allowed him to go to his friends so they might provide for his needs.

So in this context, let's look at what Ezekiel says to Sidon.

22 and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“I am against you, Sidon,
and among you I will display my glory.

NIV says this is the only time Sidon is mentioned apart from Tyre.

You will know that I am the LORD,
when I inflict punishment on you
and within you am proved to be holy.

23 I will send a plague upon you
and make blood flow in your streets.
The slain will fall within you,
with the sword against you on every side.
Then you will know that I am the LORD.

24 “No longer will the people of Israel have malicious neighbors who are painful briars and sharp thorns. Then they will know that I am the Sovereign LORD.

25 “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: When I gather the people of Israel from the nations where they have been scattered, I will be proved holy through them in the sight of the nations. Then they will live in their own land, which I gave to my servant Jacob. 26 They will live there in safety and will build houses and plant vineyards; they will live in safety when I inflict punishment on all their neighbors who maligned them. Then they will know that I am the LORD their God.”

God will punish Sidon. And two phrases stand here to me: “Within you” I will be “proved to be holy (verse 22). That’s to Sidon. And as for the people of Israel, “I will be proved to be holy THROUGH them.” God will work “within” both peoples. Because they will all be “in Christ,” and God will work through all.

God over all, in all and through all.

Ephesians 4:6

one God and Father of **all**, who is **over all** and **through all** and **in all**.

God’s holiness will be generated within.

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