

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 29²

God is making His rounds through the nations surrounding Israel or in any way associated with her. This time He addresses the nation of nation of Egypt.

Egypt and Israel were in one sense like the United States and Great Britain. The United States won its independence, not without a fight, from Great Britain. But in latter centuries, they were both strong friends and allies. As Judah was falling, King Zedekiah was offered encouragement by Egypt to rebel against Babylon. It was disastrous advice. Let’s hear what God says.

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Ezekiel 29 New International Version (NIV)

A Prophecy Against Egypt

Judgment on Pharaoh

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

This is listed in the NIV study bible as January 7, 587 B.C. This is one of seven prophecies against Egypt. All of them are dated except one (30:1).

1:2	8:1	20:1	24:1	26:1
<p>² On the fifth of the month—it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin—</p>	<p>8 In the sixth year, in the sixth month on the fifth day, while I was sitting in my house and the elders of Judah were sitting before me, the hand of the Sovereign LORD came on me there.</p>	<p>20 In the seventh year, in the fifth month on the tenth day, some of the elders of Israel came to inquire of the LORD, and they sat down in front of me.</p>	<p>24 In the ninth year, in the tenth month on the tenth day, the word of the LORD came to me:</p>	<p>26 In the eleventh month of the twelfth^[a] year, on the first day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me:</p> <p><i>Footnotes:</i></p> <p>1. Ezekiel 26:1 Probable reading of the original Hebrew text; Masoretic Text does not have <i>month of the twelfth</i>.</p>
<p>Ezekiel, whose name means “God is strong,” was a priest with nowhere to serve as a priest. He accompanied a group of exiles to Babylon in 597 B.C. NIV study bible lists this date—which lists his “inaugural vision” as being July 31, 593 B.C. in modern reckoning.</p>	<p>This is the date of his transport spiritually to the Temple It’s reckoned to be September 17, 592 B.C.</p>	<p>He received this vision only 11 months later. It’s reckoned to be August 14, 591 B.C.</p>	<p>He here it lists a day that is repeated in 2Kings 25:1 as the date when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem. It is reckoned to be Jan 15, 588 B.C.</p>	<p>Since there is ambiguity on the reading of these dates, but it seems that NIV favors Feb 3, 585 because it fits nicely with the chronology implied in 33:21</p>

At any rate, with this last prophetic vision in chapter 29, and a seventh date given in verse 17 below, Ezekiel's prophetic ministry spans a period of 22 years. That's interesting because as a priest, his ministry would begin at 30 (which was his age at his inaugural call, and coincides with the age a person entered active priestly ministry---Numbers 4:3, text box.) The last date is just 2 years over the 50.

**Numbers 4:3 New
International Version (NIV)**

³ Count all the men from thirty to fifty years of age who come to serve in the work at the tent of meeting.

² “Son of man, set your face against Pharaoh king of Egypt and prophesy against him and against all Egypt. ³ Speak to him and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“I am against you, Pharaoh king of Egypt,
you great monster lying among your streams.

NIV says or “crocodile.”

You say, “The Nile belongs to me;
I made it for myself.”

A classic mistake. Just like Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4, when he said, “Is not this great Babylon I have built as the royal residency, by MY mighty power and for the glory of MY majesty?”

⁴ But I will put hooks in your jaws
and make the fish of your streams stick to your scales.
I will pull you out from among your streams,
with all the fish sticking to your scales.

⁵ I will leave you in the desert,
you and all the fish of your streams.
You will fall on the open field
and not be gathered or picked up.
I will give you as food
to the beasts of the earth and the birds of the sky.

⁶ Then all who live in Egypt will know that I am the LORD.

“You have been a staff of reed for the people of Israel. ⁷ When they grasped you with their hands, you splintered and you tore open their shoulders; when they leaned on you, you broke and their backs were wrenched. ^[a] – or you caused their backs to stand]

Pharaoh Hophra briefly but unsuccessfully diverted the Babylonian from laying siege to Jerusalem. It was indeed a wobbly, splintery staff.

⁸“Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will bring a sword against you and kill both man and beast.

⁹ Egypt will become a desolate wasteland.

Then they will know that I am the LORD.

“Because you said, “The Nile is mine; I made it,” ¹⁰ therefore I am against you and against your streams, and I will make the land of Egypt a ruin and a desolate waste from Migdol to Aswan, as far as the border of Cush. ^[b- the upper Nile region] ¹¹ The foot of neither man nor beast will pass through it; no one will live there for forty years. ¹² I will make the land of Egypt desolate among devastated lands, and her cities will lie desolate forty years among ruined cities. And I will disperse the Egyptians among the nations and scatter them through the countries.

The 40 years may be biblically metaphorical for simply a “long period of time.”

¹³“Yet this is what the Sovereign LORD says: At the end of forty years I will gather the Egyptians from the nations where they were scattered. ¹⁴ I will bring them back from captivity and return them to Upper Egypt, the land of their ancestry. There they will be a lowly kingdom. ¹⁵ It will be the lowliest of kingdoms and will never again exalt itself above the other nations. I will make it so weak that it will never again rule over the nations. ¹⁶ Egypt will no longer be a source of confidence for the people of Israel but will be a reminder of their sin in turning to her for help. Then they will know that I am the Sovereign LORD.”

While Egypt still stands, it doesn't rule over the nations and its influence is nothing in comparison to its former glory.

Nebuchadnezzar's Reward

¹⁷ In the twenty-seventh year, in the first month on the first day, the word of the LORD came to me:

This is the seventh date in Ezekiel, and it's reckoned to be April 26, 571 B.C.

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. ¹⁹ Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to give Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he will carry off its wealth. He will loot and plunder the land as pay for his army. ²⁰ I have given him Egypt as a reward for his efforts because he and his army did it for me, declares the Sovereign LORD.

Wow. This validates the fact that it would take many nations, like the waves of the sea, to ultimately destroy Tyre in Ezekiel 26. It shows how God's word should be read---carefully and painstakingly because we live by EVERY WORD that comes out of the mouth of God.

God is always just---always merciful. And His word is always CORRECT.

²¹ “On that day I will make a horn^[c] grow for the Israelites, and I will open your mouth among them. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”

Horn just refers to their “strength” returning. This is not considered to be a Messianic prophecy.

Footnotes:

1. **Ezekiel 29:7** Syriac (see also Septuagint and Vulgate); Hebrew *and you caused their backs to stand*
2. **Ezekiel 29:10** That is, the upper Nile region
3. **Ezekiel 29:21** *Horn* here symbolizes strength.

