

graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER¹ 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

graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER Ezekiel 30²

God has lots to say to Egypt. They had become so closely associated with the Nile, they almost acted as if they generated it. Their blessing became their curse, because they begin to think themselves responsible for it. It’s not that God doesn’t want us to rejoice in our blessings or enjoy them. He just wants us to always be in relationship with Him, the source of our blessings, and to include Him in our lives and beings. We are not individuals! We are persons. If you understand that, you are amazing. I promise you most of us in America do not. It has to do with a skewed understanding of Independence. Enjoy!

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² New International Version (NIV) Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (Author’s note: This translation, and the source for many of the study notes that accompany it, are taken from The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985, 1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 . These notes are referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

Ezekiel 30 New International Version (NIV)

A Lament Over Egypt

30 The word of the LORD came to me:² “Son of man, prophesy and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

This is the third prophecy against Egypt. Jerusalem was under siege at this time.

“Wail and say,
“Alas for that day!”

³ For the day is near,
the day of the LORD is near—
a day of clouds,
a time of doom for the nations.

The Day of the Lord is mentioned many times in Scripture in various ways. In this particular case, it's referring to the day of Egypt's judgment which was near. It's referred to as a Day of Clouds. I want to study a bit about the “Day of the Lord” and see what shakes out.

Joel is my first stop in Scripture:

Joel 2:1-2 New International Version (NIV)

2 Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand—² a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness. Like dawn spreading across the mountains a large and mighty army comes, such as never was in ancient times nor ever will be in ages to come.

The NIV study bible notes say the phrase “day of the Lord” is used by seven prophets. It's called primarily the “day of the Lord,” but sometimes it's referred to as “that day.” The study Bible says “the term often refers to the decisive intervention of God in history.” In Joel, it refers to the invasion of locusts (see chapter 1:4 – What the locust swarm has left, the great locusts have eaten; what the great locusts have left, the young locusts have eaten; what the young locusts have left, the other locusts have eaten.) It also refers to the battle of Carchemish, described in the text box to the right. It's referred to in the Scripture below.

The Egyptians met the full might of the Babylonian and Median army led by **Nebuchadnezzar II** at Carchemish, where the combined Egyptian and Assyrian forces were destroyed. Assyria ceased to exist as an independent power, and Egypt retreated and was no longer a significant force in the **Ancient Near East**. Babylonia reached its economic peak after 605 BC.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Carchemish

Jeremiah 46:2 New International Version (NIV)

² Concerning Egypt:

This is the message against the army of Pharaoh Necho king of Egypt, which was defeated at Carchemish on the Euphrates River by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah . . . 10 But that day belongs to the Lord, the LORD Almighty—a day of vengeance, for vengeance on his foes. The sword will devour till it is satisfied, till it has quenched its thirst with blood. For the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will offer sacrifice in the land of the north by the River Euphrates.

So sometimes it refers to God's decisive action in history, as in this case where Egypt is punished and God wreaks vengeance on her.

But it also refers to Christ's coming to “consummate history.”

Mal 4:5	1 Cor 5:5	2 Cor 1:14	1 Th 5:2	2Pe 3:10
⁵ “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes.	5 hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.	¹⁴ as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.	2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.	¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. ^[a]

Footnotes:

1. **2 Peter 3:10**
Some manuscripts *be burned up*

Since I'm on this “rabbit trail,” I might as well continue. Here are some more reference Scriptures.

Amos 5:18 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁸ Woe to you who long
for the day of the LORD!
Why do you long for the day of the LORD?

Referenced Scriptures include:

1 Co 1:8	3:12-15	1 Cor 5:5	2Co 1:14	Php 1:6, 10	Ph 2:16
⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.	¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.	5 hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.	¹⁴ as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.	⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. . . ⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,	¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

Other Scriptures referenced by the Study Bible for 1 Th 5:2 include:

Romans 2:5 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

2 Peter 2:9 New International Version (NIV)

⁹ if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment.

These Scriptures speak of judgment. But it is also called a “Day of Redemption.”

Ephesians 4:30 New International Version (NIV)

³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

The “Day of God.”

¹² as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming.^[a] That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat.

The “Day of Christ” (1 Co 1:8, Php 1:6,10 above).

The “last day.”

John 6:39 New International Version (NIV)

³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

The “Great Day”

Jude 6 New International Version (NIV)

⁶ And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Or simply, “That Day.”

2 Thessalonians 1:10 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

It's a day of both punishment and glorification.

2 Thessalonians 1:9-10 New International Version (NIV)

⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ¹⁰on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

Are these all speaking of the same day? I don't know.

Didn't get very far in Ezekiel. I won't review this scripture by scripture tomorrow, and then move on to Ezekiel 30 for the “day of the Lord” that pertained to Egypt. I'll briefly describe that below.

Ezekiel 30

30 The word of the LORD came to me: ²“Son of man, prophesy and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“Wail and say,
“Alas for that day!”

³For the day is near,
the day of the LORD is near—
a day of clouds,
a time of doom for the nations.

⁴A sword will come against Egypt,
and anguish will come upon Cush.
When the slain fall in Egypt,
her wealth will be carried away
and her foundations torn down.

⁵Cush and Libya, Lydia and all Arabia, Kub and the people of the covenant land will fall by the sword along with Egypt.