

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*



Christ IN You Series

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 32 Part 2²

We are reading about Egypt’s punishment by the Lord. We got to a very early part where it said this: When I snuff you out, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light. And the shinging lights in the heavens I will darken over you; I will bring darkness over your land, declares the Sovereign Lord (Ezekiel 32:7) **We saw yesterday how the day of the Lord is often preceded by a darkening of the lights of heaven. As we remembered, “darkness” was over the face of the deep at the outset of creation, and God said “Let there be light.” Sin leads to the destruction and unraveling of creation, back into chaos. God always bring light and life. Let’s read more about Egypt today. Enjoy!**

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Ezekiel 32 New International Version (NIV)

Here is where we left off.

⁷ When I snuff you out, I will cover the heavens and darken their stars;
I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon will not give its light.

⁸ All the shining lights in the heavens I will darken over you;
I will bring darkness over your land, declares the Sovereign LORD.

The NIV study bible says this is a piling up of metaphors associated with the Day of the Lord. We studied those yesterday.

⁹ I will trouble the hearts of many peoples
when I bring about your destruction among the nations,
among^[a] lands you have not known.

CLV for verse 9: (CLV) Ezk 32:9

+ I will ^cprovoke the heart of many peoples to vexation ⁱWhen I bring ^ryour broken parts ⁱamong the nations, ^{on}To lands ^wthat you have not known

The NIV says this and the next verse reflect the fear brought about whenever great powers fall, as nations are reminded that the same thing could happen to them. The CLV speaks of Egypt’s “broken parts” being brought “to lands you have not known.” The word for “broken parts” is interesting:

H7667 sheber sheh'-ber

or sheber {shay'-ber};

from **H7665**; a fracture, figuratively, ruin; specifically, a solution (of a dream).

¹⁰ I will cause many peoples to be appalled at you,
and their kings will shudder with horror because of you
when I brandish my sword before them.

On the day of your downfall
each of them will tremble
every moment for his life.

Interesting. The Old Testament speaks of the Lord as having a sword that He uses occasionally.

Ezekiel 2:2	Ezekiel 12:14	Ezekiel 21:3-5	Ezekiel 30:25	Psalms 7:12-13
2 When the days of your siege come to an end, burn a third of the hair inside	¹⁴ I will scatter to the winds all those around him—his staff and all his	3 and say to her: ‘This is what the LORD says: I am against you. I will draw my	²⁵ I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, but the arms of	12 If he does not relent, he ^[a] will sharpen his sword;

<p>the city. Take a third and strike it with the sword all around the city. And scatter a third to the wind. For I will pursue them with drawn sword.</p>	<p>troops—and I will pursue them with drawn sword.</p>	<p>sword from its sheath and cut off from you both the righteous and the wicked. 4 Because I am going to cut off the righteous and the wicked, my sword will be unsheathed against everyone from south to north. 5 Then all people will know that I the LORD have drawn my sword from its sheath; it will not return again.’</p>	<p>Pharaoh will fall limp. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon and he brandishes it against Egypt.</p>	<p>he will bend and string his bow. 13 He has prepared his deadly weapons; he makes ready his flaming arrows.</p> <p><i>Footnotes:</i></p> <p>1. Psalm 7:12 <i>Or If anyone does not repent, / God</i></p>
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The study note on Psalms 7:12-13 says it is describing the Weapons of a Warrior King used in defense of His people but also in Judgment. See text box for the swords of Jesus in the book of Revelation.

¹¹ “For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

“The sword of the king of Babylon will come against you.

¹² I will cause your hordes to fall by the swords of mighty men—the most ruthless of all nations.

They will shatter the pride of Egypt, and all her hordes will be overthrown.

¹³ I will destroy all her cattle from beside abundant waters no longer to be stirred by the foot of man or muddied by the hooves of cattle.

¹⁴ Then I will let her waters settle and make her streams flow like oil, declares the Sovereign LORD.

The smoothness of the waters means the absence of life.

In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged **sword**. (1:16)

“To the angel of the church in Pergamum write: These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged **sword**. (2:12) Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the **sword** of my mouth. (2:16)

Coming out of his mouth is a sharp **sword** with which to strike down the nations. (19:15)

The rest were killed with the **sword** coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse, (19:21)

¹⁵ When I make Egypt desolate
and strip the land of everything in it,
when I strike down all who live there,
then they will know that I am the LORD.’

¹⁶ “This is the lament they will chant for her. The daughters of the nations will chant it; for Egypt and all her hordes they will chant it, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

So a world chorus of professional wailers will sing this lament. Wailers had a key role to play in the ancient world. They helped facilitate necessary grief.

Egypt’s Descent Into the Realm of the Dead

¹⁷ In the twelfth year, on the fifteenth day of the month, the word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁸ “Son of man, wail for the hordes of Egypt and consign to the earth below

The phrase the “earth below” is the same as the “realm of the dead” (Sheol).

The word used here:

H8482 tachtiy takh-tee’

from **H8478**;

lowermost; as noun (feminine plural) the depths (figuratively, a pit, the womb).

They visualized the womb in this way too. Interesting.

both her and the daughters of mighty nations, along with those who go down to the pit.

Pit:

from **H952** (in the sense of **H877**);

a pit hole (especially one used as a cistern or a prison).

¹⁹ Say to them, ‘Are you more favored than others? Go down and be laid among the uncircumcised.’ ²⁰ They will fall among those killed by the sword. The sword is drawn; let her be dragged off with all her hordes. ²¹ From within the realm of the dead the mighty leaders will say

Jeremiah 9:17-18

¹⁷ This is what the LORD Almighty says:

“Consider now! Call for the wailing women to come;
send for the most skillful of them.

¹⁸ Let them come quickly
and wail over us
till our eyes overflow with tears
and water streams from our eyelids.

of Egypt and her allies, ‘They have come down and they lie with the uncircumcised, with those killed by the sword.’

The word uncircumcised is reference several times in this chapter. As in Ezekiel 28:10, it means barbarian and uncouth.

²²“Assyria is there with her whole army; she is surrounded by the graves of all her slain, all who have fallen by the sword. ²³Their graves are in the depths of the pit and her army lies around her grave. All who had spread terror in the land of the living are slain, fallen by the sword.

It shows the end of those other mighty empires like Assyria “who had spread terror in the land of the living”---they are all slain and in the pit.

²⁴“Elam is there, with all her hordes around her grave. All of them are slain, fallen by the sword. All who had spread terror in the land of the living went down uncircumcised to the earth below. They bear their shame with those who go down to the pit. ²⁵ A bed is made for her among the slain, with all her hordes around her grave. All of them are uncircumcised, killed by the sword. Because their terror had spread in the land of the living, they bear their shame with those who go down to the pit; they are laid among the slain.

²⁶“Meshek and Tubal are there, with all their hordes around their graves. All of them are uncircumcised, killed by the sword because they spread their terror in the land of the living.

²⁷ But they do not lie with the fallen warriors of old,^[b] who went down to the realm of the dead with their weapons of war—their swords placed under their heads and their shields^[c] resting on their bones—though these warriors also had terrorized the land of the living.

Here the reason for their being killed by the sword is given: killed by the sword because they spread their terror in the land of the living.

These disgraced leaders do lie with the fallen warriors of old---called “masters of war” in the CLV, which is closer to the original, I think. These men were buried with more dignity--they’re shields on the chests, their swords under their head. These are to be in the “pit” in a more undignified state.

²⁸“You too, Pharaoh, will be broken and will lie among the uncircumcised, with those killed by the sword.

²⁹“Edom is there, her kings and all her princes; despite their power, they are laid with those killed by the sword. They lie with the uncircumcised, with those who go down to the pit.

³⁰“All the princes of the north and all the Sidonians are there; they went down with the slain in disgrace despite the terror caused by their power. They lie uncircumcised with those killed by the sword and bear their shame with those who go down to the pit.

³¹“Pharaoh—he and all his army—will see them and he will be consoled for all his hordes that were killed by the sword, declares the Sovereign LORD. ³² Although I had him spread terror in the

land of the living, Pharaoh and all his hordes will be laid among the uncircumcised, with those killed by the sword, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

An undignified death and burial for a once mighty nation. But God will one day restore Egypt and give them their glory as his people! Who we all are, in our “in Christ” dimension, will one day be revealed, and will be amazing.

Isaiah 19:24-25 New International Version (NIV)

²⁴ In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing^[a] on the earth. ²⁵ The LORD Almighty will bless them, saying, “Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance.”

Footnotes:

1. **Isaiah 19:24** Or *Assyria, whose names will be used in blessings* (see Gen. 48:20); or *Assyria, who will be seen by others as blessed*

Footnotes for Ezekiel 32.

Footnotes:

1. **Ezekiel 32:9** Hebrew; Septuagint *bring you into captivity among the nations, / to*
2. **Ezekiel 32:27** Septuagint; Hebrew *warriors who were uncircumcised*
3. **Ezekiel 32:27** Probable reading of the original Hebrew text; Masoretic Text *punishment*

“one died for all, therefore all died.” (2 Cor 5:14)

That includes Egypt. And since all died in Him, look at what else is true about them:

Colossians 3:3-4 New International Version (NIV)

³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ, who is your^[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Footnotes:

1. **Colossians 3:4** Some manuscripts *our*

Glory awaits us all!