

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 34 Part 2²

God’s people are God’s sheep. They are to be shepherded, not bullied.

the Israelites, are my people, declares the Sovereign LORD. ³¹ You are my sheep, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your God, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

All true “shepherds” are simply serving under the chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

We’re always under His watchful care.

Today, we’ll review a bit, and tomorrow we’ll look at the “new covenant” a bit He promised for His people. Enjoy!

¹ **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

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 re referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

Ezekiel 34 New International Version (NIV)

The LORD Will Be Israel's Shepherd (see Sidebar --- The Lord is our Shephard!)

From Yesterday:

What Not To Do as Shepherd's

- eat the curds
- clothe yourselves with the wool
- slaughter the choice animals
- not take care of the flock
- rule them harshly and brutally (with brunt force hold sway over them with rigor)
- cared for themselves rather than for my flock

What To Do

- strengthened the weak
- heal the sick
- bound up the injured.
- bring back strays³
- search for the lost

Hebrew word for heal:
H2388 chazaq khaw-zak'
to fasten upon; hence, to seize, be strong (figuratively, courageous, causatively strengthen, cure, help, repair, fortify), obstinate; to bind, restrain, conquer.

The result of bad or absent shepherding.

- they were scattered because there was no shepherd
- they became food for all the wild animals.
- sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill.
- they were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.

God's Response

- I am against the shepherds
- I will hold them accountable for my flock.
- I will remove them from tending the flock so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves.
- I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.
- I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.

Psalm 23 King James Version (KJV)

23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³ He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵ Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

³ The Hebrew says the ones being "pushed out."

- I will look after my sheep.
- I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered
- I will bring them out from the nations
- I will gather them from the countries
- I will bring them into their own land.
- I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land.
- I will tend them in a good pasture
- I will tend them on the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land.

The result of Good Shepherding

- They will lie down in good grazing land
- They will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.
- I myself will tend my sheep.
- I myself will have them lie down.
- I will search for the lost.
- I will bring back the strays.
- I will bind up the injured.
- I will strength the weak.

The punishment and protection Good Shepherding provides.

- I will destroy sleek and the strong.
- I will shepherd the flock with justice.
- I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats.

Here is something we did not bring out yesterday. “Sheep” are differentiated from “rams and goats.” NIV study Bible says “rams and goats” are people of power and influence oppressing poorer Israelites. “This prophetic word shows the same concern for social justice found elsewhere in the prophets.

Isaiah 3:13-15	Isaiah 5:8	Amos 5:12	Amos 6:1-7	Micah 2:1-5
13 The LORD takes his place in court; he rises to judge the people. 14 The LORD enters into judgment against the elders and leaders of his people:	Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left and you live alone in the land.	¹² For I know how many are your offenses and how great your sins. There are those who oppress the innocent and take bribes and deprive the poor of	Woe to you who are complacent in Zion, and to you who feel secure on Mount Samaria, you notable men of the foremost nation, to whom the people of Israel	Woe to those who plan iniquity, to those who plot evil on their beds! At morning’s light they carry it out because it is in their power to do it.

<p>“It is you who have ruined my vineyard; the plunder from the poor is in your houses. 15 What do you mean by crushing my people and grinding the faces of the poor?” declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty.</p>		<p>justice in the courts.</p>	<p>come! ² Go to Kalneh and look at it; go from there to great Hamath, and then go down to Gath in Philistia. Are they better off than your two kingdoms? Is their land larger than yours? ³ You put off the day of disaster and bring near a reign of terror. ⁴ You lie on beds adorned with ivory and lounge on your couches. You dine on choice lambs and fattened calves. ⁵ You strum away on your harps like David and improvise on musical instruments. ⁶ You drink wine by the bowlful and use the finest lotions, but you do not grieve over the ruin of Joseph. ⁷ Therefore you will be among the first to go into exile; your feasting and lounging will</p>	<p>² They covet fields and seize them, and houses, and take them. They defraud people of their homes, they rob them of their inheritance. ³ Therefore, the LORD says: “I am planning disaster against this people, from which you cannot save yourselves. You will no longer walk proudly, for it will be a time of calamity. ⁴ In that day people will ridicule you; they will taunt you with this mournful song: ‘We are utterly ruined; my people’s possession is divided up. He takes it from me! He assigns our fields to traitors.’” ⁵ Therefore you will have no one in the assembly</p>
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			end.	of the LORD to divide the land by lot.
<p>Jeremiah 34:8-11</p> <p>Freedom for Slaves</p> <p>8 The word came to Jeremiah from the LORD after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to proclaim freedom for the slaves. 9 Everyone was to free their Hebrew slaves, both male and female; no one was to hold a fellow Hebrew in bondage. 10 So all the officials and people who entered into this covenant agreed that they would free their male and female slaves and no longer hold them in bondage. They agreed, and set them free. 11 But afterward they changed their minds and took back the slaves they had freed and enslaved them again.</p>				

Things “rams and goats” are not to do on pastures they share with sheep.

- trample the rest of your pasture with your feet?
- muddy the rest with your feet?
- *shove with flank and shoulder*
- butt all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away

God’s intent:

²² I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another. ²³ I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd. ²⁴ I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David will be prince among them. I the LORD have spoken.

²⁵ “**I will make a covenant of peace with them** and rid the land of savage beasts so that they may live in the wilderness and sleep in the forests in safety.

Ok. The review took me a bit longer than I intended. But I think it was worth it. I’ll pick up here later.

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