

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 3²

Today, let’s look at the “new covenant” a God promised for his people. It’s mentioned in this chapter.

Ezekiel 34

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.

So God is going to make a covenant of peace. He will rid the land of savage beasts that harm. We will live in the wilderness and sleep. God is so God.

Enjoy!

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Luke 1 (NIV)

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named

Joseph, a

descendant of

David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. **The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.**"

Ezekiel 34 New International Version (NIV)

²² I will save my flock, and they will no longer be plundered. I will judge between one sheep and another.

God will save His flock. He will keep them from being plundered. He will judge between one sheep and another. And the truth will prevail.

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.

Like we studied earlier, this could mean a ruler like David or from His line.

Ultimately, it refers to Christ. See the sidebar.

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.

This is the part I've trying to get to for the last three days.

"A covenant of peace" is mentioned here. I want to track with NIV study notes here. I'll begin it now.

"covenant of peace. Cf. 37:26.

²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. Ezekiel 37:26

Ezekiel 37:26 New International Version (NIV)

The text note in this section says this: “The phrase “everlasting covenant” occurs 16 times in the Old Testament.” Then it lists the various covenants to which this applies.

The Covenant with Noah	The Covenant with Abraham	The Covenant with David	The New Covenant	The Covenant with Phinehas
Gen 9:16	Genesis 17:7, 13, 19	2 Samuel 23:5	Jeremiah 32:37-41	Numbers 25:12-13
<p>¹⁶ Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth.”</p>	<p>⁷ I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. . . ¹³ Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. . . ¹⁹ Then God said, “Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an</p>	<p>“If my house were not right with God, surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part; surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire.</p>	<p>³⁷ I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. ³⁸ They will be my people, and I will be their God. ³⁹ I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. ⁴⁰ I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away</p>	<p>¹² Therefore tell him I am making my covenant of peace with him. ¹³ He and his descendants will have a covenant of a lasting priesthood, because he was zealous for the honor of his God and made atonement for the Israelites.”</p>

	everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.		from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good and will assuredly plant them in this land with all my heart and soul.	
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Back to the note in Ezekiel 34, it says all God’s covenants aim at peace. The word for peace is “shalom.” It’s meanings are listed below.

H7965 shalwm shaw-lome' or shalom {shaw-lome'};

from **H7999**; safe, i.e. (figuratively) well, happy, friendly; also (abstractly) welfare, i.e. health, prosperity, peace.

It lists four examples Scripturally.

Genesis 26:28-31	Numbers 25:12	Isaiah 54:10	Malachi 2:5
<p>²⁸ They answered, “We saw clearly that the LORD was with you; so we said, ‘There ought to be a sworn agreement between us’— between us and you. Let us make a treaty (covenant) with you ²⁹ that you will do us no harm, just as we did not harm you but always treated you well and sent you away peacefully. And now you are blessed by the LORD.”</p> <p>³⁰ Isaac then made a feast for them, and they ate and drank.</p> <p>³¹ Early the next morning the men swore an oath to each other. Then Isaac sent</p>	<p>¹² Therefore tell him I am making my covenant of peace with him.</p>	<p>10 Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed,” says the LORD, who has compassion on you.</p>	<p>⁵ “My covenant was with him (Levi), a covenant of life and peace, and I gave them to him; this called for reverence and he revered me and stood in awe of my name.</p> <p><small>(CLV) Mal 2:5</small></p> <p>My covenant, it came to be [”]with him [”]life and [”]peace, and I am giving them to him for fear, and he is fearing Me. And in view of My Name he / is dismayed.</p> <p>Word for dismayed:</p> <p>H2865 chathath khaw-thath'</p> <p>a primitive root;</p>

<p>them on their way, and they went away peacefully.</p>			<p>properly, to prostrate; hence, to break down, either (literally) by violence, or (figuratively) by confusion and fear.</p> <p>H3372 yare' yaw-ray' a primitive root;</p> <p>to fear; morally, to revere; caus. to frighten.</p>
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Continuing with the NIV text note for Ezekiel 34:25:

This covenant of peace is the new covenant spoken of by Jeremiah.

<p>Jeremiah 31</p>	
<p>31 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. 32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to^[a] them,^[b]” declares the LORD. 33 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 34 No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”</p>	
<p><i>Footnotes:</i></p>	

This covenant of peace looks to their final peace, initiated by Christ. The peace of God is such a gift. It is a peace that transcends all understanding! It guards our minds and our hearts! The footnote says:

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

The “peace” (Hebrew shalom) envisioned here is that of a restored relationship with God and the secure enjoyment of a life made full and rich through his blessings. Look at the sidebar for further understanding of the “peace of God.”

Let’s finish the chapter see how God describes his peace.

²⁶ I will make them and the places surrounding my hill a blessing. [or to be named in blessings or to be seen as blessed] I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing.

²⁷ The trees will yield their fruit and the ground will yield its crops; the people will be secure in their land.

They will know that I am the LORD, when I break the bars of their yoke and rescue them from the hands of those who enslaved them.

That includes our sins.

²⁸ They will no longer be plundered by the nations, nor will wild animals devour them.

Perhaps meaning spiritual forces of evil (Eph 6)

They will live in safety, and no one will make them afraid. ²⁹ I will provide for them a land renowned for its crops, and they will no longer be victims of famine in the land or bear the scorn of the nations. ³⁰ Then they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them and that they, 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.” **Thanks be to God for that!**