

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 who love me and any descendant they have that love their Papou too. 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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ChristINYouSeries

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

The NIV study Bible introduces this chapter with this introduction:

The counterpart of Israel’s restoration as the Lord’s people is the desolation of her enemies---of which Edom serves here as representative. Given the historical relationship between Israel and Edom, the spiteful treatment of Judah by the Edomites at the time of Jerusalem’s fall was especially reprehensible.

Remember the roots of this issue. Edom descends from Esau. Esau was Jacob’s brother. But he ended up being his constant enemy too, one from whom constant brotherhood was sought, but seldom found. Let’s take a look at how God thinks and how God speaks to these nations. Enjoy!

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

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Ezekiel 35 New International Version (NIV)

A Prophecy Against Edom

35 The word of the LORD came to me: ²“Son of man, set your face against Mount Seir; prophesy against it

Let’s do a little of the back story here. Edom descended from Esau, Jacob’s twin brother and constant enemy. Here are some key Scriptures describing their relationship in Genesis.

Genesis 25

²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The **babies jostled** each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the LORD.

²³ The LORD said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you will be separated;
one people will be stronger than the other, **This is Jacob, later named Israel.**
and the older will serve the younger.” **This is Esau. (means “hairy”)**

²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau.

²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them. . . ²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, “Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I’m famished!” (That is why he was also called Edom. ^[Edom means red])

³¹ Jacob replied, “First sell me your birthright.”

³² “Look, I am about to die,” Esau said. “What good is the birthright to me?”

³³ But Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob.

³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left.

So Esau despised his birthright. . .

There was perpetual controversy between them from then on. Also called “Seir” in the Scripture, their eventual place of settlement was a country south of Moab and south of the Dead Sea. Referring to them as “Seir” in this chapter, God says this:

³ and say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against you, Mount Seir, and I will stretch out my hand against you and make you a desolate waste. ⁴ I will turn your towns into ruins and you will be desolate. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

Wow. Wouldn’t it be terrible to have God “against” you?

⁵ “‘Because you harbored an ancient hostility and delivered the Israelites over to the sword at the time of their calamity, the time their punishment reached its climax, ⁶ therefore as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will give you over to bloodshed and it will pursue you. Since you did not hate bloodshed, bloodshed will pursue you.

Because of the incident explained in Genesis 25 above where Jacob stole Esau’s birthright, and later because he stole his blessing from their father, Edom/Seir possessed “an ancient hostility.”

Genesis 27

41 Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing his father had given him. He said to himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

Here is the Hebrew word translated grudge.

H7852 satam saw-tam'

a primitive root; properly, to lurk for, i.e. persecute.

KJV: hate, oppose self against.

6 “Whoever sheds human blood,
by humans shall their blood be
shed;
for in the image of God
has God made mankind.

Genesis 9:6

With regards to bloodshed pursuing them, the Study Bible says this was “Retributive justice, in accordance with Genesis 9:6.” Here is a definition of “retributive justice:”

Retributive justice - Wikipedia

W https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retributive_justice

Retributive justice is a theory of punishment that when an offender breaks the law, **justice** requires that they suffer in return, and that the response to a crime is proportional to the offence. As opposed to revenge, retribution—and thus **retributive** justice—is not personal, is directed only at wrongdoing, has inherent limits, involves no pleasure at the suffering of others . . .

That definitely lines up with God’s approach: “I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked.” (Ezekiel 33)

⁷ I will make Mount Seir a desolate waste and cut off from it all who come and go. ⁸ I will fill your mountains with the slain; those killed by the sword will fall on your hills and in your valleys and in all your ravines. ⁹ I will make you desolate forever; your towns will not be inhabited. **Then you will know that I am the LORD.**

That phrase appears so many times. God apparently wants us to know that He IS the Lord!

¹⁰“Because you have said, “These two nations and countries will be ours and we will take possession of them,” even though I the LORD was there,

The actual Hebrew says “the Lord is there.” What a name! “The Lord is there.” In Ezekiel 48:35 the same things is used about Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 48:35 New International Version (NIV)

³⁵“The distance all around will be 18,000 cubits.^[a]

“And the name of the city from that time on will be:

THE LORD IS THERE.”

Emmanuel means “God with us.” At the end of Matthew 28, it says “I will be with you till the end of the age.” Literally, it says “I am with you all the days, till the end of the age.”

¹¹ therefore as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I will treat you in accordance with the anger and jealousy you showed in your hatred of them and I will make myself known among them when I judge you. ¹² Then you will know that I the LORD have heard all the contemptible things you have said against the mountains of Israel. You said, “They have been laid waste and have been given over to us to devour.” ¹³ You boasted against me and spoke against me without restraint, and I heard it.

Wow. That’s scary. In this day and age, we often do hear people speaking against the Lord without restraint. It also says “you boasted against me.”

The literal Hebrew says “you magnify yourself against me.” It also referenced the following Scriptures

H1431 gadal gaw-dal'

a primitive root;

properly, to twist (compare **H1434**), i.e. to be (causatively make) large (in various senses, as in body, mind, estate or honor, also in pride)...estate, + things), grow(up),increase, lift up, magnify(-ifical), be much set by, nourish (up), pass, promote, proudly (spoken), tower.

Obadiah 12	Zephaniah 2:8, 10	Psalms 35:26	Jeremiah 48:26,42
12 You should not gloat over your brother in the day of his misfortune, nor rejoice over the	⁸ “I have heard the insults of Moab and the taunts of the Ammonites, who insulted my people	26 May all who gloat over my distress be put to shame and confusion; may all who exalt themselves over me	26 “Make her drunk, for she has defied the LORD. Let Moab wallow in her vomit; let her be an object

<p>people of Judah in the day of their destruction, nor boast so much in the day of their trouble.</p>	<p>and made threats against their land. ⁹Therefore, as surely as I live,” declares the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, “surely Moab will become like Sodom, the Ammonites like Gomorrah— a place of weeds and salt pits, a wasteland forever. The remnant of my people will plunder them; the survivors of my nation will inherit their land.”</p> <p>¹⁰This is what they will get in return for their pride, for insulting and mocking the people of the LORD Almighty</p>	<p>be clothed with shame and disgrace.</p>	<p>of ridicule. “Look! An eagle is swooping down, spreading its wings over Moab. 41 Keriath[the cities] will be captured and the strongholds taken. In that day the hearts of Moab’s warriors will be like the heart of a woman in labor. 42 Moab will be destroyed as a nation because she defied the LORD.</p>
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Gloating over the downfall of your enemies and speaking against God without restraint is being punished here by God.

¹⁴ This is what the Sovereign LORD says: While the whole earth rejoices, I will make you desolate. ¹⁵ Because you rejoiced when the inheritance of Israel became desolate, that is how I will treat you. You will be desolate, Mount Seir, you and all of Edom. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”

The phrase “they will know that I am the LORD” appears 26 times in the NIV translation of the Bible, and 25 in Ezekiel. They will know that God is the Lord! Both by punishments, strong actions and blessings. I wonder if that would be a good place to start next time!

Ezekiel 34:27

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.