

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 36 Part 1²

This chapter deals with how God will display his holiness in the restoration of his people. Israel will prosper once more. Its disgrace will be removed. God spells our his promise to cleanse and restore his defiled and scattered people. The disgrace Israel brought upon itself will be removed! She will once again show God’s holiness to all nations.

Ultimately, in the language appropriate to the day, this is speaking of God restoring His righteousness to Israel! And through Israel. He will save all mankind from living by their efforts via the Tree of Knowledge. True fruit will be born as they live by the “Tree of Life”---Jesus. . Enjoy!

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

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Ezekiel 36 New International Version (NIV)

Hope for the Mountains of Israel

36 “Son of man, prophesy to the mountains of Israel and say, ‘Mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD.

Even though God chastens those He loves, He also comforts them! This makes me think of this Scripture in Hebrews:

Hebrews 12 God Disciplines His Children

4 In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

5 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

The Old Testament is full of examples of this. God’s forgiveness and love is real. But so is God’s hatred of sin! He will forgive us our sin, but will also purify us from all righteousness! (1 John 1:9)

7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.

The King James version says “bastards.” Boy, that’s an archaic concept!

9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! 10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 “Make level paths for your feet,” so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

There is a right way to respond to discipline! This is it! I like the way the CLV translation attempts to more closely render the original Hebrew.

CLV) Pr 4:26 Balance the route of your foot, And all your ways, let them be established.

“Balance the route of your foot!” The Hebrew means this:

H4570 ma`gal mah-gawl'from the same as **H5696**; a track (literally or figuratively); also a rampart (as circular). **In other words, set a pattern!**

²This is what the Sovereign LORD says: The enemy said of you, “Aha! The ancient heights have become our possession.”

This is kind of cool. The NIV footnote says: “The Promised Land, of which the elevated region between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean coast was the central core.” I never knew about the “elevated region.” It just gives me a cool visual of the “heights” of Israel!

³Therefore prophesy and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because they ravaged and crushed you from every side so that you became the possession of the rest of the nations and the object of people’s malicious talk and slander,

I want to look up how Hebrews defines “malicious talk and slander.” The CLV translates it this way:

(CLV) Ezk 36:3

you are taken ^lup on the lip of slander and the gossip of the people,

I like the poetic visual of the “lip of slander” and “gossip.” I couldn’t quite discern how they got it from the Hebrew, but here is a picture of the verse in a literal Hebrew transliteration.

CLV

therefore, prophesy, and you will say, Thus says my Lord Yahweh: Because, ^lindeed because desolation^l and gasping^l are ^lwith you from round about, so ^lthat you become^l the tenancy^l of the remainder of the nations, and you are taken ^lup on the lip of slander and the gossip of the people,

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|------------------------------------|---------|--|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------|
| בִּיעַן | יֵאן | יְהוָה | אֲדֹנָי | אָמַר | כֵּה | וְאָמַרְתָּ | הַנִּבָּא | לֵכֵן | 36:3 |
| b-ion | ion | ieue | adni | amr | ke | u-amrth | enba | lkn | |
| in-because | because | Yahweh | my-Lord | he-says | thus | and-you-say | ^l prophesy-you! | therefore | |
| לְשָׂאֲרִית | מוֹרְשָׁה | | לְהִיֹּתְכֶם | | מִסְבִּיב | אֶתְכֶם | וְשָׂאֲרָה | שְׁמוֹת | |
| l-sharith | murshe | | l-eiuth-km | | m-sbib | ath-km | u-shaph | shmuth | |
| to-remainder-of | tenancy | | to-to-become-of-you ^(p) | | from-round-about | »-you ^(p) | and-to-gasp | to-desolate-of | |
| : | עַם - | | וְדַבַּת | לְשׁוֹן | עַל - שִׁפְתַּי | | וְתִעָלוּ | הַגּוֹיִם | |
| : | om - | | u-dbth | lshun | shpth - ol | | u-tholu | e-guim | |
| | people | | and-muttering-of | tongue | lip-of on and-you ^(p) -are-being-taken-up | | the-nations | | |

Ah, I got it. The phrase muttering of tongue means “slander, and it’s root means to “glide” or move slowly. Interesting that that is how slander was visualized in the language.

“Sneaky” is maybe one sense of it . “To glide” ---- is that like the Accuser of the Brethren, the gliding serpent, Satan?

⁴ therefore, mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Sovereign LORD:

This is what the Sovereign LORD says to the mountains and hills, to the ravines and valleys, to the desolate ruins and the deserted towns that have been plundered and ridiculed by the rest of the nations around you—

For the **accuser** of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. Revelation 12:10

I love how “the Sovereign LORD speaks to mountains and hills and ravines and valleys.

⁵ this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

In my burning zeal I have spoken against the rest of the nations, and against all Edom, for with glee and with malice in their hearts they made my land their own possession so that they might plunder its pastureland.’

The literal translation says “with the fire of jealousy” instead of burning zeal. God loves His people that much, and while He may have lots to say against them, others better not say things against them. Especially with “glee” and “malice”---the Hebrew conveys the visual of “rejoicing in heart” as in a festival for glee, and “pushing aside” as if someone or something is contemptible and meaningless. It’s also interesting that the Hebrew word from which “possession” comes means “tenancy”---the possessing of a land by “rent.” God sees as tenants, not owners of the land.

If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the **world** is **mine**, and all that is in it.
Psalm 50:12

⁶ Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel and say to the mountains and hills, to the ravines and valleys: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I speak in my jealous wrath because you have suffered the scorn of the nations. ⁷ Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I swear with uplifted hand that the nations around you will also suffer scorn.

Wow. What goes around does come around!

⁸ “‘But you, mountains of Israel, will produce branches and fruit for my people Israel, for they will soon come home.

“Branches and fruit” are signs of productivity and the LORD’s restored favor.

| Ezekiel 17:18, 23 | Leviticus 26:3-5 |
|--|--|
| ⁸ It had been planted in good soil by abundant water so that it would produce branches, bear fruit and become a splendid vine.’ | ³ “‘If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands, ⁴ I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit. ⁵ Your threshing will continue until grape harvest and the grape |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>harvest will continue until planting, and you will eat all the food you want and live in safety in your land.</p> <p>Threshing edible plants will go until the late fall when the grapes come in, and the grapes will continue until early spring planting. What a round the year blessing.</p> |
|--|---|

⁹ I am concerned for you and will look on you with favor; you will be plowed and sown, ¹⁰ and I will cause many people to live on you—yes, all of Israel. The towns will be inhabited and the ruins rebuilt. ¹¹ I will increase the number of people and animals living on you, and they will be fruitful and become numerous.

Identical terminology to God’s blessing on creation.

| Genesis 1:22 | Genesis 1:28 | Genesis 8:17 | Genesis 9:1, 7 |
|---|---|--|--|
| 22 God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” | 28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” | ¹⁷ Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it.” | Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. . . 7 As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it.” |

I will settle people on you as in the past and will make you prosper more than before. Then you will know that I am the LORD. ¹² I will cause people, my people Israel, to live on you. They will possess you, and you will be their inheritance; you will never again deprive them of their children. ¹³ “This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because some say to you, “You devour people and deprive your nation of its children,” ¹⁴ therefore you will no longer devour people or make your nation childless, declares the Sovereign LORD. ¹⁵ No longer will I make you hear the taunts of the nations, and no longer will you suffer the scorn of the peoples or cause your nation to fall, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

Wow. He will vindicate and avenge those maliciously accused. How comforting!

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