

graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER¹ 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 anyone I’ve ever brought to Christ and family members who truly love me. 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 40 Part 1 Intro²



Ezekiel shares another “parallel” with the book of Revelation. After the “Gog and Magog” of Revelation attack and are destroyed, chapter 21 begins to introduce the New Jerusalem. The city is measured by an angel with a measuring rod. In a few verses, the width of the wall is discussed, as are streets of gold and gates of pearls. “There is no temple” in the city, the text says, “because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.” In Ezekiel, in chapter 39, Ezekiel is taken in vision to Jerusalem. A city is seen, and a temple as well. An angel gives him a guided tour, sharing its measurements along the way. The parallelism is obvious, but the details are different. Let’s read and learn.

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 are referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

Ezekiel 40 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)

Note: I'm using the CSB translation. It's one I like to listen to a lot, and it has translated as best as possible the measurements given into feet and inches.

I'm also sharing a telephone snapshot I took of the NIV study bible graphic for this section in an effort to help myself and any readers visualize the temple being described. I believe in reading every word of God since we are to live by every word that comes from the mouth of God. So did Jesus!

40 In the twenty-fifth year of our exile, at the beginning of the year, on the tenth day of the month in the fourteenth year after Jerusalem had been captured, on that very day the LORD's hand was on me, and he brought me there.

Note: The NIV study bible teaches that all the dates in Ezekiel are reckoned from 597 exile of the nobility to Babylon, 14 years before the capture and destruction of Jerusalem. It reckons this date is April 28, 573 B.C. If this is the first month, and the 10th day of the month, it's the day the Israelites set aside the Passover Lamb. The NIV Study Bible doesn't bring this out, but since I used to keep the Passover in a Christian way, I was aware of this. So . . . does this somehow tie in with the quote in Revelation we referenced that equates "the Lamb and God" with the Temple?

⁴ He answered, "It is written: **Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**" Matthew 4

³ He humbled you by letting you go hungry; then he gave you manna to eat, which you and your ancestors had not known, so that you might learn that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Deuteronomy 8:3

Exodus 12	John 1	Revelation 21
12 The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 "This month is to be the beginning of months for you; it is the first month of your year. 3 Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they must each select an animal of the flock according to their fathers' families, one animal per family. . . 6 You	The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! . . . ³⁵ The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"	2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. . . ⁹ One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a
	1 Corinthians 5	

<p>are to keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembly of the community of Israel will slaughter the animals at twilight. . . 11 Here is how you must eat it: You must be dressed for travel,[^b] your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You are to eat it in a hurry; it is the LORD's Passover.</p>	<p>⁷ Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.</p>	<p>mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. . . ¹⁵ The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. . . ²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.</p>
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So “God and the Lamb” are our Temple. Or at least, the Temple of the Heavenly Jerusalem that descends down from heaven.

HOW IS THE LORD OUR GOD OUR TEMPLE? I wanted to research that on the web a bit.

Here is a comment from: <https://newjerusalem12.wordpress.com/2020/02/14/new-jerusalem-god-and-the-lamb-are-the-temple/>

New Jerusalem: God and the Lamb are the Temple

In Revelation 21:22 John tells us, **“I saw no temple in it [New Jerusalem], for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.”** By faith we have entered.

The New Testament was written in Greek, which has distinct words for “in” and for “into.” According to the New Testament we do not merely believe in Jesus Christ, acknowledging something about Him. Rather, we believe “into Him.”

- “these little ones who believe into Me” Matthew 18:6
- “believe into His name” John 1:12



• “every one who believes into Him may have eternal life” John 3:15, 16

• “Do you believe into the Son of God?” John 9:35

*Revelation says that God Himself, God and the Lamb, will be the temple for us who serve Him to dwell in. Our dwelling place in eternity is God Himself...We will dwell in God. He is our temple and we are His tabernacle. He dwells in us and we dwell in Him, and this mutual dwelling is the New Jerusalem, which to God is the tabernacle and to us is the temple. We enjoy a foretaste of this today when we abide in the Lord and the Lord abides in us (John 15:5). This mutual abode will be enlarged in eternity to be the New Jerusalem where God will be our dwelling place and we will be His dwelling place.**

It is not only in New Jerusalem that God will be our dwelling and we will be His dwelling. This is true since the Lord’s resurrection, as He spoke in John 14:20 and 15:5.

So . . . what if this is telling us as much as anything about our perfect dwelling place in God?

Let’s get into the rest of the intro for the vision.

² In visions of God he took me to the land of Israel and set me down on **a very high mountain.**

Note: Mount Zion is also seen as extraordinarily high in other prophetic visions.

Isaiah 2:2 New International Version (NIV)

² In the last days

John 15:5 New International Version (NIV)

⁵ “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 14 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God^[a]; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Christ went back into Heaven, at the Right Hand of God.

the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

Height signifies importance, as the earthly seat of God's reign.

On its southern slope was a structure **resembling a city**.

NIV study note suggest Psalm 48:2 at this point:

Psalm 48:2 New International Version (NIV)

² Beautiful in its loftiness,
the joy of the whole earth,
like the heights of Zaphon^[a] is Mount Zion,
the city of the Great King.

Footnotes:

1. **Psalm 48:2** *Zaphon* was the most sacred mountain of the Canaanites.

³ He brought me there, and I saw a man whose appearance was like bronze,

Obviously a supernatural man.

with a linen cord and a measuring rod in his hand. He was standing by the city gate. ⁴ He spoke to me: "Son, of man, look with your eyes, listen with your ears, and pay attention to everything I am going to show you, for you have been brought here so that I might show it to you. Report everything you see to the house of Israel."

We'll stop it right here.