

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 43 Part 1 ²



So now the bronze angel is going to show Ezekiel how the glory of the Lord fills the temple once again. The detailed descriptions of the perfected version of ancient Israel’s worship system are going to continue. I do know the Scripture in both the Old and New Testaments speak of the tabernacle/Temple complex being a copy of the ones in heaven, a shadow of heavenly things. Hebrews says: They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and **shadow** of what is in heaven. . . The law is only a **shadow** of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. **Yet great pains are taken to describe this. Why, I wonder? Enjoy!**

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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.)

Return of the LORD's Glory

43 He led me to the gate, the one that faces east,² and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east.

In chapter 11:23, Ezekiel saw the glory of the Lord leave the Temple by way of the East. Now He is returning to the Temple in this vision of restored Israel. Note too how this vision includes sounds—“the roar of a huge torrent”---as well as lights!

His voice sounded like the roar of a huge torrent, and the earth shone with his glory.³ The vision I saw was like the one I had seen when he^[a] came to destroy the city, and like the ones I had seen by the Chebar Canal. I fell facedown.

We described that in detail in our survey of chapter 1. It included “a windstorm” to the north;

an immense cloud with flashing lightening and surrounded by brilliant light. Four four-faced living creatures that emerged from a glowing center that looked like glowing metal. There were topaz wheels beside them. God’s throne above. A vault was above them of sparkling crystal. A lapis lazuli throne sat on it, and a figure like that of a Man sat on it. From the waste up He was like glowing metal. From the face down He looked like fire. And Brilliant light surrounded Him! That’s our God, the One who wants to emblazon us with His life as well!

9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified (Luke 2:9)

⁴ The glory of the LORD entered the temple by way of the gate that faced east. ⁵ Then the Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the inner court and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

God’s visible glory is frequently described as bright. With God being nearer, the NIV study bibles says the Spirit of God took over the function of the guiding angel.

⁶ While the man was standing beside me, I heard someone speaking to me from the temple. ⁷ He said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place for the soles of my feet, where I will dwell among the Israelites forever.



Figure 1 Man of metal dreamstime_m_129474570

Our Tour Guide – The Bronze Angel

Photo Credit Bronze Angel dreamstime_m_168332963



That again sounds like a vision in the Book of Revelation. Again, the theme of the name of “Emmanuel”---God with us---is described.

Revelation 21:2-3 Christian Standard Bible (CSB)
² I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. ³ Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God’s dwelling (tent, tabernacle) is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God.

Notice how the promise of living among them forever is asserted in verse 9 and elsewhere in the Old Testament as the hope of God’s people.

1 Kings 6:13	Zechariah 2:11	Ezekiel 43:9
¹² “As for this temple you are building—if you walk in my statutes, observe my ordinances, and keep all my commands by walking in them. . . ¹³ I will dwell among the Israelites and not abandon my people Israel.”	¹¹ “Many nations will join themselves to the LORD on that day and become my people. I will dwell among you, and you will know that the LORD of Armies has sent me to you.	⁹ Now let them remove their prostitution and the corpses of their kings far from me, and I will dwell among them forever.

The house of Israel and their kings will no longer defile my holy name by their religious prostitution and by the corpses^[b] of their kings at their high places.^[c] ⁸ Whenever they placed their threshold next to my threshold and their doorposts beside my doorposts, with only a wall between me and them, they were defiling my holy name by the detestable acts they committed. So I destroyed them in my anger. ⁹ Now let them remove their prostitution and the corpses of their kings far from me, and I will dwell among them forever.

If you remember, chapter 42 ended with this concept:

20 He measured the temple complex on all four sides. It had a wall all around it, 875 feet long and 875 feet wide, to separate the holy from the common.

The NIV study bible says that in Solomon’s time, the temple was surrounded by many of his own private structures (see sidebar). That apparently led eventually to defiling the holiness of the

1 Kings 7:1-12 (CSB)

7 Solomon completed his entire palace complex after thirteen years of construction. ² He built the House of the Forest of Lebanon. . . . ⁷ He made the Hall of the Throne where he would judge—the Hall of Judgment. . . . ¹⁸ Solomon’s own palace where he would live, in the other courtyard behind the hall, was of similar construction. And he made a house like this hall for Pharaoh’s daughter, his wife.

⁹ All of these buildings were of costly stones, cut to size and sawed with saws on the inner and outer surfaces, from foundation to coping and from the outside to the great courtyard. . . . ¹² Around the great courtyard, as well as the inner courtyard of the LORD’s temple and the portico of the temple, were three rows of dressed stone and a row of trimmed cedar beams.

Temple. The distinction between God’s holy temple and the rest of the world is a central idea in Ezekiel. The unstable practices of the people brought about their destruction in the presence of God’s holiness.

¹⁰“As for you, son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, so that they may be ashamed of their iniquities. Let them measure its pattern, ¹¹ and they will be ashamed of all that they have done. Reveal^[d] the design of the temple to them—its layout with its exits and entrances—its complete design along with all its statutes, design specifications, and laws. Write it down in their sight so that they may observe its complete design and all its statutes and may carry them out. ¹² This is the law of the temple: All its surrounding territory on top of the mountain will be especially holy. Yes, this is the law of the temple.

Wow. For some reason, God wants us to understand this! I know it has to do with an understanding of the profundity of His holiness! Perhaps with our own as well!

Footnotes:

- a. **43:3** Some Hb mss, Theod, Vg; other Hb mss, LXX, Syr read *I*
- b. **43:7** Or *monuments*, also in v. 9
- c. **43:7** Some Hb mss, Theod, Tg read *their death*
- d. **43:10–11** LXX, Vg; MT reads *pattern*. ¹¹ *And if they are ashamed ... done, reveal*
- e. **43:13** Lit *in cubits (a cubit being a cubit plus a handbreadth)*
- f. **43:13** Lit *one cubit*, also in vv. 14,17
- g. **43:13** Lit *one span*
- h. **43:13** LXX reads *height*
- i. **43:14** Lit *two cubits*
- j. **43:14** Lit *four cubits*, also in v. 15
- k. **43:15** Hb obscure
- l. **43:16** Lit *12 cubits*
- m. **43:17** Lit *14 cubits*
- n. **43:17** Lit *one-half cubit*
- o. **43:26** Lit *will fill its hands*

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