

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 44 Part 1 ²

There is so much to savor when you read God’s words. I realize now you must interpret the written word through the lens of the Living Word become flesh. So when you read about Temples and holiness and common and unclean you read about the holiness, the nobility He’s given each and every one of us. We are His Israelites. In Him, we are overcomers with God. Let’s move forward. 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.)

Ezekiel 44 New International Version (NIV)

The Priesthood is going to be restored in this chapter. In the last chapter, we read the lengths God went to so that He could explain the totality of our forgiveness. The details included in this passage show, in the form of an architectural parable, God’s “perfect” temple, complete with a:

- Restored Altar
- Restored family of Zadok
- Restored system for Israelites (you and me) to present our “burnt offerings” and “fellowship” offerings to the Lord.



We do present “sacrifices” to the Lord as Christians. Look at this Scripture.

Romans 12 New International Version (NIV)

A Living Sacrifice

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

The Old Testament went into a lot of great detail about the kinds of offerings Israelites were to give. To follow the metaphor, what does it mean if we offer God a burnt offering?

Question: "What is a burnt offering?"³

Answer: The burnt offering is one of the oldest and most common offerings in history. It’s entirely possible that Abel’s offering in **Genesis 4:4** was a burnt offering, although the first recorded instance is in **Genesis 8:20** when Noah offers burnt offerings after the flood.

Genesis 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it.

God ordered Abraham to offer his son, Isaac, in a burnt offering in **Genesis 22**, and then provided a ram as a replacement.

Genesis 22 Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. ² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—

³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/burnt-offering.html>

Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

After suffering through nine of the ten plagues, Pharaoh decided to let the people go from bondage in Egypt, but his refusal to allow the Israelites to take their livestock with them in order to offer burnt offerings brought about the final plague that led to the Israelites’ delivery (**Exodus 10:24-29**).

Exodus 10:25 ²⁵ But Moses said, “You must allow us to have sacrifices and burnt offerings to present to the LORD our God.

The Hebrew word for “burnt offering” actually means to “ascend,” literally to “go up in smoke.” The smoke from the sacrifice ascended to God, “a soothing aroma to the LORD” (**Leviticus 1:9**).

Leviticus 1:9 ⁹ You are to wash the internal organs and the legs with water, and the priest is to burn all of it on the altar. It is a burnt offering, a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the LORD.

Note: The NIV study note for Leviticus 1 says the offering is sometimes called a “holocaust offering” (holo means “whole” and “caust” means burnt). It continues:

“The burnt offering may have been the usual sacrifice offered by the patriarchs. It was the most comprehensive in its meaning. It’s Hebrew name means “going up,” perhaps symbolizing worship and prayer as its aroma ascends to the Lord. The completeness of its burning also speaks of dedication on the part of the worshipper.”

- Technically, any offering burned over an altar was a burnt offering, but in more specific terms, a burnt offering was the complete destruction of the animal (except for the hide) in an effort to renew the relationship between Holy God and sinful man. With the development of the law, God gave the Israelites specific instructions as to the types of burnt offerings and what they symbolized. **(briefly summarized below)**

<p>³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Matthew 27:35</p>
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The traditional burnt offering. . . a bull, sheep, or goat, a male with no defect, and killed it at the entrance to the tabernacle. . . a sacrifice of general atonement—an acknowledgement of the sin nature and a request for renewed relationship with God. . . The ultimate fulfillment of the burnt offering is in Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. His physical life was completely consumed, He ascended to God, and His covering (that is, His garment) was distributed to those who officiated over His sacrifice (**Matthew 27:35**). But most importantly, His sacrifice, once for all time, atoned for our sins and restored our relationship with God. **Recommended Resource: A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament edited by Roy Zuck**

Another kind of offerings was a “fellowship” offering. I’ll just briefly quote from the same source (got.questions.org). They equate it with the fellowship offering. The NIV explains that in a fellowship offering, a person celebrated “peace” and “wholeness” with God. Thus the offering symbolized peace with God and the inward peace resulted. It was the only offering in which the sacrifice might eat a part. The concept of fellowship emerged from the fact that the offerer not only ate with God, but with the priest who made the offering, since he also ate a part. Christ wants to have fellowship this way with us!

A peace offering in the Old Testament Law is described in **Leviticus 7:11–21**. It was a voluntary sacrifice given to God in three specific instances. First, a peace offering could be given as a freewill offering, meaning that the worshiper was giving the peace offering as a way to say thank you for God’s unsought generosity. It was basically just a way to praise God for His goodness. The second way a peace offering could be given was alongside a fulfilled vow. A good example of this was when Hannah fulfilled her vow to God by bringing Samuel to the temple; on that occasion she also brought a peace offering to express the peace in her heart toward God concerning her sacrifice—it was a way to say, “I have no resentment; I am holding nothing back in the payment of my vow.” The third purpose of a peace offering was to give thanksgiving for God’s deliverance in an hour of dire need. None of these three reasons to sacrifice had anything to do with propitiation, with appeasing God, or with pacifying Him.

20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Revelation 3:20

Just one more Scripture on the offering we offer God.

Hebrews 13:15 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁵ Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

So now let’s look at Ezekiel 44

44 Then the man brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, the one facing east, and it was shut. ² The LORD said to me, “This gate is to remain shut. It must not be opened; no one may enter through it. It is to remain shut because the LORD, the God of Israel, has entered through it. ³ The prince himself is the only one who may sit inside the gateway to eat in the presence of the LORD. He is to enter by way of the portico of the gateway and go out the same way.”

Ok, looking at this through my Jesus lens, here’s what I see. Only Jesus, our Lord, High Priest and King is the One who “eats” in the presence of the Lord on our behalf. He enters by way of the portico of the gateway (“I am the door for the sheep – John 10), and we enter through Him into the Presence of the Lord. This is not so much to keep us from holiness, as to showing us how holiness is accessed and made available for us---through Jesus.

Speaking more directly to the possible meaning for the Jews, the NIV study bible shares the thought that the gate was shut also because it symbolized God would never leave again, and that sun worship would be made impossible.

⁴Then the man brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple. I looked and saw the glory of the LORD filling the temple of the LORD, and I fell facedown.

I would have loved to have seen that---the glory of the Lord filling the Temple.



Explosion of Light dreamstime_m_173151220

This same glory enters us! We are made of stardust, and the Lord wants to fill us with life and light!

John 1	Ephesians 1
4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.	10 He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)

⁵The LORD said to me, “Son of man, look carefully, listen closely and give attention to everything I tell you concerning all the regulations and instructions regarding the temple of the LORD. Give attention to the entrance to the temple and all the exits of the sanctuary.

Note: Jesus said “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.” (John 14:6) He also said, “I am the gate for the sheep. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come and out, and find pasture.” (John 10:9)

We’ll stop here. I love my Lord. He’s so filling, and fascinating.