

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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Jonah 1 Part 2



We saw yesterday how the thought is that the author of this book, probably Jonah himself, reflected the saga of the nation of Israel in the story of Jonah. Like Jonah, Israel was called to special mission---to be a conduit of God’s will and love to the nations. Like Israel, Jonah tried to run away from that mission. He thought by going to the “land of Tarshish,” he could get away from God.

Like Israel, Jonah was going to face a “death”---was going into the pit of despair in his “burial” in the belly of the great fish, and going to suffer the worst. But like Israel, Jonah was going to be renewed, restored, and literally, resurrected.

Again, the parallels to Jesus’ story are amazing.

So let’s join Jonah in His spiritual journey.

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

Jonah 1
New International Version

Jonah Flees From the LORD

1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: ² “Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

So Nineveh was indeed a great city. Here’s other comments about it in the book.

Jonah 3:2-3	Jonah 4:11	
<p>² “Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you.”³ Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it.</p>	<p>¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?”</p>	<p>So archaeological examination indicate that the later imperial city was about 8 miles around. The thought is that area Jonah preached to was the 4-city complex of Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah and Resen. These are mentioned in the scripture below and are known as “Greater Nineveh.”</p>
<p>Genesis 10:11-12</p> <p>¹¹ From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, (or Nineveh with its city squares) Calah ¹² and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah—which is the great city.</p>		

According to the verse above, Nimrod first built Nineveh.

Genesis 10 (expanded quote)

⁸ Cush was the father^(c) of Nimrod, who became a mighty warrior on the earth. ⁹ He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, “Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter

before the LORD.” ¹⁰ The first centers of his kingdom were Babylon, Uruk, Akkad and Kalneh, in ^(e) Shinar. ¹¹ From that land he went to Assyria, where he built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, ^(f) Calah ¹² and Resen, which is between Nineveh and Calah—which is the great city.

Here is the more literal CLV:

^{CLV} Gn 10:8 - Gn 10:9

8 ⁺ Cush begot [»] Nimrod. He [/] started to become a master in the earth;

9 he [/] ^b was a master hunter before Yahweh. Therefore it is [|] said, Like Nimrod, the master hunter before Yahweh.

The word for master is:

H1368 gibbowr ghib-bore'

or (shortened) gibbor {ghib-bore'};

intensive from the same as **H1397**; powerful; by implication, warrior, tyrant.

He was a warrior. A tyrant, perhaps? The first leader on a power trip? To say he was a mighty hunter “before” the Lord is a reference to an attitude of hubris, defiance, self-grandeur, as being someone mighty and “to be reckoned” with “before the Lord.”

Some associate him with Sargon.²

This is from Wikipedia³:

² **Nimrod, Mighty Hunter and King - Who Was He? - TheTorah.com**

Nimrod’s depiction is based on Sargon. ^[19] Both Nimrod and Sargon began their reigns in Sumer/Shin’ar, building Akkad and Babylon and continuing north to Assyria. Both were credited with extraordinary prowess. Both were considered to be the first postdiluvians to wield royal power. Thus, Sargon is likely the figure behind Nimrod

³ **Nineveh - Wikipedia**

Nineveh (/ˈnɪnzɪvəl/; **Arabic:** نَيْنَوَى *Naynawā*; **Syriac:** ܢܝܢܘܐ, **romanized:** *Nīnwē* **Akkadian:** 𒂍𒍪𒍪𒍪 *URU.NI.NU.A Ninua*) was an ancient **Assyrian** city of **Upper Mesopotamia**, located on the outskirts of **Mosul** in modern-day northern **Iraq**. It is located on the eastern bank of the **Tigris** River and was the capital and largest city of the **Neo-Assyrian Empire**, as well as the **largest city in the world** for several decades. Today, it is a common name for the half of Mosul that lies on the eastern bank of the Tigris, and the country's **Nineveh Governorate** takes its name from it.

Apparently it was a great city. The Study Note says that Sennacherib made it the capital of Assyria about 700 BC, and it remained so until its fall in 612. It was over 500 miles from Jonah’s home town Gath Hepher.⁴ It was also 500 miles from Joppa, from which Jonah fled.

Like Sodom and Gomorrah, “it’s wickedness has come up.”

Genesis 18:20-21

Young's Literal Translation

²⁰ And Jehovah saith, `The cry of Sodom and Gomorrah -- because great; and their sin -- because exceeding grievous:

²¹ I go down now, and see whether according to its cry which is coming unto Me they have done completely -- and if not -- I know;'

Here are Scriptures in Nahum that speak to its sins.

Nahum 1:11	Nahum 2:12-13
<p>¹¹ From you, Nineveh, has one come forth who plots evil against the LORD and devises wicked plans.</p>	<p>¹² The lion killed enough for his cubs and strangled the prey for his mate, filling his lairs with the kill and his dens with the prey. ¹³ "I am against you," declares the LORD Almighty. "I will burn up your chariots in smoke,</p>

⁴ 2 Kings 14:25 - Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hepher (means "winepress of the pit). (This was located in the tribe of Zebulun, northeast of Nazareth.)

and the sword will devour your young lions. I will leave you no prey on the earth. The voices of your messengers will no longer be heard."

Nahum 3:1,3,4,10,16,19

3 Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims! . . .
3 Charging cavalry, flashing swords and glittering spears! Many casualties, piles of dead, bodies without number, people stumbling over the corpses—

The Assyrian king Shalmaneser III boasted of erecting a pyramid of chopped-off heads in front of an enemy's city. Other Assyrian kings stacked corpses like cordwood by the gates of defeated cities. Assyrians were noted for their ruthlessness, brutality, and terrible atrocities.

4 all because of the wanton lust of a prostitute, alluring, the mistress of sorceries, who enslaved nations by her prostitution and peoples by her witchcraft. . .

10 Yet she was taken captive and went into exile. Her infants were dashed to pieces at every street corner.

Psalm 137:9	Isaiah 13:16	Hosea 13:16
9 Happy is the one who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks.	16 Their infants will be dashed to pieces before their eyes; their houses will be looted and their wives violated.	16 The people of Samaria must bear their guilt, because they have rebelled against their God. They will fall by the sword; their little ones will be dashed to the ground, their pregnant women ripped open."

Lots were cast for her nobles, and all her great men were put in chains. . .

16 You have increased the number of your merchants till they are more numerous than the stars in the sky, but like locusts they strip the land and then fly away.

19 Nothing can heal you; your wound is fatal. All who hear the news about you clap their hands at your fall, for who has not felt

Nineveh was brutal, and in trouble. It's cry came up to God.

Do the atrocities we commit come up to God? I bet they do!