

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*

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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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Micah Introduction²



Today we begin the book of Micah, and as my tradition has been, I’ll begin with the NIV Study Bible Introduction to this book. Little is known about the prophet Micah. There is a Scriptural reference to Him in Jeremiah which we’ll look at today. He was from the town of Moresheth, which is probably the town of Moresheth Gath in southern Judah. His writings show a deep sensitivity to the social ills of his day, especially as affected small towns and villages in Israel. I know very little about this book, so I’m looking forward to learning more. 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.)

Let's first look at the way he is referenced in the book of Jeremiah.

Here's the back story on that. Jeremiah delivered a word from the Lord that the people should repent and turn from their evil ways. If they didn't, God would make the Temple "like Shiloh" (which means it would be destroyed) and the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed and deserted. The priests and the prophets were so angry by this prophecy they wanted the officials of Judah to sentence him to death. But some of the elders of the land stepped forward and said the following.

Jeremiah 26:18 New International Version

¹⁸ "Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says:

"Zion will be plowed like a field,
Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble,
the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.'

Hezekiah responded to this. He feared the Lord, and sought His favor.³ What's really fascinating about this is that this is the only place in the Old Testament where one prophet quotes another and identifies his source.

Micah prophesied sometime between 750 and 686 BC during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

Micah 1:1

New International Version

1 The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah—the vision he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

He was a contemporary of Isaiah and Hosea.

³ Jeremiah 26: ¹⁹ "Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else in Judah put him to death? Did not Hezekiah fear the LORD and seek his favor? Literally, "seek His favor" is "stroke His face."

Isaiah 1:1	Hosea 1:1
<p>1 The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.</p>	<p>1 The word of the LORD that came to Hosea son of Beeri during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah, and during the reign of Jeroboam son of Jehoash^[a] king of Israel</p>

He predicted the fall of Samaria, which occurred 722-721.

Micah 1:6

New International Version

⁶“Therefore I will make Samaria a heap of rubble,
a place for planting vineyards.
I will pour her stones into the valley
and lay bare her foundations.

This would place is early ministry in the overlapping reigns of Jotham (750-732) and Ahaz (735-715). Micah’s message reflects social conditions prior to the religious reforms under Hezekiah (715-686). Micah’s ministry most likely feel within the period of 735-700.

Scholars believe that Jeremiah quoted Micah in his book circa 608. So they propose three possible dates for the actual writing down of this prophecy. This is insightful, because it shows the various possibilities of how a prophet’s work might be written down.

1. Micah himself wrote the words down

If that’s the case, the NIV study bible feels the book would have been written circa 700.

2. One of his disciples arranged his messages in their present form.

That would make the date early in the 7th century A.D.

3. A later editor collected and arranged the messages.

The date would still need to be early enough to allow time for his prophecy of Jerusalem's fall to become familiar enough to be quoted in Jeremiah 26:18.

Historical Background

The background of the book is the same as the earlier portions of Isaiah.

Here are some select glimpses from relevant Biblical Texts

2 Kings 15:32 – 20:21	2Ch 27-32	Isaiah 7, 20, 36-39
<p>³² In the second year of Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel, Jotham son of Uzziah king of Judah began to reign. . . ³⁴ He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. . . 16 In the seventeenth year of Pekah son of Remaliah, Ahaz son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign. . . ³ He followed the ways of the kings of Israel . . . ¹⁷ King Ahaz cut off the side panels and removed the basins from the movable stands. He removed the Sea from the bronze bulls that supported it and set it on a stone base. ¹⁸ He took away the Sabbath canopy^(b) that had been built at the temple and removed the royal entryway outside the temple of the LORD, in deference to the king of Assyria. . . 17 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah,</p>	<p>27 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. His mother's name was Jerusha daughter of Zadok. ² He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah had done, but unlike him he did not enter the temple of the LORD. . . ³ Jotham rebuilt . . . 28 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem sixteen years. Unlike David his father, he did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD. . . the LORD his God delivered him into the hands of the king of Aram. . . He was also given into the hands of the king of Israel, who inflicted heavy casualties on him. ⁶ In one</p>	<p>7 When Ahaz son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, was king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and Pekah son of Remaliah king of Israel marched up to fight against Jerusalem, but they could not overpower it. . . ¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you^(c) a sign: The virgin^(d) will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him</p>

<p>Hoshea son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years. ² He did evil in the eyes of the LORD. . . ⁵ The king of Assyria invaded the entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years. ⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. . . 18 In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. ² He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah^[e] daughter of Zechariah. ³ He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD . . .</p>	<p>day Pekah son of Remaliah killed a hundred and twenty thousand soldiers in Judah—because Judah had forsaken the LORD, the God of their ancestors. . . ²² In his time of trouble King Ahaz became even more unfaithful to the LORD. ²³ He offered sacrifices to the gods of Damascus, who had defeated him. . . He shut the doors of the LORD's temple and set up altars at every street corner in Jerusalem. . .</p> <p>9 Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. ² He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done.</p>	<p>Immanuel. . . 20 In the year that the supreme commander, sent by Sargon king of Assyria, came to Ashdod and attacked and captured it— ² at that time the LORD spoke through Isaiah son of Amoz. He said to him, "Take off the sackcloth from your body and the sandals from your feet." And he did so, going around stripped and barefoot. . . Isaiah 36 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. . . 37 When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the temple of the LORD. . . 38 In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. . . 9 At that time Marduk-Baladan son of Baladan king of Babylon sent Hezekiah letters and a gift ² Hezekiah received the envoys gladly and showed them what was in his storehouses—the silver, the gold, the spices, the fine olive oil—his entire armory and everything found among his treasures.</p>
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It's an exciting time. We'll describe it more next time.