

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER<sup>1</sup> 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)**

<sup>27</sup>To 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  
**graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER**

**Micah Introduction Part 2<sup>2</sup>**



**So today, I’ll continue to do the introduction section of the NIV Study Bible as I prepare to read this book. At first, I was not looking forward to getting into the complexities of understanding Israel’s historical backdrop, and then the references Micah would be making. but I was wrong and probably being a bit spiritually lazy. It’s amazing to understand God’s words, no matter when they were given and no matter what you’ve got to do to understand them. To see how the Creator of all the Universe thinks! What could be more amazing than that? Let’s dig in deeper!**

<sup>1</sup> **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

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

**Yesterday, we looked at selected glimpses from relevant Biblical Texts.**

<b>2 Kings 15:32 – 20:21</b>	<b>2Ch 27-32</b>	<b>Isaiah 7, 20, 36-39</b>
<p><sup>32</sup> . . . Jotham son of Uzziah king of Judah began to reign. . . <sup>34</sup> He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. . . <b>16</b> In the seventeenth year of Pekah son of Remaliah, Ahaz son of Jotham king of Judah began to reign. . . <sup>3</sup> He followed the ways of the kings of Israel . . . <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> He took away the Sabbath canopy 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. . .</p> <p><b>Note: He started revising the way God said to worship. Streamlining it in some cases, altering it in “deference” to the king of a pagan nation! Interesting.</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 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. <sup>2</sup> He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD. . .but unlike him he did not enter the temple of the LORD. . .</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Jotham rebuilt . . .</p> <p><b>28</b> 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. . .</p> <p><b>9</b> 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. <sup>2</sup> He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done.</p>	<p><b>7</b> 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. . . <sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”</p> <p><sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”</p> <p><sup>13</sup> 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? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you<sup>[c]</sup> a sign: The virgin<sup>[d]</sup> will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. . . <b>20</b> In the year that the supreme commander, sent by Sargon king of Assyria, came to Ashdod and attacked and</p>

<p><b>17</b> Hoshea son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years. <sup>2</sup> He did evil in the eyes of the LORD. . . <sup>5</sup> The king of Assyria. . . the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. . . <b>18</b> In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. <sup>2</sup> He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah<sup>(e)</sup> daughter of Zechariah. <sup>3</sup> He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD . . .</p>		<p>captured it— <sup>2</sup> 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 <b>36</b> In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. . . <b>37</b> When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and went into the temple of the LORD. . . <b>38</b> In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. . . <b>9</b> At that time Marduk-Baladan son of Baladan king of Babylon sent Hezekiah letters and a gift <sup>2</sup> 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. This just reiterates the setting. Here's how the NIV comments on it.**

"Israel was in an apostate condition. Micah predicted the fall of her capital, Samaria.

<b>Micah 1:5-7</b>	<b>Micah 1:9-16</b>
<p><sup>5</sup> All this is because of Jacob's transgression, because of the sins of the people of Israel. What is Jacob's transgression? Is it not Samaria? What is Judah's high place? Is it not Jerusalem?</p> <p><sup>6</sup> "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.</p> <p><sup>7</sup> All her idols will be broken to pieces; all her temple gifts will be burned with fire; I will destroy all her images. Since she gathered her gifts from the wages of prostitutes, as the wages of prostitutes they will again be used."</p>	<p><sup>9</sup> For Samaria's plague is incurable; it has spread to Judah. It has reached the very gate of my people, even to Jerusalem itself.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> Tell it not in Gath; weep not at all. In Beth Ophrah roll in the dust.</p> <p><sup>11</sup> Pass by naked and in shame, you who live in Shaphir. Those who live in Zaanan will not come out. Beth Ezel is in mourning; it no longer protects you.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> Those who live in Maroth writhe in pain, waiting for relief, because disaster has come from the LORD, even to the gate of Jerusalem.</p> <p><sup>13</sup> You who live in Lachish, harness fast horses to the chariot. You are where the sin of Daughter Zion began, for the transgressions of Israel were found in you.</p> <p><sup>14</sup> Therefore you will give parting gifts to Moresheth Gath. The town of Akzib will prove deceptive to the kings of Israel.</p> <p><sup>15</sup> I will bring a conqueror against you who live in Mareshah. The nobles of Israel will flee to Adullam.</p> <p><sup>16</sup> Shave your head in mourning for the children in whom you delight; make yourself as bald as the vulture, for they will go from you into exile.</p>

Several significant historical events took place during this period.

(1) In 734-732 BC Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria led a military campaign against Aram (Syria), Philistia and parts of Israel and Judah. Askelon and Gaza were defeated. Judah, Ammon, Edom and Moab paid tribute to the

Assyrian king, but Israel did not fare as well. According to 2 Kings 15:29, the northern Kingdom lost most of its territory, including all of Gilead and much of Galilee.

Damascus fell in 732 and was annexed to the Assyrian Empire. A history from Wikipedia is shared in the text box.<sup>3</sup>

## 2 Kings 15:29 New International Version

<sup>29</sup> In the time of Pekah king of Israel, Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria came and took Ijon, Abel Beth Maakah, Janoah, Kedesh and Hazor. He took Gilead and Galilee, including all the land of Naphtali, and deported the people to Assyria.

(2) In 722-721 Samaria fell, and the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by Assyria.

(3) In 711 King Sargon II of Assyria captured Ashdod.

## Isaiah 20:1 New International Version

**20** In the year that the supreme commander, sent by Sargon king of Assyria, came to Ashdod and attacked and captured it—

(4) In 701 Judah joined a revolt against Assyria and was overrun by King Sennacherib and his army, though Jerusalem was spared.

**Next time: We'll study the NIV's literary analysis.**

Tiglath-Pileser III (Neo-Assyrian cuneiform: 𐎲𐎠𐎧𐎺𐎠 Tukultī-apil-Ešarra, meaning "my trust is in the son of the Ešarra"; Hebrew: תִּגְלַת פִּלְאֶסֶר Tīglat Pīl'ēser) was a prominent king of Assyria in the eighth century BCE (ruled 745–727 BCE) who introduced advanced civil, military, and political systems into the Neo-Assyrian Empire.

He made sweeping changes to the Assyrian government, considerably improving its efficiency and security. He created Assyria's first professional standing army.

Tiglath-Pileser III subjugated much of the Near East region; to the south, his fellow Mesopotamians in Babylonia and Chaldea, and further south still, the Arabs, Magan, Meluhha, and Dilmunites of the Arabian Peninsula. In the south west, Israel, Judah, Philistia, Samarra, Moab, Edom, the Suteans and Nabatea fell. To the north, Urartu, Armenia and Scythia in the Caucasus Mountains, Cimmeria by the Black Sea, and Nairi were subjugated, and in the north west much of eastern and south western Asia Minor, including the Hittites, Phrygia, Cilicia, Commagene, Tabal, Corduene and Caria. In the west, the Greeks of Cyprus and Aram (modern Syria), and the Mediterranean city-states of Phoenicia/Canan were subjugated. To the east he subjugated Persia, Media, Gutium, Mannea, Cissia and Elam. Later in his reign he was crowned king in Babylonia. Tiglath-Pileser III discouraged revolts against Assyrian rule with the use of deportations of thousands of people all over the empire. He is one of the most successful military commanders in world history, conquering most of the world known to the Assyrians before his death.



<sup>3</sup> [Tiglath-Pileser III - Wikipedia](#)

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