

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 Introduction Part 3²

So Jesus spoke through the prophet Micah. And it was important to Him to speak to this nation, out of which He eventually was going to be born! What did He have to say? What was so frustrating to Him about them? The NIV Study Bible says “Israel was in an apostate condition.” Micah predicted their eventual fall of Samaria, and desolation of Jerusalem. How does all this speak to us as Christians? That’s what I want to know. There’s more to this “reward” thing than we might realize. And we maybe can learn something from this book and God’s words in it.

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

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.)

So Micah predicted the fall of Israel's capital, Samaria.

Micah 1:5-7 New International Version

⁵ 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?

God always gets to the root of the problem.

What is Judah's high place? Is it not Jerusalem?

So here Judah is being spoken of as a high place. God did not like people to have personal and private "high places." God wanted shared and centralized and corporate spirituality.

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.

⁷ 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."

Cheating on God was considered spiritual prostitution.

The inevitable desolation of Judah was also foretold.

Micah 1:9-16 New International Version

⁹ For Samaria's plague is incurable; it has spread to Judah.

It has reached the very gate of my people, even to Jerusalem itself.

Samaria's sin of religious "modification" to fit their preferred lifestyle and "preferences" of what could be right and wrong was not something God liked, and he called it an incurable plague.

¹⁰ Tell it not in Gath; **(the word means to tell)**

weep not at all.

In Beth Ophrah **(the phrase means "House of Dust")**

roll in the dust.

¹¹ Pass by naked and in shame,

you who live in Shaphir. **(Shaphir means pleasant.)**

Those who live in Zaanan **(the word for this sounds like the word for “come out.”)**
will not come out.

Beth Ezel is in mourning;
it no longer protects you.

¹² Those who live in Maroth writhe in pain, **(Maroth sounds like the Hebrew for conqueror)** waiting for relief,
because disaster has come from the LORD, even to the gate of Jerusalem.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ Therefore you will give parting gifts
to Moresheth Gath.

The town of Akzib will prove deceptive **(Akzib means deception)**
to the kings of Israel.

¹⁵ I will bring a conqueror against you
who live in Mareshah. **(Mareshah sounds like the Hebrew for conqueror)**

The nobles of Israel
will flee to Adullam.

¹⁶ 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.

I’ve already covered what happened historically during this time. But I’ll copy it here.

(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.³

(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.

Literary Structure

There is a wonderful article on the web about appreciating the use of literary structure in the Bible to enhance both our understanding of it and enjoyment of it.

Here's a snippet from it.⁴

Artistry is an important part of the literary nature of the Bible.

God did not neglect beauty when he created the world, and he did not neglect it when he superintended the composition of the Bible. The literary parts of the Bible are replete with artistry, and to pay attention to it and unfold it through analysis is an important part of a literary approach to the Bible. Doing so can add a whole new dimension and level of enjoyment to our reading and study of the Bible. Additionally, we need to operate on the premise that biblical authors regarded everything that they put into their works as important and worthy of our attention, including artistic aspects.

God, indeed, did not neglect beauty when he created the world.

Even when He built his temple, He included things of beauty.

1. Exodus 28:2

Make holy garments for your brother Aaron, for glory and **beauty**.

³ [Tiglath-Pileser III - Wikipedia](#)

Photo Credit: Public Domain, Link

⁴ [10 Things You Should Know about the Bible as Literature | Crossway Articles](#)

2. **Exodus 28:40**

Make tunics, sashes, and headbands for Aaron's sons to give them glory and **beauty**.

3. **2 Chronicles 3:6**

He adorned the temple with precious stones for **beauty**, and the gold was the gold of Parvaim.

The word for beauty:

H8597 tiph'arah tif-aw-raw'

or tiphereth {tif-eh'-reth};

ornament (abstractly or concretely, literally or figuratively).

from **H6286** - to gleam, i.e. (causatively) embellish; figuratively, to boast; also to explain (i.e. make clear) oneself; denominative from **H6288**, to shake a tree.

Psalm 45:1

Psalm 45

A Royal Wedding Song

For the choir director: according to "The Lilies." A Maskil of the sons of Korah. A love song.

My heart is moved by a noble theme as I recite my verses to the king; my **tongue** is the **pen** of a skillful writer.

Perhaps that's the thought that was in Micah's head when he wrote this book. It certainly must have been in God's.