

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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Micah 1 Part 1²



So it is time to begin our study of this book. We will begin with chapter 1, where Micah introduces himself, and describes opening comments from God.

He speaks poetically and vigorously. He uses plays on words, and gets straight to the point. One thing that stood out to me in a “pre-read” of this is that he gets to the “roots” of where the nation began to sin. It’s a fascinating read, with lots of Jesus sightings. Enjoy!

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

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Micah 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.

With regard to the phrase, “the word of the LORD,” this is seen as a claim of authority. It parallels the following prophets:

Jeremiah 1:2,4 - ² The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah. . . ⁴ The word of the LORD came to me, saying,
Ezekiel 1:3 - ² The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah . . .
Joel 1:1 - The word of the LORD that came to Joel son of Pethuel.
Jonah 1:1, 3:1 - The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai . . . 3 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time . . .
Hosea 1:1 - 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 king of Israel . . .
Zephaniah 1:1 - The word of the LORD that came to Zephaniah son of Cushi, the son of Gedaliah, the son of Amariah, the son of Hezekiah, during the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah
Haggai 1:1,3, 2:1, 10, 20 1 In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through ³ the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, ^[a] the high priest . . . 2 ¹ on the twenty-first day of the seventh month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai . . . ¹⁰ On the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Haggai. . . ²⁰ The word of the LORD came to Haggai a second time on the twenty-fourth day of the month
Zechariah 1:1,7,9; 12:1 - 1 In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo. . . ⁷ On the twenty-fourth day of the eleventh month, the month of Shebat, in the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo. . . 9 A prophecy: The word of the LORD is against the land of Hadrak and will come to rest on Damascus—for the eyes of all people and all the tribes of Israel are on the LORD . . . 12 A prophecy: The word of the LORD concerning Israel. The LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the human spirit within a person, declares. . .
Malachi 1:1 - 1 A prophecy: The word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi

It would be fun to study what their names meant. My favorite was where it says the “word of the LORD” came “by the hand” of someone.

³ Literally, “by the hand of.”

Micah’s name means “Who Is Like the LORD.” He makes a lot of puns in this work, and perhaps he does so in this verse.

Micah 7:18
<p>¹⁸ Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy.</p>

We’ve already looked at the historical background with these kings that are mentioned (Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah).

Jotham – 2 Kings 15:34	Ahaz – 2 Kings 16:2	Hezekiah – 2 Kings 18:5
<p>³⁴ He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father Uzziah had done.</p>	<p>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 his God.</p>	<p>Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him.</p>

Isaiah, Micah and Hosea prophesied at roughly the same time.

Isaiah 1:1	Hosea 1:1	Micah 1:1
<p>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>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>	<p>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.</p>

It speaks specifically of “the vision” he saw, as it does in Isaiah as well.

Isaiah 1:1	Micah 1:1
The vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem that Isaiah son of Amoz saw	The word of the LORD that came to Micah of Moresheth . . . the vision he saw concerning Samaria and Jerusalem.

Let’s look up “word” and “vision.”

Word	Vision
H1697 dabar daw-baw' from H1696 - perhaps properly, to arrange; but used figuratively (of words), to speak; rarely (in a destructive sense) to subdue a word; by implication, a matter (as spoken of) or thing; adverbially, a cause.	H2377 chazown khaw-zone' from H2372 - to gaze at; mentally, to perceive, contemplate (with pleasure); specifically, to have a vision of. a sight (mentally), i.e. a dream, revelation, or oracle.

Jerusalem was the focus of Isaiah’s prophecy. Samaria and Jerusalem, both respective capitals of their nations (Israel, Judah) were the focus of Micah. However the judgment predicted was for the whole nation in Micah, not just their capital cities.

Here’s a little extra background on Samaria.

1 Kings 16:23-25

New International Version

²³ In the thirty-first year of Asa king of Judah, Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned twelve years, six of them in Tirzah. ²⁴ He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents^[a] of silver and built a city on the hill, calling it Samaria, after Shemer, the name of the former owner of the hill.

²⁵ But Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD and sinned more than all those before him.

There is an interesting backstory on Samaria. It was seven miles northwest of Shechem. It rose 300 feet above the surrounding fertile valleys. These valleys were referred to as a “wreath” in Isaiah 28:1.

Isaiah 28:1

28 Woe to that wreath, the pride of Ephraim’s drunkards,
to the fading flower, his glorious beauty,
set on the head of a fertile valley—
to that city, the pride of those laid low by wine!

It apparently was a beautiful city on a prominent hill. The site provided an ideal location for a nearly impregnable capital city. It could only be captured by siege.

2 Kings 18:9-10

⁹ In King Hezekiah’s fourth year, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Shalmaneser king of Assyria marched against Samaria and laid siege to it. ¹⁰ At the end of three years the Assyrians took it. So Samaria was captured in Hezekiah’s sixth year, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel.

I’ll pick up with a little review of its history tomorrow.