

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 2²



Micah’s vision is for Jerusalem and for Samaria. I’ve never done an in depth Bible study on Samaria, so I wanted to explore it more thoroughly. From what I can tell, they had a “form” of God’s original religion, but they modified it to conform to preferred cultural expressions. It was a “copy” of the true worship, but a “knock off.” And it had limitations. Christ told the Samaritan woman that “we (the Jews) worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.” (John 4:22) What exactly did happen in Samaria, and how does it speak to us today? Let’s study that.

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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.)

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.

Using the notes from this Scripture in the NIV Study Bible as a base, I'd like to see what I can learn about Samaria and Samaritan religion. I'll back track a bit and pick up where we left off.

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 of silver (**about 150 pounds**) 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.

This 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. 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.

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! **Isaiah 28:1**

The NIV speculates that the original owner may have been persuaded to sell his property on the condition that the city be named after him. Retaining a family's historical inheritance was a big deal in Israel.

1 Kings 16:25	1 Kings 21:3	Ruth 4:5
²⁴ He bought the hill of Samaria from Shemer for two talents of silver and	³ But Naboth replied, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the	⁵ Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire

<p>built a city on the hill, calling it Samaria, after Shemer, the name of the former owner of the hill.</p>	<p>inheritance of my ancestors.”</p>	<p>Ruth the Moabite, the dead man’s widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.”</p>
<p>Deuteronomy 25:5-6</p>		
<p>⁵ If brothers are living together and one of them dies without a son, his widow must not marry outside the family. Her husband’s brother shall take her and marry her and fulfill the duty of a brother-in-law to her. ⁶ The first son she bears shall carry on the name of the dead brother so that his name will not be blotted out from Israel. . .</p>		

That, by the way, was the reason for the Levirate law above.

Back to Samaria, the hill of Samaria provided an ideal location for a nearly impregnable capital city for the northern kingdom.

Here’s a brief historical article in Wikipedia.³



³ [Shechem - Wikipedia](#)

Kingdom of Israel]

Israelite Shomron (lit. "watch-tower"; also written "Shomeron") was located in the heart of the mountains of **Samaria**, a few miles northwest of **Shechem**. The ruins of the Israelite town, as well the ruins of towns built at this same location later in history, are all adjacent or within the modern **Palestinian** town of **Sebastia**.^[citation needed] The earliest reference to a settlement at this location may be the town of Shamir, which according to the Hebrew Bible was the home of the judge Tola in the 12th century BC (**Judges 10:1–2**).

The "hill of Shomron" is an oblong hill, with steep but not inaccessible sides, and a long flat top. According to the Bible, **Omri**, the king of the northern kingdom of **Israel** (reigned c. 870s BC), purchased this hill from **Shemer** its owner for two **talents** of silver, and built on its broad summit the city to which he gave the name of "Shomron", i.e., Samaria, as the new capital of his kingdom instead of **Tirzah** (**1 Kings 16:24**). As such it possessed many advantages. Omri resided here during the last six years of his reign.^[citation needed]

Omri is thought to have granted the Arameans the right to "make streets in Samaria" as a sign of submission (**1 Kings 20:34**).

This probably meant permission was granted to the **Aramean** merchants to carry on their trade in the city. This would imply the existence of a considerable Aramean population.

It was the only great city of Israel created by the sovereign. All the others had been already consecrated by patriarchal tradition or previous possession. But Samaria was the choice of Omri alone. He, indeed, gave to the city which he had built the name of its former owner, but its especial connection with himself as its founder is proved by the designation which it seems Samaria bears in Assyrian inscriptions, "Beth-Khumri" ("the house or palace of Omri"). (Stanley)

The city was the target of several takeover attempts that failed.

Judges 10:1-2 NIV

10 After the time of Abimelek, a man of Issachar named Tola son of Puah, the son of Dodo, rose to save Israel. He lived in Shamir, in the hill country of Ephraim. 2 He led[judged] Israel twenty-three years; then he died, and was buried in Shamir.

Word for JUDGED

H8199 shaphat shaw-fat'to judge, i.e. pronounce sentence (for or against); by implication, to vindicate or punish; by extension, to govern; passively, to litigate (literally or figuratively).

1 Kings 20:34NIV

34 "I will return the cities my father took from your father," Ben-Hadad offered. "You may set up your own market areas in Damascus, as my father did in Samaria." Literally: and then thou can make streets of *commerce, or for trading,*

1 Kings 20	2 Kings 16:25	2 Kings 18:9-10
<p>Now Ben-Hadad king of Aram mustered his entire army. Accompanied by thirty-two kings with their horses and chariots, he went up and besieged Samaria and attacked it. . . . ¹³ Meanwhile a prophet came to Ahab king of Israel and announced, "This is what the LORD says:</p>	<p>²⁵ There was a great famine in the city; the siege lasted so long that a donkey's head sold for eighty shekels^[a] of silver, and a quarter of a cab^[b] of seed pods^[c] for five shekels.^[d]</p> <p>Footnotes</p> <p>a. 2 Kings 6:25 That is,</p>	<p>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,</p>

<p>'Do you see this vast army? I will give it into your hand today, and then you will know that I am the LORD.'" . . .²⁸ The man of God came up and told the king of Israel, "This is what the LORD says: 'Because the Arameans think the LORD is a god of the hills and not a god of the valleys, I will deliver this vast army into your hands, and you will know that I am the LORD.'" . . .²⁹ For seven days they camped opposite each other, and on the seventh day the battle was joined. The Israelites inflicted a hundred thousand casualties on the Aramean foot soldiers in one day.</p>	<p>about 2 pounds or about 920 grams</p> <p>b. 2 Kings 6:25 That is, probably about 1/4 pound or about 100 grams</p> <p>c. 2 Kings 6:25 Or of <i>doves' dung</i></p> <p>d. 2 Kings 6:25 That is, about 2 ounces or about 58 grams</p>	<p>which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel.</p>
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We'll pick up on this theme tomorrow.