

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 5²



Let’s move into the contents of Micah 1. He’s poetic, he’s prophetic, he’s passionate, and he even has the skill of a speaker---or at least, a writer that writes like a speaker would speak.

What I’m going to look for here is how God goes to “court,” so to speak, in the opening chapters. And I’m going to pay close attention to what He says is the “root” of the sinful behavior He so wants to eliminate from His people. Bad roots mean bad fruits. Enjoy the study.

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.)

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.

2 Hear, you peoples, all of you, listen, earth and all who live in it, that the Sovereign LORD may bear witness against you, the Lord from his holy temple.

So here’s what the NIV study Bible says. This is a “divine covenant lawsuit.” A “theophany” is included. That word is easy to figure out. “Theos” means God in Greek, and “phany” is from the word “phanerisis” (I think) which basically means to “manifest, or appear.”

So there will be a theophany (as shown here):

3 Look! The LORD is coming from his dwelling place; he comes down and treads on the heights of the earth.

“The Lord is coming” is an OT expression of God’s intervention in history.

Ps 18:9	Ps 96:13	Ps 144:5	Isa 26:21	Isa 31:4	Is 64:1-3
⁹ He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet.	¹³ Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness.	⁵ Part your heavens, LORD, and come down; touch the mountains, so that they smoke.	²¹ See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed on it; the earth will conceal its slain no longer.	⁴ This is what the LORD says to me: “As a lion growls, a great lion over its prey—and though a whole band of shepherds is called together against it, it is not frightened by their shouts or disturbed by their clamor—so the LORD Almighty will come down to do battle on Mount Zion and on its heights.	Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ² As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! ³ For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

One thing I find intriguing is that when God comes down, the “elements” seem to “melt,” to dematerialize. God’s Presence as manifested in His creaturely dimension causes the unraveling of His creation. But with Christ dwelling in us, that is not so much an unraveling as it is a purgation and illumination.

Matthew 3:11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit** and **fire**.

Luke 3:16 John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit** and **fire**.

Hebrews 12:29 for our “God is a consuming fire.”

Zechariah 13:9 This third I will put into the **fire**; I will refine them like silver and test them like **gold**.

1 Peter 1:7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than **gold**, which perishes even though refined by **fire**—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

So God’s Presence purifies us, and leads us to illumination. Look at what happens when God descends on the earth.

¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. . . 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight. . . Colossians 1

⁴ The mountains melt beneath him and the valleys split apart, like wax before the fire, like water rushing down a slope. **God (specifically, Christ) holds all things together, gives them mass. Colossians 1 says: “17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”**

6 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. 17 Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. Exodus 19

When He comes down, creation begins to unravel--- unless He gives it the ability to sustain His presence, as He does through our redemption in Christ.

So God was coming down. The earth was going to unravel. Mountains would “melt.” ³

Why was this going to happen? What was going on?

³ Hebrew “to liquefy; figuratively, to waste.”

⁵ All this is because of Jacob's transgression,
because of the sins of the people of Israel.

Micah uses the names Jacob and Israel alternatively. And in this book, although Israel primarily refers to the Northern Kingdom, Micah uses the name for all the covenant people----that is, the people with whom God made the covenant.

Micah 3:1	Micah 3:8-9	Micah 5:1-2	Micah 5:3	Micah 6:2
<p>Then I said, "Listen, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel. Should you not embrace justice,</p>	<p>⁸ But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin. ⁹ Hear this, you leaders of Jacob, you rulers of Israel, who despise justice and distort all that is right; ¹⁰ who build Zion with bloodshed, and Jerusalem with wickedness.</p>	<p>Marshal your troops now, city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod. ² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans^(b) of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."</p>	<p>³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.</p>	<p>² "Hear, you mountains, the LORD's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel. . . ⁴ I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam.</p>

The prophet then asks:

What is Jacob's transgression?

Is it not Samaria?

What is Judah's high place?

Is it not Jerusalem?

A "high place" was a pagan center of idolatry. Why is He calling Jerusalem an "high place," a "pagan center of idolatry?" We'll look into that next time.