

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 7²



So Jerusalem had become just another “high place” in God’s eyes, where people worshipped as they saw fit as opposed to how God prescribed worship.

Somehow they had taken God’s pure religion, which was centralized, under the direction of the Levitical priests, and centered in Jerusalem---and turned it into their own personal “high place,” adapted to their perceived needs and preferred culture. God was obviously opposed to that. What was going to happen as a result?

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

What is Jacob's transgression?

Is it not Samaria?

What is Judah's high place?

Is it not Jerusalem?

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.

Samaria was destroyed 722-721 BC.

1 Kings 14:15	2 Kings 17:6	Note
¹⁵ And the LORD will strike Israel, so that it will be like a reed swaying in the water. He will uproot Israel from this good land that he gave to their ancestors and scatter them beyond the Euphrates River, because they aroused the LORD's anger by making Asherah poles.	⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria. He settled them in Halah, in Gozan on the Habor River and in the towns of the Medes.	In the winter (December) of 722-721 BC, Shalmaneser V died (possibly from assassination) and the Assyrian throne was seized by Sargon II (721 – 705 BC). In his annals Sargon lays claim to the capture of Samaria at the beginning of his reign.
This had been prophesied long before it happened.	In his annals Sargon II claims to have deported 27, 290 Israelites. He then settled captive peoples into the deserted towns.	

This is just a brief summary of what happened to them. The Israelites lost a great deal by their apostasy. Look at what else God said would happen.

⁷ All her idols will be broken to pieces;
all her temple gifts will be burned with fire;
I will destroy all her images.

Christ is the image of God. God commanded Israel to not make an image intended to resemble Him in the Ten Commandments.

2 Corinthians 4:4NIV⁴ **The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.**

Exodus 20:4-5

New International Version

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

Further, in Deuteronomy 4:15-18, this was commanded:

Deuteronomy 4:15-18

New International Version

¹⁵ You saw no form of any kind the day the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the fire. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully, ¹⁶ so that you do not become corrupt and make for yourselves an idol, an image of any shape, whether formed like a man or a woman, ¹⁷ or like any animal on earth or any bird that flies in the air, ¹⁸ or like any creature that moves along the ground or any fish in the waters below.

On the flip side, Christ is the image of God. And so are you and I!

Since she gathered her gifts from the wages of prostitutes, as the wages of prostitutes they will again be used.”

Genesis 1:26-27
New International Version

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule . . .
²⁷ So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

Prostitution is often an OT symbol for idolatry or spiritual unfaithfulness.

Exodus 34:15	Judges 2:17	Eze 23:29-30
¹⁵ “Be careful not to make a treaty with those who live in the land; for when they prostitute themselves to their gods and sacrifice to them, they will invite you and you will eat their	⁷ Yet they would not listen to their judges but prostituted themselves to other gods and worshiped them. They quickly turned from the ways of their ancestors, who had	²⁹ They will deal with you in hatred and take away everything you have worked for. They will leave you stark naked, and the shame of your prostitution will be exposed. Your

sacrifices.	been obedient to the LORD's commands.	lewdness and promiscuity ³⁰ have brought this on you, because you lusted after the nations and defiled yourself with their idols.
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as the wages of prostitutes they will again be used."

The NIV says this. "The wealth that Samaria had gained from their idolatry will be taken by the Assyrians and placed in their own temples, to be used again in the worship of idols."

So look at his reactions.

Weeping and Mourning

⁸ Because of this I will weep and wail;
I will go about barefoot and naked.

It is possible that Micah walked stripped and barefoot through Jerusalem. He may have worn only a loin cloth.

I will howl like a jackal
and moan like an owl.

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.

¹⁰ Tell it not in Gath^[a];
weep not at all.

In Beth Ophrah^[b] roll in the dust.

¹¹ Pass by naked and in shame,
you who live in Shaphir.^[c]

Those who live in Zaanan^[d] will not come out.

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

¹² Those who live in Maroth^[e] writhe in pain,
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.

Isaiah 20:2 **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.**

- a. **Micah 1:10** *Gath* sounds like the Hebrew for *tell*.
- b. **Micah 1:10** *Beth Ophrah* means *house of dust*.
- c. **Micah 1:11** *Shaphir* means *pleasant*.
- d. **Micah 1:11** *Zaanan* sounds like the Hebrew for *come out*.
- e. **Micah 1:12** *Maroth* sounds like the Hebrew for *bitter*.

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 (literally, wedding gifts³)
to Moresheth Gath.
The town of Akzib^[f] will prove deceptive
to the kings of Israel.
¹⁵ I will bring a conqueror against you
who live in Mareshah.^[g]
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.

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| f. Micah
1:14 <i>Akzib</i> means <i>deception</i> . |
| g. Micah
1:15 <i>Mareshah</i> sounds like the Hebrew for <i>conqueror</i> . |

Israel was taken into exile by the Assyrians in 722-721 BC and Judah by the Babylonians in 586.

Footnotes

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- f. **Micah 1:14** *Akzib* means *deception*.
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³ Jerusalem must give up Gath as a father gives a “wedding gift” to his daughter when she marries.