

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER<sup>1</sup> 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)**

<sup>27</sup>To 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

**graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER**

**Micah 5 Part 1<sup>2</sup>**



**The prophecies about Jesus continue. Buried in Micah’s prophecy is a beautiful story that finds its way into the story of Jesus. It’s in Matthew 2, when the Magi go to find Israel’s newborn king.**

**They made it to Jerusalem and asked:** Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

**The answer came from Micah 5. Let’s study it now.**

<sup>1</sup> **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

<sup>2</sup> 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 5  
New International Version

### **A Promised Ruler From Bethlehem**

5 <sup>a</sup> 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.

**Note: The NIV Study Bible says in response to this verse that "Jerusalem will be besieged, and the king will be seized and taken to Babylon. In fact, Zedekiah was blinded.**

#### **2 Kings 25:7**

<sup>7</sup> They killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. Then they put out his eyes, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.

**But it made me think of Jesus' suffering too, when they smote Him after His scourging.**

#### **Matthew 26:67**

Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others **smote** him with the palms of their hands

**I wondered if it referred to Jesus because again, some explanations of prophecy say all the things that could have/should have happened to Israel in fullness happened to Jesus as "became sin" for us (2 Corinthians 5:21) and hence received the punishment on His body for our sin so it wouldn't happen to us!**

**Also, I wondered that because the prophecy goes into a full on prophecy about Jesus. Notice how it's given in the context of Israel's downfall in the presence of Assyria, yet it rises to speak of the "alternate" truth about Israel---who it is and will always be in Jesus Christ!**

<sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

<sup>2</sup> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans 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."

**Here is the Matthew 2 version of this quote, in the context of the famous story about the Magi.**

### **Matthew 2**

**2** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi<sup>[a]</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'<sup>[b]</sup>"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

### **Footnotes**

- a. **Matthew 2:1** Traditionally *wise men*
- b. **Matthew 2:6** Micah 5:2,4

**The Matthew version of the story didn't include the phrase "whose origins are from old."**

**I'll put them in a table side by side, and compare them.**

<p><b>Micah 5:2-5</b></p>	<p><b>Matthew 2:6</b></p>
<p><sup>2</sup> <b>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans<sup>[or rulers]</sup> of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,</b> whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”</p> <p><sup>3</sup> 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><sup>4</sup> <b>He will stand and shepherd his flock</b> in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses.</p>	<p><sup>6</sup> <b>”But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.</b></p> <p><b>The Matthew 2 version includes only the bolded phrases of the original prophecy. But look at the rich detail that is given elsewhere in Micah 5.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. His origins are from old, from ancient times.</b></li> <li><b>2. Israel will be abandoned, until she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join Israel.</b></li> <li><b>3. He will shepherd “in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God.</b></li> <li><b>4. His sheep will live securely in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God.</b></li> <li><b>5. His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.</b></li> </ol>
<p><b>It also says He will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land. Some say that this still refers to the Christ. That Assyria is symbolic of all the enemies of God’s people in every age.</b></p>	
<p><b>Isaiah 11:11</b></p>	<p><b>Zechariah 10:10</b></p>
<p><sup>11</sup> In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush, from Elam, from Babylonia,<sup>(b)</sup> from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.</p>	<p><sup>10</sup> I will bring them back from Egypt and gather them from Assyria. I will bring them to Gilead and Lebanon, and there will not be room enough for them.</p>
<p><b>Some believe this is speaking of the regathering of all people as a spiritual Israel in Christ!</b></p>	<p><b>Same concept here. There will not be room enough for them!</b></p>

**The rest of the prophecy in Zechariah goes on to say this:**

Zechariah 10:11-12 New International Version

<sup>11</sup> They will pass through the sea of trouble;  
the surging sea will be subdued  
and all the depths of the Nile will dry up.

Assyria's pride will be brought down  
and Egypt's scepter will pass away.

<sup>12</sup> I will strengthen them in the LORD  
and in his name they will live securely,"  
declares the LORD.

**So here's where I leave this. Many of the actual events that happened to Israel and in the ancient world are simply patterns and types of what we experience in the Lord now.**

**We all pass through our "seas of trouble."**

**But our days of slavery, our "depths of the Nile" will be dried up.**

**We will no longer be ruled Assyrian approaches, or Egyptian approaches.**

**We will all live in the Jesus name, securely.**

**That's a promise for all!**