

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 7 Part 3²



So I’m at the very end of Micah 7. I’ve suggested that this book has been near and dear to Jesus, and now to His mother Mary. There are direct prophecies about Jesus that are quoted in the New Testament, in particular in Matthew 2, where the Magi are told by the Biblical scholars that Bethlehem would be the place of the Messiah’s birth. And then there are Scriptures we’ve already noted Micah 7 that Jesus almost directly quoted referring to conditions for those who would believe in Him. Then there is the final verse, which I think Mary quotes in praise of God. I want to look at that verse in detail today. Enjoy!

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.)

Let me include the whole section that this quote ends.

Micah 7 New International Version

Prayer and Praise

¹⁴ Shepherd your people with your staff,
the flock of your inheritance,
which lives by itself in a forest,
in fertile pasturelands.^[a]

Some translations say “Carmel” instead of fertile pasturelands. I wonder why? Here is what one biblical study site³ says:

Rather than being a single mountain, Mount Carmel is actually a high, wooded mountain ridge. . . *Carmel* means “vineyard,” “orchard,” or “garden” and reflects the fertile beauty of Mount Carmel’s picturesque slopes.

Here is a literal translation I like on this verse.

(CLV) Mic 7:14

Shepherd Your people ¹with Your club, The flock of Your allotment, Tabernacling alone in the wildwood in the midst of crop land. They shall graze in Bashan and Gilead as in the days of the eon.

When I looked up the word for “crop land,” the word for “Carmel” came up.

H3760 Karmel kar-mel' Karmel - the name of a hill and of a town in Palestine.

the same as **H3759**: karmel - a planted field (garden, orchard, vineyard or park); by implication, garden produce.

from **H3754**: kerem - a garden or vineyard.

See also **H1021**: Beyth hak-Kerem - house of the vineyard; Beth-hak-Kerem, a place in Palestine.

So I guess the word could refer to the actual mountain, or to a crop land. But isn't that a beautiful visual? “A wildwood” in the midst of crop land. That's where I want my last house on this planet to be before I go to heaven.

Any, let me move forward to the Scripture in question.

³ [What is the significance of Mount Carmel in the Bible? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Let them feed in Bashan and Gilead
as in days long ago.

15 "As in the days when you came out of Egypt,
I will show them my wonders."

16 Nations will see and be ashamed,
deprived of all their power.

They will put their hands over their mouths
and their ears will become deaf.

Here is the more literal translation on this:

(CLV) Mic 7:16

The nations shall see and be ashamed ^fof all their mastery; They shall place a hand on their mouth; Their ears shall be deaf.

The nations shall see and be ashamed of all their "mastery." That's an interesting concept. We've all acted Nimrod like. We've all been "mighty somethings" "before the Lord"

Genesis 10:9 (NIV)	Hebrew literal
He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; that is why it is said, "Like Nimrod , a mighty hunter before the LORD."	"hunter masterful as-Nimrod, he-is-being-said on-so Yahweh to-faces-of, masterful he-became he Yahweh to-faces- of"
<p>So the word "masterful" is taken from this Hebrew word: H1368 gibbowr ghib-bore' intensive; powerful; by implication, warrior, tyrant. from the same as H1397 - properly, a valiant man or warrior; generally, a person simply. from H1396 - to be strong; by implication, to prevail, act insolently.</p> <p>The word for "to-faces-of" is: H6440 paniym - the face (as the part that turns);</p> <p>The implication Nimrod was insolent, in "your face" to the Lord, as a warrior, a tyrant, a stand alone defiant unit before the Lord. This is why it's so interesting to me that one day, the nations, who have been acting more Nimrod like than humble and Shepherd-servant like, will be afraid of their "mastery." And the word for mastery comes from the same word that "gibbowr," Nimrods "might" came from.</p> <p>H1369 gbuwrah gheb-oo-raw' feminine passive participle from the same as H1368 - gibbowr ghib-bore' intensive; powerful; by implication, warrior, tyrant.</p> <p>force (literally or figuratively); by implication, valor, victory.</p>	

17 They will lick dust like a snake,
like creatures that crawl on the ground.
They will come trembling out of their dens;

This Scripture comes to mind.

John 3

¹⁹ This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

When people don't understand, when they fear their inadequacy, they hide from God, in their "holes" as it were. But when they finally come out into the light, God can transform them and heal them.

they will turn in fear to the LORD our God
and will be afraid of you.

They will be righteously humbled, in fear of being arrogant to the Lord:

H3372 yare' yaw-ray'

a primitive root;

to fear; morally, to revere; caus. to frighten.

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.

¹⁹ You will again have compassion on us;
you will tread our sins underfoot

That is exactly what happened to the serpent in the Garden.

and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

²⁰ You will be faithful to Jacob,
and show love to Abraham,
as you pledged on oath to our ancestors
in days long ago.

Here's what Mary says about what God was going to do through the child that was to be born to her.

Luke 1

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

Note these verses side by side:

Micah 7:20	Luke 1:54-55
²⁰ You will be faithful to Jacob, and show love to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our ancestors in days long ago.	⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

I personally think Mary was deep into Scripture, and she was mainlining in her young life, even before she conceived Jesus!

God promised Abraham he would be the father of many nations.

Genesis 13:16	Genesis 15:15	Genesis 17:5	Genesis 22:17	Genesis 28:14
¹⁶ I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.	⁵ He took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring (seed) be."	⁵ No longer will you be called Abram (exalted father); your name will be Abraham, (father of many) for I have made you a father of many nations.	¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies,	¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. (or use the name of your offspring.

Like Mary sang, God would remember his promise to Abraham. He would become the father of many nations through Christ!

Hebrews 11:12 New International Version

¹² And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

Merry Christmas!