

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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Nahum Introduction Part 1²



Today, I begin the short book of Nahum in the Scripture. I’ll begin with some opening observations, and primarily follow the NIV Study Bible information for this section of my study. I listened to the book in its entirety during my morning walk. It was interesting to me that a whole other book in the Bible is devoted to the fate of the city of Nineveh. Nineveh was a Gentile city. Yet God still had jurisdiction over it, like He did Sodom and Gomorrah. What message does that send to us today? Let’s see if we can discern what it might mean to us today.

¹ **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

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Author

The book contains “the vision of Nahum.”

Nahum 1	
1 A prophecy concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.	
<p>The name “Nahum” means “comfort.”</p> <p>H5151 Nachuwm nakh-oom' comfortable; Nachum, an Israelite prophet.</p> <p>from H5162 nacham naw-kham' properly, to sigh, i.e. breathe strongly; by implication, to be sorry, i.e. (in a favorable sense) to pity, console or (reflexively) rue; or (unfavorably) to avenge (oneself).</p> <p>It is related to the name “Nehemiah.” (The Lord comforts” or “Comfort of the Lord.”)</p> <p>H5166 Nchemyah nekh-em-yaw' consolation of Jah; Nechemjah, the name of three Israelites.</p> <p>from H5162 and H3050</p>	
H5162	H3050
to sigh, i.e. breathe strongly; by implication, to be sorry, i.e. (in a favorable sense) to pity, console	Jah, the sacred name
<p>“Elkosh”</p> <p>God my bow, the birth-place of Nahum the prophet (Nahum 1:1). It was probably situated in Galilee, but nothing definite is known of it.</p> <p>Elkosh Definition and Meaning - Bible Dictionary (biblestudytools.com)</p>	

Date

In chapter 3:8-10, the author speaks of the fall of Thebes.

Nahum 3:8-10		
<p>⁸ Are you better than Thebes, situated on the Nile, with water around her? The river was her defense, the waters her wall.</p> <p>⁹ Cush^[a] and Egypt were her boundless strength; Put and Libya were among her allies.</p> <p>¹⁰ Yet she was taken captive and went into exile. Her infants were dashed to pieces at every street corner. Lots were cast for her nobles, and all her great men were put in chains.</p>	<p>In Hebrew, the city of "Thebes" is called "No Amon." That means city of the "god" Amun. It was the great capital of Upper (southern) Egypt. It was destroyed by the Assyrians in 663 BC. In all three chapters of Nahum, he prophesies of Nineveh's fall, which occurred in 612 B. So Nahum prophesied sometimes between 663BC and 612 BC, perhaps near the end since he speaks of the fall of Nineveh as imminent.</p>	
Nahum 2:1	Nahum 3:14	Nahum 3:19
<p>An attacker advances against you, Nineveh. Guard the fortress, watch the road, brace yourselves, marshal all your strength!</p>	<p>¹⁴ Draw water for the siege, strengthen your defenses! Work the clay, tread the mortar, repair the brickwork!</p>	<p>¹⁹ Nothing can heal you; your wound is fatal. All who hear the news about you clap their hands at your fall, for who has not felt your endless cruelty?</p>

The NIV Study Bible suggests that "this would place him during the reign of King Josiah and make him a contemporary of Zephaniah and the young Jeremiah."

Background

Assyria, represented by Nineveh, had already destroyed Samaria (722-721 BC).

2 Kings 17
<p>17 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years. ² He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, but not like the</p>

kings of Israel who preceded him.

³ Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up to attack Hoshea, who had been Shalmaneser's vassal and had paid him tribute. ⁴ But the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea was a traitor, for he had sent envoys to So king of Egypt, and he no longer paid tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore Shalmaneser seized him and put him in prison. ⁵ The king of Assyria invaded the entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years. 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.

They also posed a threat to Judah.

2 Kings 18

¹³ In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. ¹⁴ So Hezekiah king of Judah sent this message to the king of Assyria at Lachish: "I have done wrong. Withdraw from me, and I will pay whatever you demand of me." The king of Assyria exacted from Hezekiah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents^(d) of gold. ¹⁵ So Hezekiah gave him all the silver that was found in the temple of the LORD and in the treasuries of the royal palace.

¹⁶ At this time Hezekiah king of Judah stripped off the gold with which he had covered the doors and doorposts of the temple of the LORD, and gave it to the king of Assyria.

Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem

¹⁷ The king of Assyria sent his supreme commander, his chief officer and his field commander with a large army, from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem. They came up to Jerusalem and stopped at the aqueduct of the Upper Pool, on the road to the Washerman's Field.

They were known for being brutally cruel, their kings often being depicted as gloating over the gruesome punishments inflicted on conquering peoples. They conducted their wars with shocking ferocity, uprooted whole populations and deported them to other parts of their empire. The leaders of conquered cities were tortured and horribly mutilated before being executed.

Nahum 3:3

³ Charging cavalry,
flashing swords
and glittering spears!

Many casualties,
piles of dead,
bodies without number,
people stumbling over the corpses

The NIV study Bible says this about the Assyrian King Shalmaneser III---he “boasted of erecting a pyramid of chopped-heads in front of an enemies city. Other Assyrian kings stacked corpses like cordwood by the gates of defeated cities.”

Here is one historical record:

Over the years, archaeology experts have discovered both written and visual records that prove the described events as veracious. Bss-reliefs found at various Assyrian palaces depict vivid images of brutality, which include the skinning, burning, decapitating, impaling, and dismembering of their enemies.³

Jonah had announced its destruction earlier, but the people put on at least a show of repentance, and were spared.

Jonah 3:4, 10

⁴ Jonah began by going a day’s journey into the city, proclaiming, “Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown.” . . . ¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.

This time would be different. God responds when someone humbles himself before the Lord.

1 Kings 21

²⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite: ²⁹ “Have you noticed how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself, I will not bring this disaster in his day, but I will bring it on his house in the days of his son.”

But as in Ahab’s case, Nineveh’s destruction was postponed, but not rescinded.

We’ll see why next time.

³ [Archaeology Proves the Bible to Be Right About Assyrian’s Cruelty \(historymates.com\)](http://historymates.com)