

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*

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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 2²

So Nahum’s book is literally called “the load of Nineveh” in the original Hebrew. The Hebrew word is: **H4853** massa' mas-saw' - a burden. . . chiefly a doom, especially singing; mental, desire. **The author, whose name means “Comfort” was speaking words of comfort to Israel by showing them how God would indeed avenge them upon the cruel and ruthless Assyrians. Even the Christian martyrs cried out for God to avenge them.**

Revelation 6:10 “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and **avenge** our blood?” **“Vengeance is mine, the Lord says. I will repay. (Romans 12:19) God will avenge!**

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.)

Jonah 3: 4,10 New International Version

⁴Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." . . . ⁵The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. . . ¹⁰When 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.

God indeed had mercy on the Nineveh Jonah preached to. But the nation reverted to its evil ways. Brutality actually peaked under Ashurbanipal.

Here is a quote from one study³:

Ashurbanipal, Esarhaddon's son, boasted: "Their dismembered bodies I fed to the dogs, swine, wolves, and eagles, to the birds of heaven and the fish in the deep. . . . What was left of the feast of the dogs and swine, of their members which blocked the streets and filled the squares, I ordered them to remove from Babylon, Kutha and Sippar, and to cast them upon heaps." † When Ashurbanipal didn't kill his captives he "pierced the lips (and) took them to Assyria as a spectacle for the people of my land." . . . The enemy to the southeast of Assyria, the people of Elam, underwent a special punishment that did not spare even their dead: "The sepulchers of their earlier and later kings, who did not fear Assur and Ishtar, my lords, (and who) had plagued the kings, my fathers, I destroyed, I devastated, I exposed to the sun. Their bones (members) I carried off to Assyria. I laid restlessness upon their shades. I deprived them of food-offerings and libations of water." † Among the reliefs carved by Ashurbanipal were pictures of the mass deportation of the Elamites, together with severed heads assembled in heaps. Two Elamites are seen fastened to the ground while their skin is flayed, while others are having their tongues pulled out.

Such behavior warranted severe retribution. In the context of all that, Nahum's prophesied words of retribution seem tame and merciful.

Here are just a sprinkling of a few.

³ [Grisly Assyrian Record of Torture and Death \(uml.edu\)](#)

Nahum 1	Nahum 2	Nahum 3
<p>¹⁴ The LORD has given a command concerning you, Nineveh: "You will have no descendants to bear your name. I will destroy the images and idols that are in the temple of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are vile."</p>	<p>³ "I am against you," declares the LORD Almighty. "I will burn up your chariots in smoke, and the sword will devour your young lions. I will leave you no prey on the earth. The voices of your messengers will no longer be heard."</p>	<p>⁵ "I am against you," declares the LORD Almighty. "I will lift your skirts over your face. I will show the nations your nakedness and the kingdoms your shame. ⁶ I will pelt you with filth, I will treat you with contempt and make you a spectacle.</p>

Recipients

Some of the words in this book are addressed to Judah. But most are addressed to Nineveh.

Words to Judah

Nahum 1:12-13	Nahum 1:15
<p>¹² This is what the LORD says: "Although they have allies and are numerous, they will be destroyed and pass away. Although I have afflicted you, Judah, I will afflict you no more. ¹³ Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away."</p>	<p>¹⁵ Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace! Celebrate your festivals, Judah, and fulfill your vows. No more will the wicked invade you; they will be completely destroyed.</p>
<p>I find it interesting that the words from Nahum 1:15 make it into Paul's writings in the book of Romans in this context. Romans 10:15 New International Version</p> <p>¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"</p> <p>The NIV study note says this: "This verse sets forth a principle that is applicable in several contexts of</p>	

deliverance. Here the reference is to the good news of deliverance from the Assyrian threat. In Isaiah 52:7, it speaks of the deliverance from Babylonian exile.

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains
 are the feet of those who bring good news,
 who proclaim peace,
 who bring good tidings,
 who proclaim salvation,
 who say to Zion,
 "Your God reigns!"

In Romans 10:15 above, it speaks of deliverance from sin through the gospel.

Words to Nineveh or its king.

1:11,14	2:1	2:13	3:5-17 selected	3:19	3:18
<p>¹¹ From you, Nineveh, has one come forth who evil against the LORD and devises wicked plans. . . The LORD has given a command . . . Nineveh: "You will have no descendants to bear your name. I will destroy the images and idols that are in the temple of your gods. I will prepare your grave, for you are vile."</p>	<p>An attacker advances against you, Nineveh. Guard the fortress, watch the road, brace yourselves, marshal all your strength!</p>	<p>"I am against you," declares the LORD Almighty. "I will burn up your chariots in smoke, and the sword will devour your young lions. I will leave you no prey on the earth. The voices of your messengers will no longer be heard."</p>	<p>Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims! . . . ⁵ "I am against you," declares the LORD Almighty. "I will lift your skirts over your face. I will show the nations your nakedness and the kingdoms your shame. . . all who see you will . . . say, 'Nineveh is in ruins—who will mourn for her?'</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>	<p>¹⁸ King of Assyria, your shepherds^(b) slumber; your nobles lie down to rest. Your people are scattered on the mountains with no one to gather them.</p>

The book, however, was meant for Israelite readers.

Next time we'll discuss the literary style of the book.