

**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**

**Nahum Introduction Part 3<sup>2</sup>**



**So I love going through the wonderful “Introductions” the NIV Study Bible includes before each book of the Bible. They are well written, and so accessible to all.**

**We’ve gotten through the material that shows to whom this book is written. It’s about Nineveh, and probably in one sense to her. But they are also meant to be read by the Israelites living in Judah. Today we’ll look at the literary style of the book, and its theological theme. Enjoy.**

<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.)

## Literary Style

“The contents are primarily made up of judgment prophecies, with appropriate descriptions and vocabulary, expressing intense moods, sights and sounds.”

**I’ll do a random sampling of some of the words.**

1 A prophecy concerning Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite.

### The LORD’s Anger Against Nineveh

<sup>2</sup>The LORD is a **jealous and avenging** God . . . the LORD **takes vengeance** and is **filled with wrath**. The LORD takes vengeance on his foes and **vents his wrath** against his enemies.

(CLV) Nah 1:2

An El, jealous and avenging, is Yahweh; An avenger<sup>l</sup> is Yahweh, and possessor of fury; An avenger<sup>l</sup> is Yahweh  
'against His foes, And <sup>7</sup>a transporter<sup>l</sup> is He 'of His enemies<sup>l</sup>.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD is slow to anger but great in power;  
the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.  
His way is in the whirlwind and the storm,  
and clouds are the dust of his feet.

<sup>4</sup>He rebukes the sea and dries it up;  
he makes all the rivers run dry.  
Bashan and Carmel wither and the blossoms of Lebanon fade.

<sup>5</sup>The mountains quake before him  
and the hills melt away.

The earth trembles at his presence,  
the world and all who live in it.

<sup>6</sup>Who can withstand his indignation?  
Who can endure his fierce anger?

His wrath is poured out like fire;  
the rocks are shattered before him.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble.

He cares for those who trust in him,

<sup>8</sup> but with an overwhelming flood

he will make an end of Nineveh;

he will pursue his foes into the realm of darkness.

CLV Nah 1:3 - Nah 1:8

3 Yahweh is **slow to anger**, and **great in vigor**, And He shall not <sup>m</sup>hold innocent, nay <sup>m</sup>hold innocent<sup>l</sup>. Yahweh has His way in **the sweeping whirlwind** and **in the hurricane**. And clouds are the dust of His feet.

4 He is **rebuking<sup>i</sup> the sea** and **drying it up**, And all the **streams He drains**. Wasted away is Bashan and Carmel, And the bud of Lebanon, it is wasted away.

5 The **mountains**, they quake <sup>f</sup>because of Him, And the **hills, they dissolve**, <sup>+</sup> The **earth** is **decimated<sup>~</sup>** <sup>f</sup>because of His presence, And the habitation and all dwelling in it.

6 Before His indignation, <sup>o</sup>who shall stand? And <sup>o</sup>who shall rise in the heat of His anger? His **fury**, it is poured forth like fire, And the **rocks**, they are **broken down** <sup>f</sup>because of Him.

7 Yahweh is good to <sup>7</sup>those who are stretching out toward Him <sup>~</sup>, A Stronghold in the day of distress, And He is knowing those taking refuge in Him.

8 And <sup>i</sup>with a surpassing overflow He shall <sup>d</sup>make a <sup>all</sup>finish of her <sup>ri</sup>place, And His enemies<sup>l</sup> shall He pursue into darkness.

"The language is poetic, with frequent use of metaphors<sup>3</sup> and similes<sup>4</sup>, vivid word pictures, repetition, and many short---often staccato---phrases."

Metaphors	Similes and Word Pictures	Repetition	Staccato
<p><sup>13</sup> Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away."</p>	<p>They look like flaming torches; they dart about like lightning. . . His wrath is poured out like fire. . . Her female slaves moan like doves and beat on their breasts.  <sup>8</sup> Nineveh is like a pool whose water is draining away.</p>	<p><sup>2</sup> The LORD is a jealous and <b>avenging</b> God; the LORD takes <b>vengeance</b> and is filled with wrath. The LORD takes <b>vengeance</b> on his foes</p>	<p><b>Guard</b> the fortress, <b>watch</b> the road, <b>brace</b> yourselves, <b>marshal</b> all your strength!. . . "Stop! Stop!" they cry, but no one turns back.  <sup>9</sup> Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold!</p>

<sup>3</sup> Woe to the city of blood, full of lies, full of plunder, never without victims!  
<sup>2</sup> The crack of whips, the clatter of wheels, galloping horses and jolting chariots!  
<sup>3</sup> Charging cavalry, flashing swords and glittering spears! Many casualties, piles of dead, bodies without number, people stumbling over the corpses—

CLV Nah 3:1 - Nah 3:7  
<sup>1</sup> Woe, city of bloodsheds! All of it is dissimulation! Full of marauding! Preying never is <sup>l</sup>suspended!  
<sup>2</sup> The sound of a whip, And the sound of the quaking wheel, And the horse galloping, And the chariot bounding along!  
<sup>3</sup> The horseman <sup>c</sup>mounting up <sup>+</sup>with blazing sword and flashing spear! And the many <sup>wd</sup>slain, and the mass of corpses, And there is no end to the dead bodies, So <sup>+</sup>that they stumble <sup>i</sup>over their bodies,

<sup>3</sup> "...a metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase denoting one kind of object or action is used in place of another to suggest a likeness or analogy between them: the person being addressed in "you're a peach" is being equated with a peach, with the suggestion being that the person is pleasing or delightful in the way that a peach is ..." **Metaphor Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster**

<sup>4</sup> "...a figure of speech comparing two unlike things that is often introduced by like or as (as in cheeks like roses). . ." <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/simile>

“Rhetorical questions punctuate the flow of the thought, which has a marked **stress on moral indignation toward injustice.**”

**Selected areas of questioning:**

<sup>6</sup>Who can withstand his indignation? Who can endure his fierce anger?.

<sup>11</sup>Where now is the lions’ den, the place where they fed their young, where the lion and lioness went, and the cubs, with nothing to fear? <sup>7</sup>All who see you will flee from you and say, ‘Nineveh is in ruins—who will mourn for her?’ Where can I find anyone to comfort you?” All who hear the news about you clap their hands at your fall, for who has not felt your endless cruelty?

Zechariah 8:16

<sup>16</sup>These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts;

**Theological themes**

The focal point of the entire book is the Lord’s judgment on Nineveh for her oppression, cruelty, idolatry and wickedness. The book ends with the destruction of the city.

**3** <sup>2</sup>The crack of whips, the clatter of wheels, galloping horses and jolting chariots!

<sup>3</sup>Charging cavalry, flashing swords and glittering spears!

Many casualties, piles of dead, bodies without number, people stumbling over the corpses— . . . <sup>7</sup> . . . ‘Nineveh is in ruins—who will mourn for her?’

Where can I find anyone to comfort you?” . . . <sup>10</sup>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. . . <sup>12</sup>All your

fortresses are like fig trees with their first ripe fruit; when they are shaken, the figs fall into the mouth of the eater. <sup>13</sup>Look at your troops—they are all weaklings. The gates of your land are wide open to your enemies; fire has consumed the bars of your gates.

. . . <sup>15</sup>There the fire will consume you; the sword will cut you down— they will devour you like a swarm of locusts. . . <sup>18</sup>King of Assyria, your shepherds<sup>[b]</sup> slumber;

your nobles lie down to rest. Your people are scattered on the mountains with no one to gather them. <sup>19</sup>Nothing can heal you; your wound is fatal.

According to Romans 11:22, God is not only kind but also stern.

Romans 11:22

New International Version

<sup>22</sup> Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.

Nahum speaks of God's sternness and kindness simultaneously.

**1** <sup>3</sup> The LORD is slow to anger but great in power;  
the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.  
His way is in the whirlwind and the storm,  
and clouds are the dust of his feet.

**When He is angry, He acts.**

<sup>4</sup> He rebukes the sea and dries it up;  
he makes all the rivers run dry.  
Bashan and Carmel wither  
and the blossoms of Lebanon fade.

<sup>5</sup> The mountains quake before him  
and the hills melt away.

The earth trembles at his presence,  
the world and all who live in it.

<sup>6</sup> Who can withstand his indignation?  
Who can endure his fierce anger?  
His wrath is poured out like fire;  
the rocks are shattered before him.

**But simultaneously, God is good to those who trust in Him. And He won't leave the guilty unpunished.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD is good,  
a refuge in times of trouble.  
He cares for those who trust in him

**Next time we'll begin with Nahum 1.**