

**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

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**Nahum 1 Part 3<sup>2</sup>**



**It was interesting to study the beginning of Chapter 1, and to see how God speaks of His vengeance and his wrath. He does execute justice and He does “avenge.” He is also a God of great passion and even jealousy. I thought I’d do a bit of a segue into the NIV Study notes discussion of that again today and speak of the one piece we haven’t covered. It celebrates this truth---God does vindicate His people.**

**Enjoy!**

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

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**Our study of the “avenging and jealous” God of Nahum 1 took us to this Scripture.**

Exodus 20:5

New International Version

<sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

**We have studied how jealousy is a part of the vocabulary of love.**

the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God. . . your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God . . . They made him jealous with their foreign gods. . . They made me jealous by what is no god . . . he is a jealous God . . . they aroused his jealousy with their idols. . . Are we trying to arouse the Lord’s jealousy? Are we stronger than he? . . . he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us . . . Or *that the spirit he caused to dwell in us envies intensely; or that the Spirit he caused to dwell in us longs jealously.* . .

**He also delivers to judgment all who oppose God.**

**Nahum 1:2** - 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. . .

**There is one more aspect of God’s zeal. He will vindicate His people! We’ll study that today.**

<b>2 Kings 19:31</b>	<b>Isaiah 9:7</b>	<b>Isaiah 26:11</b>	<b>Ezekiel 39:25</b>
<sup>31</sup> For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. “The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.	<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and	<sup>11</sup> LORD, your hand is lifted high, but they do not see it. Let them see your zeal for your people and be put to shame; let the fire reserved for your enemies consume them.	<sup>25</sup> “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will now restore the fortunes of Jacob and will have compassion on all the people of Israel, and I will be zealous for my holy name.

	righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.		
<b>Joel 2:18</b>	<b>Zechariah 1:14</b>	<b>Zechariah 8:2</b>	
<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD was jealous for his land and took pity on his people.	<sup>14</sup> Then the angel who was speaking to me said, "Proclaim this word: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion,	<sup>2</sup> This is what the LORD Almighty says: "I am very jealous for Zion; I am burning with jealousy for her."	

**So God's zeal will accomplish "restoration" and hence vindication for God's people:** "out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. . . He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it. . . . Let them see your zeal for your people and be put to shame. . . I will now restore the fortunes of Jacob and will have compassion on all the people of Israel . . the LORD was jealous for his land and took pity on his people. . . I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion. . . I am burning with jealousy for her."

**So the God of Nahum, and of the whole Bible, is a passionate, emotional zealous and jealous God. He does get angry. And He does judge.**

**Let's pick back up with Nahum.**

Nahum 1

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**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.

<sup>3</sup>The LORD is slow to anger but great in power;  
the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished.

**The NIV Study Bible refers us to Exodus 34:6-7 and its note:**

<b>Exodus 34:6-7</b>	<b>Note/Comment</b>
<p><sup>6</sup>And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup>maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."</p>	<p><b>This phrase is often repeated in the Bible as a hallmark description of God. He forgives, but He "punishes." I couldn't find a word that directly translates "punish," but the Hebrew phrase "visits depravity" is used. Sin is its own punishment.</b></p>

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?

**I like this word picture of how creation seems to “disintegrate” in His presence, to come “undone.”**

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

**So the Lord does “punish” and does judge. Let me close with a few more Scriptures here.**

**1. Jeremiah 30:11**

I am with you and will save you,’ declares the LORD. ‘Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only in due measure; I will not let you go entirely **unpunished.**’

**2. Jeremiah 46:28**

Do not be afraid, Jacob my servant, for I am with you,” declares the LORD. “Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only in due measure; I will not let you go entirely **unpunished.**”

**He does so in due measure. He will not let them go “entirely unpunished.”**

**The word for “discipline” is:**

**H3256** yacar yaw-sar'

to chastise, literally (with blows) or figuratively (with words); hence, to instruct.

**Hebrews says the same.**

Hebrews 12

New International Version

**12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and

perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

## **God Disciplines His Children**

<sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,  
<sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

<sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. <sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! <sup>10</sup> They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

**Praise be to God for His willingness to teach us and let all share His Holiness. Even the city of Nineveh.**