

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 1 Part 8²



So we’re about to begin to study a really cool Scripture. It’s in the context of God’s punishment of Nineveh. It brings up a theme that is very often prevalent in Scripture--it’s the theme of darkness. Darkness lashed out at the instant of creation, and threatened to unravel it. Living in sin is living in darkness.

And punishment is associated with “darkness” as well. Let’s press that theme as we go through the Bible “From the Ground Up.”

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Nahum 1

⁷ The LORD is good,
a refuge in times of trouble.
He cares for those who trust in him,
⁸ but with an overwhelming flood
he will make an end of Nineveh;
he will pursue his foes into the realm of darkness.

Ok, so I'm wanting to park right here. Notice the two things used to describe what happens to Nineveh.

- 1. An overwhelming flood.**
- 2. The realm of darkness.**

The NIV Study Bible says that "overwhelming flood" is symbolic of an invading army.

| Isaiah 8:7-8 | Isaiah 17:12 | Isaiah 28:17 |
|--|---|---|
| <p>⁷ therefore the Lord is about to bring against them the mighty floodwaters of the Euphrates—the king of Assyria with all his pomp. It will overflow all its channels, run over all its banks ⁸ and sweep on into Judah, swirling over it, passing through it and reaching up to the neck. Its outspread wings will cover the breadth of your land, Immanuel!"</p> | <p>¹² Woe to the many nations that rage—they rage like the raging sea! Woe to the peoples who roar—they roar like the roaring of great waters!</p> | <p>¹⁷ I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place. ¹⁸ Your covenant with death will be annulled; your agreement with the realm of the dead will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by, you will be beaten down by it. ¹⁹ As often as it comes it will carry you away; morning after morning, by day and by night, it will sweep through." The understanding of this</p> |

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| | | message will bring sheer terror. |
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But the theme of darkness and flood is prevalent in other Scriptures, and I think they too contribute to this discussion. Notice this Scripture.

Genesis 1

New International Version

The Beginning

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Notice what was present at the beginning of creation---a vast deep and darkness. The flood had overwhelmed the primordial earth, but God immediately tended to that by creating the “vault of the heavens” separating the waters above the earth from the waters below.

Genesis 1

6 And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” **7** So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. **8** God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day.

I want to do a quick survey of “darkness” and “flood” in Scripture.

Genesis 15:12

As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful **darkness** came over him.

Exodus 10:21

The Plague of **Darkness**

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that **darkness** spreads over Egypt—**darkness** that can be felt.”

Exodus 20:21

The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick **darkness** where God was.

Deuteronomy 4:11

You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, with black clouds and deep **darkness**.

Deuteronomy 5:23

When you heard the voice out of the **darkness**, while the mountain was ablaze with fire, all the leaders of your tribes and your elders came to me.

1 Samuel 2:9

He will guard the feet of his faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of **darkness**. "It is not by strength that one prevails;

Job 18:18

He is driven from light into the realm of **darkness** and is banished from the world.

Job 38:17

Have the gates of death been shown to you? Have you seen the gates of the deepest **darkness**?

Psalms 88:12

Are your wonders known in the place of **darkness**, or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?

Proverbs 4:19

But the way of the wicked is like deep **darkness**; they do not know what makes them stumble.

Matthew 8:12

But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the **darkness**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25:30

And throw that worthless servant outside, into the **darkness**, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Matthew 27:45

The Death of Jesus

From noon until three in the afternoon **darkness** came over all the land.

Luke 22:53

Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when **darkness** reigns."

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.

John 12:35

Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before **darkness** overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going.

John 12:46

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in **darkness**.

Acts 26:18

to open their eyes and turn them from **darkness** to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of **darkness**," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 6:14

Warning Against Idolatry

Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with **darkness**?

Ephesians 5:8

For you were once **darkness**, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light

Colossians 1:13

For he has rescued us from the dominion of **darkness** and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of **darkness** into his wonderful light.

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of **darkness** to be held for judgment;

2 Peter 2:17 These people are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest **darkness** is reserved for them.

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in **darkness**, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.

Jude 1:13 They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest **darkness** has been reserved forever.

We'll analyze these Scriptures next time.