

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 9²



So punishment is associated with “darkness.” The two things used to describe what happens to Nineveh are: (1) an overwhelming flood, and (2) The realm of darkness. The NIV Study Bible says that “overwhelming flood” is symbolic of an invading army. But the theme of darkness and flood is prevalent in other Scriptures, and I think they too contribute to this discussion. I studied the concept of darkness yesterday. I’m going to briefly comment on the Scriptures we found, study the concept of “flood” and then move on.

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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.)

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.

Commentary on the use of “darkness” in Scripture, and a brief follow-up on the use of “flood.”

Genesis 15:12

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

Darkness here is associated with a bleak period or sadness, again to be experienced during the years of slavery in Egypt.

Exodus 10:21

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

Life without God is “a darkness that can be felt.” But on the flipside, God is light, and in Him (and near Him) there is no darkness at all.

Exodus 20:21

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

But here God is associated with being in a place of darkness. While God is light, His light is not visible to our eyes, unless we’ve been born from above. Another phrase that echo this concept: “. . .you heard the voice out of the **darkness . . .” When God appeared on Sinai, it looked like darkness to humans, because they didn’t have the eyes to see the Kingdom of God.**

Now here are phrases that associate the fate of the wicked with darkness.

“. . .the wicked will be silenced in the place of **darkness**. . . He is driven from light into the realm of **darkness** and is banished from the world. . . the way of the wicked is like deep **darkness**; they do not know what makes them stumble. . . the subjects of the

1 John 1:5

Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness

This **is** the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light**; in him there **is** no darkness at all.

John 3:3 ³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born from above

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

The Old Testament speaks of darkness as a “place” with gates.

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?

Darkness here is associated with oblivion.

Here’s a telling Scripture. As Jesus was dying, darkness came over the land.

Matthew 27:45

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

Christ said those killing him lived in the place where darkness reigned.

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.”

The same is true of those who love sin.

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.

This is interesting---darkness can overtake us. And when we walk in the dark, we do not know where we are going.

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.

Christ is our light and through Him we’re taken out of darkness.

John 12:46

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

Paul saw His ministry as taking people out of darkness and into 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,

Darkness is associated with the power of Satan. He blinds. He keeps people hidden from God. He loves the darkness.

Genesis 3	2 Corinthians 4
<p>⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" . . . ¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."</p>	<p>⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. . . ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness,"^[a] 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.</p>

Idolatry is darkness.

2 Corinthians 6:14

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

We become light in Christ.

Ephesians 5:8

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

We are called out of darkness.

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.

And darkness is associated with the fate of the angels who sinned (and people who sin like them).

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.

Now let's briefly look at the concept of flood. From what I can tell, it is associated with the unraveling of the created order, sort of like a first step toward utter destruction, an "unraveling" that is associated with sin.

Genesis 6

⁵The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. ⁶The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. ⁷So the LORD said, "I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them."

It's associated with the punishment that comes from sin.

Nahum 1:8

but with an overwhelming **flood** he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into the realm of darkness.

But here is God's answer to the flood.

Psalms 29:10

The LORD sits enthroned over the **flood**; the LORD is enthroned as King forever.

The NIV says this: God sits "enthroned over the flood" as the One who by His word brought the ordered creation out of formless deep.

Perhaps that's further symbolized by the sea of glass over which God sits enthroned.

1. Revelation 4:6

Also in front **of** the throne there was what looked like a **sea of glass**, clear as crystal.

2. Revelation 15:2

And I saw what looked like a **sea of glass** glowing with fire and, standing beside the **sea**, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number **of** its name. They held harps given them by God

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. . . 7 . . . God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. . . ⁹ And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas."

Genesis 1

Here's a thought on that: The sea stretched out calm and glassy before the throne may in part symbolize the victory of the divinity over the element of chaos.³

Let's get back to the main topic, Nahum 1. Nineveh's sin will lead here into the dark.

³ [Sea of Glass - Hastings' Dictionary of the New Testament - \(studydrive.net\)](http://www.studydrive.net/Dictionary/Sea-of-Glass)