

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

graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER

Nahum 1 Part 10²



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

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.

Let’s get back to the main topic, Nahum 1. Nineveh’s sin will lead here into the dark. What else does God warn of?

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.)

Nahum 1 New International Version

⁹ Whatever they plot against the LORD
he will bring to an end;
trouble will not come a second time.

The “they” being spoken here is Assyria, represented, of course, by their capital city, Nineveh. They did conquer Israel in 722-721 B.C. But when they attempted to conquer Jerusalem, it failed. God did not allow it.

2 Kings 19

³³ By the way that he came he will return;
he will not enter this city,
declares the LORD.

³⁴ I will defend this city and save it,
for my sake and for the sake of David my servant.”

The king of Assyria attempted to take Jerusalem. But God intervened.

³⁵ That night the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! ³⁶ So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew. He returned to Nineveh and stayed there.

³⁷ One day, while he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisrok, his sons Adrammelek and Sharezer killed him with the sword, and they escaped to the land of Ararat. And Esarhaddon his son succeeded him as king.

God knows how to save His people. And He works miracles to do it sometimes.

¹⁰ They will be entangled among thorns
and drunk from their wine;
they will be consumed like dry stubble.

The NIV says the Hebrew meaning of this phrase is uncertain. Here is where looking at the original helps us understand how translations are determined. Here's how the more literal CLV version translates this verse.

(CLV) Nah 1:10

Though they are ^{fr}as entangled^l briars, And as those groggy^l with their strong wine, They will be devoured like stubble fully dry.

An interesting thing to do is to look at the interlinear, which just gives the bare bones of the Hebrew used. I'll share that now.

CLV

Though they are ^fas entangled^l briars, And as those groggy^l with their strong wine, They will be devoured like stubble fully dry.

כְּקֶשֶׁת	אֶכְלוּ	סְבוּאִים	וּכְסָבָאִם	עַד - סִירִים - סְבִימִים	כִּי	1:10
k-qsh	aklu	sbuaim	u-k-sba-m	sbkim sirim - od	ki	
as-straw	they-are-devoured	ones-being-groggy	and-as-grog-of-them	ones-being-entangled	briars still that	
						יְבֹשׁ מְלֵא :
						: mla ibsh
						fully dry

So here’s what I see here. I think the Hebrew is more of a metaphorical language that includes the personality of the individual and the way it is said for it to make sense. Think of it as a poetic language. The prophet, seeing a vision, proclaims:

“As-straw . . .(he pauses)---they are devoured”

“Ones being groggy” (Imagine him seeing them in a vision and pondering them for a moment and then just declaring:)

“And as grog of them!”

And then the vision morphs and a new visual is given. . .

The prophet sees “ones-being-entangled briars. . .still (pause) fully dry!”

He sees images of destruction. The NIV tries to fill in some of the blanks. With it’s translation. Let’s look at it again.

¹⁰ They will be entangled among thorns and drunk from their wine; they will be consumed like dry stubble.

But I think it misses the mark frankly. People not used to the language and communication protocols of another culture sometimes make the translations too stiff.

So think of this prophet standing there, going into a trance like state, or simply a meditative state, and simply, almost randomly saying:



**“As-straw . . .(he pauses)---
they are devoured”**

**“Ones being groggy”
(PAUSE) “And as grog of
them!”**

**“Ones-being-entangled
briars. . .still (pause) fully
dry!”**

Some languages are not as linear and stiff as English. Hebrew and Greek are far more dramatic. Let me end by showing some of the other translations of this verse.

KJ21

For while they are folded together as thorns and while they are drunken as drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.

ASV

For entangled like thorns, and drunken as with their drink, they are consumed utterly as dry stubble.

AMP

Like tangled thorn branches [gathered for fuel], And like those drowned in drunkenness, The people of Nineveh are consumed [through fire] Like stubble completely withered *and* dry [in the day of the LORD's wrath].

AMPC

For [the Ninevites] are as bundles of thorn branches [for fuel], and even while drowned in their drunken [carousing] they shall be consumed like stubble fully dry [in the day of the Lord's wrath].

BRG

For while *they be* folden together *as* thorns, and while they are drunken *as* drunkards, they shall be devoured as stubble fully dry.

CSB

For they will be consumed like entangled thorns, like the drink of a drunkard and like straw that is fully dry.

CEB

They are tangled up like thorns, like drunkards in their cups. They are consumed like stubble that is entirely dried up.

CJB

For like men drunk with liquor, they will be burned up like tangled thorns, like straw completely dry.

CEV

They are like drunkards overcome by wine, or like dry thornbushes burning in a fire.

DARBY

Though they be tangled together [as] thorns, and be as drenched from their drink, they shall be devoured as dry stubble, completely.

DRA

For as thorns embrace one another: so while they are feasting and drinking together, they shall be consumed as stubble that is fully dry.

ERV

You will be destroyed completely like thornbushes burning under a pot. You will be destroyed like dry weeds that burn quickly.

EHV

because like tangled thorns, like the liquor of drunkards, like fully dried stubble, they will be consumed.

ESV

For they are like entangled thorns, like drunkards as they drink; they are consumed like stubble fully dried.

ESVUK

For they are like entangled thorns, like drunkards as they drink; they are consumed like stubble fully dried.

EXB

Those people will be ·like tangled [*or* entangled among] thorns or like people drunk from their wine; they will be ·burned up quickly [consumed] like ·dry weeds [stubble].

GNV

For *he shall come as* unto thorns folden one in another, and as unto drunkards in their drunken-ness: they shall be devoured as stubble fully dried.

GW

┌ The people of Nineveh will be ┐ like tangled thorns and like people drunk on their own drink. They will be completely burned up like very dry straw.

GNT

Like tangled thorns and dry straw you drunkards will be burned up!

HCSB

For they will be consumed like entangled thorns, like the drink of a drunkard and like straw that is fully dry.

YLT

For while princes [are] perplexed, And with their drink are drunken, They have been consumed as stubble fully dried.

I guess I don't get how they add the connecting words in the English translation. I actually think my approach makes more sense, and that the attempts of the translators to turn it into a logical sentence that draws verbal conclusions is off base.

But what do I know?