

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 12²



So I feel like I’m moving to slow through this book, but I like to “saunter” through the Bible and enjoy its depth. Yesterday I dabbled into what again is the fate of those that indulge in things that are contrary to the life of God. God is life, and His life is simply “true” life and how life must be to not slip into “darkness” and “be destroyed and pass away.” That is the fate of Nineveh. I also wonder if Nineveh is more than just one particular city, but a “type” of failed humanity that has been played out by others that are not genetically connected with them. Let’s move on.

¹ **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

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Nahum 1:12-15 New International Version

So now we're going to get into what God says about Nineveh. While all have been included in God's saving life and death and resurrection and ascension, not all are living out God's life.

Like it says in verse 3, "the LORD will not leave the guilty unpunished."

This phrase is echoed in two other places.

Exodus 34:7	Numbers 14:8
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.	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.

So let's notice what He says here to this nation.

¹² This is what the LORD says:

"Although they have allies and are numerous,
they will be destroyed and pass away.

Although I have afflicted you, Judah,
I will afflict you no more.

God used Assyria as the rod of his anger against his covenant-breaking people in the days of Ahaz and in the days of Manasseh.

Babylonia was another hammer or club used by God to punish other nations.

Isaiah 10:5	2 Chronicles 33:1
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<p>⁵ "Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my anger, in whose hand is the club of my wrath!</p>	<p>¹¹ So the LORD brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.</p>	
<p>Jeremiah 50:23</p>	<p>Jeremiah 51:7,20</p>	<p>Habakkuk 1:6</p>
<p>²³ How broken and shattered is the hammer of the whole earth! How desolate is Babylon among the nations!</p>	<p>⁷ Babylon was a gold cup in the LORD's hand; she made the whole earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; therefore they have now gone mad.</p> <p>²⁰ "You are my war club, my weapon for battle— with you I shatter nations, with you I destroy kingdoms,</p>	<p>⁶ I am raising up the Babylonians, that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwellings not their own.</p>

Even though these nations are evil, He uses them for His purposes. I imagine it's much the same way He uses Satan, to accomplish His will.

¹³ Now I will break their yoke from your neck and tear your shackles away."

Judah was Assyria's vassal, but that yoke would be broken. Here is another Scriptural example of a nation being used as a yoke. (Babylon)

<p>Isaiah 11</p>
<p>² This is what the LORD said to me: "Make a yoke out of straps and crossbars and put it on your neck. . . ⁵ With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁶ Now I will give all your countries into the hands of my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him. . . ⁸ "If, however, any nation or kingdom will not serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon or bow its neck under his yoke, I will punish that nation with the sword, famine and plague, declares the LORD, until I destroy</p>

it by his hand.

Back to Nineveh's punishment.

¹⁴ The LORD has given a command concerning you, Nineveh:

"You will have no descendants to bear your name.

I will destroy the images and idols

that are in the temple of your gods.

I will prepare your grave,

for you are vile."

The Assyrian approach to life was doomed. It was part of broken, fallen humanity. God used the Babylonians and Medes to dig Nineveh's grave in 612 B.C.

Ezekiel speaks of this.

Ezekiel 32:22-23

²² "Assyria is there (the realm of the dead) with her whole army; she is surrounded by the graves of all her slain, all who have fallen by the sword. ²³ Their graves are in the depths of the pit and her army lies around her grave. All who had spread terror in the land of the living are slain, fallen by the sword.

Here is an account of the decisive fall of Nineveh in history.

The **Battle of Nineveh** is conventionally dated between 613 and 611 BC, with 612 BC being the most supported date. Rebelling against the **Assyrians**, an allied army which combined the forces of **Medes** and the **Babylonians**, besieged Nineveh and sacked 750 **hectares** of what was, at that time, one of the greatest cities in the world. The fall of Nineveh led to the destruction of the **Neo-Assyrian Empire** over the next three years^[2] as the dominant state in the **Ancient Near East**. Archeological records show that the capital of the once mighty Assyrian Empire was extensively de-urbanized and depopulated in the decades and centuries following the battle. A garbled account of the fall of the city later led to the story of the legendary king **Sardanapalus**.

Babylon became the imperial center of **Mesopotamia** for the first time in over a thousand years, leading to the **Neo-Babylonian** Empire, claiming imperial continuity as a new dynasty.³

³ [Battle of Nineveh \(612 BC\) - Wikipedia](#)

Let's wrap this chapter up.

¹⁵ Look, there on the mountains,
the feet of one who brings good news,
who proclaims peace!

Celebrate your festivals, Judah,
and fulfill your vows.

No more will the wicked invade you;
they will be completely destroyed.¹

So the NIV study bible says that this verse sets forth a principle that is applicable in several contexts of deliverance. Here the reference is the good news of the deliverance from the Assyrian threat. In Isaiah 52:7, it speaks of deliverance from Babylonian exile. In Romans 10:15, it speaks of deliverance from sin.

Isaiah 52:7	Romans 10:15
⁷ How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!"	⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Here's one other Scripture to consider---Matthew 1.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,¹⁰ because he will save his people from their sins."

The Old Testament speaks to the Christian life and salvation in Jesus. Their deliverance was from evil nations. Ours is from sin, the flesh and the devil.