

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 2 Part 1²



I’m intrigued at the poetry in this book. Staccato phrases, striking visuals, and stream of thought moments make it rich and wonderful reading.

Chapter 2 has all of the above. God speaks rhetorically to Nineveh, and warns her from her perspective of what she’s supposed to do. Her doom is announced way in advance. God rules the world, and intervenes in places that have become totally wicked.

Let’s move on.

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 2 New International Version

Nineveh to Fall

2 ^[a]An attacker advances against you, Nineveh.

Guard the fortress,
watch the road,
brace yourselves,
marshal all your strength!

Assyria has always made me think of Nazi Germany. I do not believe that they are genetically connected. But their cruelty was legion.

God speaks to them in an almost "mocking" way, but perhaps more of a personal way. God is the God of all peoples, so these Assyrians are His to. He loves them.

Isaiah 19:23-25

²⁴ In that day Israel will be the third, along with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing^[a] on the earth. ²⁵ The LORD Almighty will bless them, saying, "Blessed be Egypt my people, Assyria my handiwork, and Israel my inheritance."

Read full chapter

Footnotes

- a.** **Isaiah 19:24** Or *Assyria, whose names will be used in blessings* (see Gen. 48:20); or *Assyria, who will be seen by others as blessed*

This is because of God's promise to Abraham.

Genesis 12:3

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you."^[a]

Read full chapter

Footnotes

- a.** **Genesis 12:3** Or *earth / will use your name in blessings* (see 48:20)

So whatever He's doing to them it is for their ultimate good.

²The LORD will restore the splendor of Jacob like the splendor of Israel,
though destroyers have laid them waste
and have ruined their vines.

I wonder why Jacob and Israel are differentiated here? Here's what one resource says:³

Jacob's birth name, *Jacob*, means "supplanter, deceiver"; it was given to him because, when Jacob was born as the second of a set of twins, "his hand [was] grasping [his twin's] heel" (**Genesis 25:26**). True to his name, Jacob grew up as a conniver, deceiver, and cheat, and he eventually supplanted his brother's position as heir to the **birthright**.

After Jacob's struggle with the Lord at **Peniel**, the Lord gave Jacob a new name: *Israel*. And God gave the reason: "Because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome" (**Genesis 32:28**). . . Some have suggested that the name *Jacob* represents his old nature and *Israel* his new. That is, he is called "Jacob" when functioning in his carnal old nature, but he is called "Israel" when he is acting out of his new nature. There could be limited merit in this suggestion in some passages, and it would parallel the Christian's experience as presented in **Ephesians 4:22–24**.

In the end, however, it is best not to make too much of the Jacob/Israel distinction, since some passages include both *Jacob* and *Israel* within the same immediate context (e.g., **Genesis 37:1–3**).

Now notice the visual God gives the Assyrians. It's almost as "if they were there" in a vision He's creating. Listen to how this one plays out.

³The shields of the soldiers are red;
the warriors are clad in scarlet.
The metal on the chariots flashes

³ [Why is Jacob called Jacob and Israel alternately in the book of Genesis? | GotQuestions.org](https://www.gotquestions.org/Why-is-Jacob-called-Jacob-and-Israel-alternately-in-the-book-of-Genesis/)

on the day they are made ready;
the spears of juniper are brandished.^[b]

Or, as the foot note says “ready; the horsemen run to and fro.”

⁴The chariots storm through the streets,
rushing back and forth through the squares.
They look like flaming torches;
they dart about like lightning.

Here’s a more literal translation that tries to wrestle with the original Hebrew.

^{CLV} Nah 2:2 - Nah 2:3

2 For Yahweh will restore [»]the augustness of Jacob, As the augustness of Israel, Though the voiders^l have voided them, And ruined their pruned slips.

3 The shield of his masters of war are reddened^l; The men of valor are clad in crimson^l. ⁱWith the fiery flash of hub-blades is the chariot, in the day of its preparation[~], And the ⁷steeds^{~c} are ^cmade to shiver.

In the streets the chariots are raving; They are prowling in the squares. Their appearance is like flaming torches; Like lightning are they running.

That is so “visual.”

⁵Nineveh summons her picked troops,
yet they stumble on their way.
They dash to the city wall;
the protective shield is put in place.

⁶The river gates are thrown open
and the palace collapses.

(CLV) Nah 2:7

⁺ It is stset that she will be deported; She will be ^ctaken ^{on}away, ⁺ Her maidservants ^{coo}moaning Like the sound of doves, Tambourining on their heart.

Wow, that's a visual. Something "tambouring on" your heart.

⁷ It is decreed^[c] that Nineveh
be exiled and carried away.

Her female slaves moan like doves
and beat on their breasts.

The NIV says the meaning of the word "decreed" is obscure. Here is a more literal translation.

(CLV) Nah 2:7

+ It is stset that she will be deported; She will be
^ctaken ^{on}away, + Her maidservants ^{coo}moaning Like
the sound of doves, Tambourining on their heart.

We'll pick up here tomorrow.

Footnotes

- a. **Nahum 2:1** In Hebrew texts 2:1-13 is numbered 2:2-14.
- b. **Nahum 2:3** Hebrew; Septuagint and Syriac *ready; / the horsemen rush to and fro.*
- c. **Nahum 2:7** The meaning of the Hebrew for this word is uncertain.