

**graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER<sup>1</sup> 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)**

<sup>27</sup>To 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 2<sup>2</sup>**



**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. This is because of God’s promise to Abraham, that in Abraham every nation on the face of the earth will be blessed. So whatever He’s doing to them it is for their ultimate good. Let’s move on.**

<sup>1</sup> **NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.**

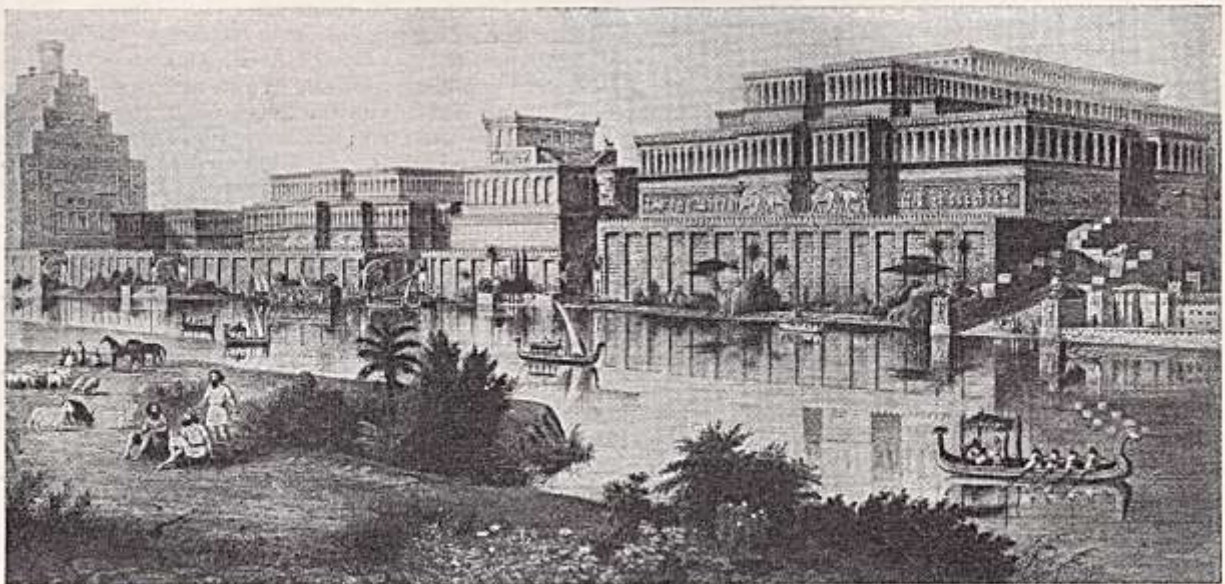
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Nahum 2:8-13

<sup>8</sup> Nineveh is like a pool  
whose water is draining away.  
"Stop! Stop!" they cry,  
but no one turns back.

**Nineveh was a large city. It's wall was 8 miles long and had 15 gates. The reference to the pool of water is thought of in two ways. Some think that this refers to the Tigris and the smaller rivers encircling and running through parts of the city, as well as to a system of dams to make the city more impenetrable. Others take language less literally as reference to Nineveh's people fleeing, like water draining from a pool.**

**Here is an artist's rendering based on the existing ruins.**



Nineveh. Reconstruction of the palaces on the banks of the Tigris, from plans of the existing remains. The great tower on the left represents the supposed tomb of Sardanapalus ; on the right is the palace of Esarhaddon

<sup>9</sup> Plunder the silver!  
Plunder the gold!  
The supply is endless,  
the wealth from all its treasures!

**She was massively wealthy. Art treasures remain to this day.**

<sup>10</sup> She is pillaged, plundered, stripped!  
Hearts melt, knees give way,  
bodies tremble, every face grows pale.

**The *Babylonian Chronicles* confirms the fact that a great quantity of plunder was carried off by the invaders. The powerful, insolent Ninevites are prophesied to become helpless with fear.**

Here is a rendering from the more literal CLV translation. Try saying dramatically and poetically, in a stream of consciousness kind of way.

(CLV) Nah 2:10

Void and voided and evacuated<sup>1</sup>, And the heart, it is melted, And a quavering of the knees, And a sore travail in all waists, And the faces of them all draw together in ashy paleness!

Void and voided . . . and evacuated,  
And heart, it is melted. . .  
And quavering of knees,  
And sore travail in all waists,  
And faces of them all together . . . Ashy paleness!

<sup>11</sup> Where now is the lions' den,  
the place where they fed their young,  
where the lion and lioness went,  
and the cubs, with nothing to fear?

<sup>12</sup> The lion killed enough for his cubs  
and strangled the prey for his mate,  
filling his lairs with the kill  
and his dens with the prey.

**The lion is an appropriate image to apply to Assyria. The ways of her monarchs were rapacious. Here are some definitions of that term. Nineveh**  
**VORACIOUS, GLUTTONOUS, RAVENOUS, RAPACIOUS** mean excessively greedy. **VORACIOUS** applies especially to habitual gorging with food or drink. teenagers are often *voracious* eaters **GLUTTONOUS** applies to one who delights in eating or acquiring things especially beyond the point of necessity or satiety. an admiral who was *gluttonous* for glory **RAVENOUS** implies excessive hunger and suggests violent or grasping methods of dealing with food or with whatever satisfies an appetite. a nation with a *ravenous* lust for territorial

expansion **RAPACIOUS** often suggests excessive and utterly selfish acquisitiveness or avarice. *rapacious* developers indifferent to environmental concerns<sup>3</sup>

**Nineveh also contained numerous lion sculptures. Here is a take on why that is the case:**

As the divinely appointed protector of Assyria, it was the king's duty to maintain order in the world by defeating the forces of chaos, which included foreign enemies and dangerous wild animals such as the lion. Assyrians thought of their world as encompassing a civilised heartland, situated in Assyria's cities, which was surrounded by a hostile, untamed periphery. Wherever the king ruled, peace and prosperity abounded, whereas foreign lands were afflicted by chaos. By hunting lions, creatures of the untamed hinterland, Ashurbanipal showed how he could extend his control over the wilderness. Laden with ritual symbolism and heroic drama, the royal lion hunt was a particularly effective means of publicising the king's ability, as the shepherd of his people, to protect his flock.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>13</sup> "I am against you,"  
declares the LORD Almighty.  
"I will burn up your chariots in smoke,  
and the sword will devour your young lions.  
I will leave you no prey on the earth.  
The voices of your messengers  
will no longer be heard."

**She was destroyed utterly**

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<sup>3</sup> [Rapacious Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Lion hunting: the sport of kings - British Museum Blog](#)