

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 3 Part 1²



This is a short little book, but the drama, the poetry and force continue on in chapter 3.

I could see this book being delivered as a dramatic monologue from a stage. It almost sounds like Shakespeare. It gets really graphic in some places as well, and it doesn’t let up on the fate that this cruel nation will receive. It comforts me in a way. God will avenge His people. Vengeance is His---He will repay. (Romans 12:9)

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

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Nahum 3
New International Version

Woe to Nineveh

3 Woe to the city of blood,
full of lies,
full of plunder, never without victims!

Her bloody massacres were well known. Nineveh's cruelty was legion.

Nineveh was a city of violence, known for its brutal treatment of those it conquered. The Assyrians were notorious for amputating hands and feet, gouging eyes, and skinning and impaling their captives.³

²The crack of whips, the clatter of wheels,
galloping horses and jolting chariots!

Just try to see this visually. Try to hear the words being said too, and listen to the battle.

³Charging cavalry, flashing swords and glittering spears!
Many casualties,
piles of dead,
bodies without number,
people stumbling over the corpses—

⁴all because of the wanton lust of a prostitute,
alluring, the mistress of sorceries,
who enslaved nations by her prostitution and peoples by her witchcraft.

The lure of luxury and wealth brought multitudes to Nineveh, but like the allurements of a prostitute, it did not yield life's true pleasures.

Sorceries and witchcraft are pagan practices.

Deuteronomy 18:10	Deuteronomy 18:9
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³ [Why did God judge Nineveh so harshly in the book of Nahum? | GotQuestions.org](http://www.GotQuestions.org)

<p>¹⁰ Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft,</p>	<p>⁹ When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there.</p>
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⁵ "I am against you," declares the LORD Almighty. "I will lift your skirts over your face. I will show the nations your nakedness and the kingdoms your shame.

A common punishment of prostitutes and adulterous women.

Isaiah 47:3	Jeremiah 13:22	Hosea 2:3,10
<p>³ Your nakedness will be exposed and your shame uncovered. I will take vengeance; I will spare no one."</p>	<p>²² And if you ask yourself, "Why has this happened to me?"— it is because of your many sins that your skirts have been torn off and your body mistreated.</p>	<p>Otherwise I will strip her naked and make her as bare as on the day she was born; I will make her like a desert, turn her into a parched land, and slay her with thirst. . . ¹⁰ So now I will expose her lewdness before the eyes of her lovers; no one will take her out of my hands.</p>

⁶ I will pelt you with filth,
I will treat you with contempt
and make you a spectacle.

⁷ All who see you will flee from you and say,
'Nineveh is in ruins—who will mourn for her?'
Where can I find anyone to comfort you?"

Listen to the poetry: "who" "where"? Listen to the plaintive cries.

⁸ Are you better than Thebes, situated on the Nile,
with water around her? The river was her defense,
the waters her wall.

Thebes is “No Amon,” which means the “city of the god Amun.” It was the great capital of Upper (Southern) Egypt. It was destroyed by the Assyrians in 663 BC. This destruction was predicted in the Bible.

Ezekiel 30:14

¹⁴ I will lay waste Upper Egypt,
set fire to Zoan
and inflict punishment on Thebes.

⁹ Cush^(a) and Egypt were her boundless strength;
Put and Libya were among her allies.

Genesis 10:6

⁶ The sons of Ham: Cush, Egypt, Put and Canaan.

Notes

Cush is the upper Nile Region, south of Egypt. *Egypt*, in Hebrew, is Mizraim, which means “two Egypts” and is a reference to Upper (southern) and Lower (northern) Egypt. It seems that “Put” and “Libya” are the same thing.

¹⁰ Yet she was taken captive
and went into exile.
Her infants were dashed to pieces
at every street corner.
Lots were cast for her nobles,
and all her great men were put in chains.

Psalm 137:9

⁹ Happy is the one who seizes
your infants and dashes
them against the rocks.

Assyrian kings often did this. King Ashurbanipal gave this description of his treatment of a captured leader. “I . . . put a dog chain on him and made him occupy a kennel at the eastern gate of Nineveh.

¹¹ You too will become drunk;

you will go into hiding
and seek refuge from the enemy.

They will probably become drunk from the cup of God's wrath.

Isaiah 51:17	Jer 25:15	Ezekiel 23:31
<p>¹⁷ Awake, awake! Rise up, Jerusalem, you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD the cup of his wrath, you who have drained to its dregs the goblet that makes people stagger.</p>	<p>¹⁵ This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.</p>	<p>³¹ You have gone the way of your sister; so I will put her cup into your hand.</p>

¹² All your fortresses are like fig trees
with their first ripe fruit;
when they are shaken,
the figs fall into the mouth of the eater.

**The ripe fig is a simile with which the victors gather the rich loot of Nineveh.
Nineveh's fortresses will fall just as easily as very ripe figs.**

Footnotes

- a. **Nahum 3:9** That is, the upper Nile region
- b. **Nahum 3:18** That is, rulers