

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 2²



So we’re nearing the end of our study of Nahum I will try to wrap up clearly because I’ve got my eyes set on the next book in this study---The Book of Habakkuk. If you think that Nahum was amazing, wait until you see God’s brilliance as expressed in this next book of the minor prophets. They may be “minor” compared to the “major” prophets, but they’re not minor in impact or in demonstrating God’s character and will. Time willing, I’ll jump into it a bit today. If not, no worries. As always, enjoy.

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 3

New International Version

Woe to Nineveh

3 ¹³ Look at your troops—
they are all weaklings.
The gates of your land
are wide open to your enemies;
fire has consumed the bars of your gates.

People really depended on their walled cities. And I think there is a metaphor here to for us as individuals. We should have certain “walls” of protection around us. And especially when we sin or let sin into our lives in a dominating way, we open the doors of those gates, and become vulnerable to attacks. Thankfully, the Good Shepherd watches us all.

The NIV says this was normal preparation for a siege. But ironically, it would do no good. It’s like when Delilah said to Samson, “Arise Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” And eventually, they were. His “gate” was his loyalty to be separated to God and the symbol that reflected that loyalty. Sadly, the Scripture says others to whom you put yourself into subjection can cost you a degradation of your defenses as well. And our defense, as always, is the Lord.

Judges 16		
<p>¹⁶ And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, so that his soul was vexed unto death; ¹⁷ That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I have been a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any other man.</p>	<p>⁹ And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. ²⁰ And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.</p>	<p>²¹ But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.</p>

The LORD was his wall and his fortress. He is our fortress too!

Psalm 18:2

The LORD is my rock, and my **fortress**, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and **the** horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

¹⁴ Draw water for the siege,
strengthen your defenses!

Work the clay,
tread the mortar,
repair the brickwork!

I wonder how they did make “clay” and “morter”?

According to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, “Brick making was a major Mesopotamian industry, especially in the south, where wood was in short supply and stone was non-existent.” Clay was Sumer’s most abundant material and with it was mixed sand, water, mud, and organic material, husks or straw. Often, it was sun-dried, as there was little fuel for firing.³

¹⁵ There the fire will consume you;

This was actually consumed by history and archaeology.

Here is one depiction.

"Now there was a prophecy which had been handed down to him from his ancestors that "No enemy will ever take Nineveh by storm unless the river shall first become the city's enemy." Assuming, therefore, that this would never be, he held out hope, his thought being to endure the siege and await troops which he hoped would be sent from his subjects . . . The inhabitants of the city had a great abundance of all provisions, since the king had made plans for this situation. Consequently **the siege dragged on.** . . . But in the third year, **after there had been heavy and continuous rains. it came to pass that the Euphrates running very full, inundated a portion of the city and broke down the walls** for a distance of 20 stades (approximately 2 1/4 miles.) At this the king, believing that the prophecy was fulfilled and that the river had plainly become the city's enemy, abandoned all hope of saving himself. And in order that he might not fall into the hands of the enemy, he built an enormous pyre in his palace . . . **he consigned . . . himself and his palace to flames. . . the silver and gold was carried off."** The rebels, on learning of the death of the king, took the city by forcing an entrance where the wall had fallen." Diodorus Siculus - Book II.

³ **The History of Bricks: Mesopotamia - JANE STREET CLAYWORKS**



Figure 1 Ashurbanipal Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 2.0 Generic

It's interesting to put a face to all this.

the sword will cut you down—
they will devour you like a swarm of locusts.
Multiply like grasshoppers,
multiply like locusts!

¹⁶ You have increased the number of your merchants
till they are more numerous than the stars in the sky,

but like locusts they strip the land
and then fly away.

¹⁷ Your guards are like locusts,
your officials like swarms of locusts
that settle in the walls on a cold day—
but when the sun appears they fly away,
and no one knows where.

The NIV study bible says that for centuries no one knew where Nineveh itself lay buried. In 1845 it was finally discovered by archaeologists.

¹⁸ King of Assyria, your shepherds^[b] slumber;
your nobles lie down to rest.

Your people are scattered on the mountains
with no one to gather them.

¹⁹ Nothing can heal you;
your wound is fatal.

All who hear the news about you
clap their hands at your fall,
for who has not felt
your endless cruelty?

Footnotes

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

Wow. What a fascinating story. Next, we'll jump into the introduction for the Book of Habakkuk.