

**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*

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

**graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER**

**Daniel Part 1<sup>2</sup>**

So I’m ready to get into the Book of Daniel. It’s a bit of a different read from a prophetic book, although there are lots of prophecies in it.

I’ve been a fan of Daniel forever---he was a “victim,” in one sense, but he was never really a victim but more of a victor. He knew how to survive in tough circumstances. We need to know how to survive in tough circumstances too, because we live in them! I’ll begin in the beginning. Enjoy!!

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.)

## Daniel 1 New International Version (NIV)

### Daniel's Training in Babylon

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

**We read about that in our previous studies. Judah had gone to Babylonia because she disobeyed God's word regarding covenant keeping, the Sabbath, and idolatry. Here are the Scriptures the NIV study bible shares to reference all of the above.**

<b>Leviticus 25:4</b>	But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards.
<b>Leviticus 26:27-35</b>	<sup>27</sup> “If in spite of this you still do not listen to me but continue to be hostile toward me, <sup>28</sup> then in my anger I will be hostile toward you, and I myself will punish you for your sins seven times over. <sup>29</sup> You will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters. <sup>30</sup> I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars and pile your dead bodies on the lifeless forms of your idols, and I will abhor you. <sup>31</sup> I will turn your cities into ruins and lay waste your sanctuaries, and I will take no delight in the pleasing aroma of your offerings. <sup>32</sup> I myself will lay waste the land, so that your enemies who live there will be appalled. <sup>33</sup> I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins. <sup>34</sup> Then the land will enjoy its sabbath years all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies; then the land will rest and enjoy its sabbaths. <sup>35</sup> All the time that it lies desolate, the land will have the rest it did not have during the sabbaths you lived in it.
<b>Deuteronomy 28:15-68 (selected quotes)</b>	<sup>15</sup> However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you:  <sup>16</sup> You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country. . . <sup>17</sup> Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed. . . <sup>18</sup> The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. . . <sup>19</sup> You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out. . . <sup>36</sup> The LORD will drive you and the king you set over you to a nation unknown to you or your ancestors. . . <sup>64</sup> Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other.
<b>2 Kings 25:1</b>	So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. He encamped outside the city and built siege works all around it.
<b>2 Chronicles 36:5-8</b>	<sup>5</sup> Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD his God. <sup>6</sup> Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon attacked him and bound him with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon. <sup>7</sup> Nebuchadnezzar also took to Babylon articles from the temple of the LORD and put them in his temple there.

<sup>2</sup> And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.



Restored Ruins of Babylon in Iraq Photo [70254594](#) © [Jukka Palm](#) | [Dreamstime.com](#)

Oldest Temple in Ancient Babylon Photo [51835503](#) © [Rasoul Ali](#) | [Dreamstime.com](#)



<sup>3</sup> Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials,

**The literal translation of this conveys something that is scary.**

**He was the “grandee” (the official in charge) of the eunuchs. Was Daniel castrated? Here’s what I link I use sometimes says:**

Answer: The Bible does not say

whether **Daniel was** made a **eunuch**. However, **Daniel** served as a slave in Babylon during a time in which many slaves were castrated and made **eunuchs**. Therefore, some have suggested **Daniel was** castrated as well. There is no biblical evidence either way, which leaves this issue uncertain.<sup>3</sup>

**It's interesting to consider that. And scary too! The Bible says a few things about "eunuchs" that I'll quote here.**

**Isaiah 39:7**

And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become **eunuchs** in the palace of the king of Babylon.”

**It confirms that it was prophesied that at least some of the descendants of King Hezekiah would become eunuchs in the palace of Babylon. And this is an encouraging word Isaiah also shared for those in that predicament.**

**Isaiah 56:4**

For this is what the Lord says: “To the **eunuchs** who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever.

**Jesus commented on that condition too.**

**Matthew 19:12**

For there are **eunuchs** who were born that way, and there are **eunuchs** who have been made **eunuchs** by others—and there are those who choose to live like **eunuchs** for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it.”

**The Greek word for “those who choose to live like eunuchs” does not mean self-castration but has other connotations:**

**G2134** eunouchizo yoo-noo-khid'-zo

from **G2135**;

to castrate (figuratively, live unmarried)...eunuch.

to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—<sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace.

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/Daniel-eunuch.html>

So here's what we can know about Daniel. He was royalty---from the royal family. He had to have these characteristics. I'll share the phrases, and then share some literal ways the original language used expressed these concepts.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>without any physical defect</li> </ul>	<p><b>There is “no” blemish the literal says. Word used for blemish.</b></p> <p><b>H3971</b> m'uwm moom as if passive participle from an unused root probably meaning to stain; a blemish (physically or morally).</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>handsome</li> </ul>	<p><b>H4758</b> mar'eh mar-eh' a view (the act of seeing); also an appearance (the thing seen), whether (real) a shape (especially if handsome, comeliness; often plural the looks), or (mental) a vision.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>showing aptitude for every kind of learning</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Hebrew says “intelligent in all wisdom.” That’s interesting. To not only know about wisdom but to be intelligent about it!</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>well informed</li> </ul>	<p><b>Literally these last two bullets are related in the original and translate “acquainted with knowledge and giving consideration to what is known.”</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>quick to understand</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>qualified to serve in the kings palace</li> </ul>	<p><b>“one who had vigor to stand before the king”</b></p> <p><b>H3581</b> koach ko'-akh  or (Dan. 11:6) kowach {ko'-akh};  from an unused root meaning to be firm; vigor, literally (force, in a good or a bad sense) or figuratively (capacity, means, produce); also (from its hardness) a large lizard.</p>

He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.

**The boss wanted the boys to speak his language, know his literature, and work in his service. Your boss will too! We live in spiritual Babylon. We have to learn how to be Daniels.**

**Does that mean you have to compromise your beliefs?**

**We'll press that next time.**