

**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*

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

I’m expanding my theme as I study this book. Here are my thoughts. The story of the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 is more than just about the creation of the languages. It’s about the founding of a human system of self-rule and government. It was full of human hubris, and showed what man, unified, would do if left to themselves. Without the guidance of or reliance upon God, technology would have advanced much faster. And frankly, we’d have destroyed ourselves and the earth long time ago. Babylon will ultimately fall as Revelation shows. In the meantime, how do we live in what has in effect become a digital and spiritual Babylon---our world of today. What would a Daniel do? Let’s see. Enjoy!

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<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. <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<sup>[Chaldean]</sup> and put in the treasure house of his god.

**As I dig in a bit deeper here, Daniel was taken to Babylon in the first deportation by Nebuchadnezzar, in 605 B.C. Jerusalem was still standing. The Temple wasn't to be destroyed until 586 B.C. 21 years later. So a lot of what happens here happens before the destruction of the Temple. Interesting.**

**I also wanted to know the difference between the Babylonians and the Chaldeans. I checked online and "gotquestions.org" includes this answer.**

The Chaldeans were people who lived in southern Babylonia which would be the southern part of Iraq today. Sometimes the term *Chaldeans* is used to refer to Babylonians in general, but normally it refers to a specific semi-nomadic tribe that lived in the southern part of Babylon. The land of the Chaldeans was the southern portion of Babylon or Mesopotamia. It was generally thought to be an area about 400 miles long and 100 miles wide alongside the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, 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. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.<sup>[b]</sup>

**Here is where we'll pick up from yesterday.**

<sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

**So three years training is what was deemed appropriate for "training." Interesting that the disciples were with Jesus for a about 3 ½ years. Must be something to that number.**

<sup>6</sup> Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

<sup>7</sup> The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

**So this is interesting. They had Hebrew names, but they were given Chaldean names.**

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/Chaldeans.html>

Let me do a quick overview of the meaning of each.

<p><b>Daniel</b></p> <p>“God is my judge”</p> <p><b>H1840</b> Daniye'l daw-nee-yale'</p> <p>from <b>H1835</b> and <b>H410</b>; judge of God; Daniel or Danijel, the name of two Israelites.</p>	<p><b>Belteshazzar</b></p> <p>“Bel protects his life.”</p>
<p><b>Hananiah</b></p> <p>“The LORD shows grace”</p> <p><b>H2606</b> Chanan'el khan-an-ale'</p> <p>from <b>H2603</b> and <b>H410</b>;</p> <p>God has favored; Chananel, probably an Israelite, from whom a tower of Jerusalem was named.</p>	<p><b>Shadrach</b></p> <p>“command of Aku” (Sumerian moon-god)</p>
<p><b>Misrael</b></p> <p>"who is like the mighty one."</p> <p><b>H4332</b> Miysha'el mee-shaw-ale'</p> <p>from <b>H4310</b> and <b>H410</b> with the abbrev. insep. relatively (see <b>H834</b>) interposed;</p> <p>who (is) what God (is)?; Misrael, the name of three Israelites.</p>	<p><b>Meschach</b></p> <p>“Who is what Aku is?”</p>
<p><b>Azariah</b></p> <p>"helped by God".</p> <p><b>H5838</b> `Azaryah az-ar-yaw'</p> <p>or mAzaryahuw {az-ar-yaw'-hoo};</p> <p>from <b>H5826</b> and <b>H3050</b>; Jah has helped; Azarjah, the name of nineteen Israelites.</p>	<p><b>Abednego</b></p> <p>“servant of Nebo,”</p>



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**These people were fierce. They may have even castrated Daniel and his friends. They had no options but to do what the enslavers did. One of the lessons I guess I'll discern about "how to live in a digital or spiritual Babylon": Don't make waves about things that don't matter. Rather than Daniel getting hot and lathered that someone called him by a pagan name, don't sweat the small stuff. God knows your name. He knows who you really are.**

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

**Why would Daniel take this stance? NIV study bible says "Israelites perhaps considered food from Nebuchadnezzar's table to be contaminated because the first portion of it was offered to idols. Likewise, a portion of the wine was poured out on a pagan idols.**

**This was a major struggle for the early New Testament church too---but eventually, not as much of one as it was for Daniel.**

<p><b>1 Corinthians 8:1</b></p>	<p>[ <i>Concerning Food Sacrificed to Idols</i> ] Now about <b>food</b> sacrificed to <b>idols</b>: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up.</p>
<p><b>1 Corinthians 8:4</b></p>	<p>So then, about eating <b>food</b> sacrificed to <b>idols</b>: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one."</p>
<p><b>1 Corinthians 8:7</b></p>	<p>But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to <b>idols</b> that when they eat sacrificial <b>food</b> they think of</p>

	it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled.
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**Long story short, as knowledge and sensitivities and understandings evolved in light of God’s revelation through Jesus Christ, an “elemental approach” to religion---one in which proximity to an element of the world (aka, a pagan idol) faded in the fear it produced in believers. Paul knew an idol was nothing, and that it didn’t impact the food at all.**

**Daniel wasn’t there. And the amazing thing to me is that he did what he did to honor God. And as you see, he will be blessed for it. I’ll summarize a lesson from this chapter as we finish the story.**

<sup>9</sup> Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel,

**He did something similar for Joseph. He does things like this for you and me too, if we look for it.**

<sup>10</sup> but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your<sup>l</sup> food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”

**Here is a copy of the verse in the CLB version that accompanies my interlinear Hebrew translation app.**

(CLV) Dn 1:10

<sup>+</sup>Yet the chief of the eunuchs <sup>l</sup>said to Daniel, I am in fear <sup>”</sup>of my lord the king, who assigned <sup>”</sup>your food and <sup>”</sup>your drink. <sup>w</sup> Why should he see <sup>”</sup>your faces more languid <sup>7</sup>and feeble<sup>o f</sup> than the other boys who are <sup>as</sup>of your <sup>7</sup>deportation <sup>~</sup>? <sup>+</sup> You shall <sup>m</sup>put <sup>”</sup>my head in jeopardy <sup>’</sup>with the king.

**This translation emphasizes something interesting. These guys were “boys” according to this translation. The age of accountability (of being able to serve in the military, or of being held accountable by God as an adult for decisions or actions you have taken) was 20.**

<b>Numbers 8:24</b>	“This applies to the Levites: Men <b>twenty-five years old</b> or more shall come to take part in the work at the tent of meeting,
<b>Numbers 14:29</b>	In this wilderness your bodies will fall—every one of you <b>twenty years old</b> or more who was counted in the census and who has grumbled against me.
<b>Numbers 26:2</b>	Take a census of the whole Israelite community by families—all those <b>twenty years old</b> or more who are able to serve in the army of Israel.”



<sup>11</sup> Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,

**The Bible always calls them by their real names---names that have something to do with God!**



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<sup>12</sup> “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” <sup>14</sup> So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

**I love this example. How do you live in a world where the boss is a tyrant, operates by his rules, and the boss is imperious, arrogant, and sometimes deadly.**

**They didn't form a union and demand change. They certainly didn't try to get him fired. They acted wisely. Gave a proposal with an option the official could live with. Worked with a compassionate middle man. Came up with a plausible approach. And God blessed them for it.**

<sup>15</sup> At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. <sup>16</sup> So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

<sup>17</sup> To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

<sup>18</sup> At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar.

<sup>19</sup> The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.

<sup>20</sup> In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

<sup>21</sup> And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

**So with God on your side, and “in you,” you could even live faithfully in proximity to the ruler of Babylon. And you always figure out a way to do what God wants, without controversy if possible. Reminds me of this Scripture.**

### **Romans 12:18**

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at **peace with** everyone.

**It's not always possible to not confront. But watch how Daniel and crew do this next time.**

#### *Footnotes:*

1. **Daniel 1:2** Hebrew *Shinar*
2. **Daniel 1:4** Or *Chaldeans*
3. **Daniel 1:10** The Hebrew for *your* and *you* in this verse is plural.